



Devon Strut Newsbrief March 2012

Our Newsletter editor and good friend Mike is a bit unwell at the moment so we've put a newsbrief together at short notice to keep you all in touch. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Mike back to good health soon.

The AGM

Our AGM took place on the Thursday 9 February and many thanks to all those who came. Once the 'official' business was concluded we were able to get down to the more pleasurable parts of the evening with the awards and our guest speaker.

All the committee were re-elected with the exception of Peter Gristwood who has stood down as treasurer and has been replaced by Tony Gibson – welcome Tony. We were also very pleased to co-opt some additional committee members, who will no doubt add strength and depth to the committee as they bring their talents and experience with them - so welcome John Holden, John Colgate and welcome back Jim Gale.

It is always nice to recognise and reward the achievements of the Strut members and once again this year was no exception. The Les Dray trophy for airmanship was awarded to Vaughan Hatton for his understated yet epic aviation exploits including several hundred channel crossings as well as several much larger crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. The Mike Claydon Trophy for best restoration / build was awarded to Ray Trute for the immaculate restoration of his Piper Cub. This year the Strut Cup for services to the Strut was awarded to Devon and Somerset Flight Training for all their generous help and support over many years. We were also very pleased to award a special commendation to one of our newer Strut members, Sophie Smith. Sophie has brought her talents as a designer as well as an eye for marketing to the Strut, something that we will benefit from. Many congratulations to you all!

Following on from that John Webster gave us a fascinating talk about the establishment and work of the Air Transport Auxiliary during the Second World War – and a bit beyond. There is an exhibition in the Maidenhead Heritage Centre where enthusiasts have created a display charting the exploits of the ATA. Please have a look at their web site and if you are in area do call in and have a look. www.maidenheadheritage.org.uk And of course many thanks to John for his spell binding presentation.

March Madness!

March is upon us, the days are getting longer and warmer, so what better time to start thinking about getting back into practice for the coming season. Most of us (definitely including me) get a bit rusty over the winter so if the opportunity comes along to get some practice in it is worth grabbing. So, enter a bit of March Madness! This offer from Devon and Somerset Flight Training, courtesy of Brendan Proctor is open to all Devon Strut members (on production of a valid membership card) and will give you the chance to do to do 5 touch-and-goes at Dunkeswell on one of the five Saturdays in March **and** enjoy a full breakfast at the Aviator Restaurant and all this for the very reasonable sum of £10! This really is a good way to get rid of those cobwebs and have

some fun at the same time.

Safety Spot

Staying with the safety theme, Strut member Simon Wilson has asked that we publicise the GASCo, Flight Safety evening at RNAS Yeovilton on Tuesday 13th March 2012 at 1930. It is open to all local pilots. If you plan to attend please can you e mail Simon asap so that he can get an idea of numbers attending in order to book the most appropriate venue on the station.

t300@hotmail.com

Next Strut meeting

Don't forget our next meeting at the Ley Arms on Thursday 8 March when we will welcome two very special guest speakers, former Lancaster Pilot Ted Frost DFC and former RAF and test pilot John Pascoe-Watson. To have such a wealth of knowledge and experience from two gentlemen of this calibre it truly and honour, so please come along and make them feel welcome.

Subscription renewal – please, please , please

Membership is from 1 January – 31 December.

You can pay your £18.00 using the form taken from the front page of the website and sending it with a cheque payable to “LAA Devon Strut” to John Hope, 6 North Avenue, Exeter EX1 2DU. Alternatively, you can pay on line. Details as follows.

Account Name: LAA Devon Strut
Account No: 80001678
Sort Code: 40-40-48

If you pay direct, please also email John Hope at john@exe.flyer.co.uk to say you've paid and give any change of details (address, tel. no, aircraft, email etc.). John will then send you your membership card.

Membership will lapse if renewal subscription is not received and further newsletters will be limited to current members.

Future events

Looking further ahead to our showcase event on 14-15 July, the Dunkeswell Aero Rally, we are very pleased to announce that we are to join forces with the South West Airfields Heritage Trust (SWAHT) to run a joint event. As you may be aware we have successfully collaborated with SWAHT a number of times at their event at Smeatharpe / Upottery. This year's event is going to be a lot bigger than in the past and as always we will be seeking help from the membership to run it. Many thanks to all those who have indicated their willingness to help already – we will be in touch very soon but extra help is always welcome!

Welcome to new members

This month we welcome Peter Kirk. Peter flies a C172 based at Exeter – welcome Peter!

Tail piece

The last weekend in February was notable in that the the forecast was wrong (to say the least) and rather than low cloud, mist and drizzle many of us enjoyed an unexpectedly pleasant weekend. So much so that I managed to tempt 'HM the Wife' to take a trip to Bolt Head with me. She is not a natural aviatrix but as we are both keen walkers and Bolt Head is one of our favourite places she agreed.

Anyway, nice flight, nice walk but most of all I have to give a plug to East Soar Farm. They do the most amazing refreshments, all very good quality, very reasonably priced and friendly helpful staff. It only about 300m from the air strip. To get there walk along the taxiway, cross the strip, hop over the fence on to the track, turn left (east) and follow the track (that turns south) right into the farm complex. Certainly no more than a 10 minute walk. Check out their web site

<http://www.eastsoaroutdoorexperience.co.uk/>

Another thing to tempt you along – if you introduce yourself and show your Strut Membership Card you will get a 15% discount!

The other good watering hole is a National Trust house and garden at Overbecks. Every time I've been there they've been happy to let us in and use the café without having to pay an entry fee (on the understanding that you won't cheat.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/overbecks/>

All that said please make sure you PPR on 01548 842681 if you get the answer machine leave your details and off you go! For airfield information check out the Airfields info page on the Strut web site <http://www.higherrew.co.uk/air%20strip.html>

Blue skies – fly safe

Steve

Other News!

Feet Off the Ground (FOG) – a request from Pete White

Hi all, 2012 is all planned and ready for the off with events to visit and be a part of in most corners of the UK.

But here in the *West* we have our FOG programme (see below) and if you would like to be either a returning pilot or helper or perhaps this is your first time to enlist in this worthwhile cause, please contact me using the details below.

For interest I have also attached a link to a you-tube video of our Bader Braves event at Bodmin in 2011. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpVEI1XSqqY>

Event dates are:

- ♣ April (tbc) (Mon - Fri only) CHICKS - Bodmin
- ♣ May 12th (Sat) Children's Hospice SW - Bodmin
- ♣ May 25th-27th (Fri -Sun) Scout Aerocamp - Belle Vue
- ♣ June 29th-July 1st (Fri -Sun) Scout Aerocamp - Bodmin
- ♣ August 18th (Sat) Bader Braves - Bodmin
- ♣ September 22nd (Sat) 'Reserve Day' - Bodmin

Come and join the fun and help those less fortunate than ourselves.

All the best

Pete White FOG

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BaP 3 update & request – Jim Gale

For quite a while now I have been aware of my shortcomings where building a sheet metal aircraft is concerned, especially now that I'm involved with the Devon Youth BaP project. I really could do with all the help I can get from experienced builders of metal aircraft but to help in the meantime I undertook an LAA metalworking course in the middle of February. The course was very informative and added some more "working with aluminium" experience to that of my engineering apprentice days of 50 years ago(!), with lots of useful up to date hints and tips.

During the day at Turweston, we not only learnt some of the theory, we also put it into practise by building a Vans tool box. During it's construction we used the recommended Avery tools and also some of the purpose made tools and jigs which it seems most RV builders make versions of.

Apparently these tools come up for sale from time to time and I wonder if anybody out there has any tools for sale or would consider loaning them to the project, for the youngsters to use.

Better still would be a member with the tools and experience who would also give some of his/her time. It's very rewarding. Why not visit the project at Whimple on a working Monday or Wednesday evening to see what the kids are doing?

Regards, Jim.

01363773767 or 07887906789

jmgale@btinternet.com

A Message from Andy Oliver – Chairman of the Devon & Somerset Microlight Club

David and Mike,

Thank you to the LAA for the hospitality to me on your speaker evening about the ATA, on Feb 9th. Very good talk.

Never ones to ignore a good idea, I and the committee of the Microlight Club are doing the same on Wed 21st March.

The venue is the Air Centre at Dunkeswell.

The speakers are both retired from military aviation:

2100-2130 Mac Macdonald - Wartime Lancaster Pilot 149Sqn RAF

2130-2200 Bob Weston - RN Helicopter pilot, then oil industry (inc Borneo and North Sea)

The AGM will be done and dusted (and I hope my replacement as Chair appointed) by 2015.

There will be a buffet supper from 2015-2100. This is funded for members. Drinks will be at individual expense. I would like to invite your members to join us from 2015.

To be clear, and avoid disappointment, we do need to take care on the buffet. Should LAA members wish to eat at the event, I think the best option is that they use the a la carte menu at the restaurant (or eat before). With this option there is no need for pre-booking, and your members can just turn up on the night.

The talk is free, compliments of DSMC, and is, in part, an appreciation of the active way that the LAA has incorporated us in its programme.

So, in summary, free talk by two retired military pilots at the Air Centre Dunkeswell on Wed 21 March. Talks from 2100-2200, with bar and food available from 2015hrs from the Air Centre, at individual expense.

Best regards

Andy Oliver

The Journeyman Balladeer

"279 fields landed in the 21st Century"

The UK's leading flex wing touring pilot...probably.

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