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Devon Strut | November '17 Newsletter Digest

Monday 6th November '17

Chairman's Chat - November

This month's News Letter takes on a different format as Mike is unable to process in the normal way due to other commitments and at the time of writing, I am away on business. Work and weather continue to restrict my personal flying but I was able to join in our scramble to Popham on the 8th of October. The weather was perfect allowing a number of Strut members to take part and we had the good fortune to meet up with some of the Wessex guys. As usual Popham provided a good welcome with excellent marshalling. The burgers are also to be highly recommended. Altogether this was one of my best flying days out this year.

I have also got off the ground in other ways recently. At the beginning of the month I had a short flight in G-MCGA which is one of Bristow's Sikorsky S92A Search and Rescue helicopters. The purpose of the flight was helicopter familiarisation training on behalf of Devon Cave Rescue Organisation in conjunction with the Tavistock branch of the Dartmoor Rescue Group.



Dave Owen, Highland Jet Centre, Inverness Airport - Feb 2013

The interesting aspect of this flight was that it took place at night giving the opportunity to experience working in close proximity to a live helicopter. For some, this can be a disorientating experience due to the noise, bright flashing lights and significant downwash. Also of interest was seeing the ground quite clearly via the infra-red camera.

A commercial flight at the end of the month took me to Florida for work where. However, I managed to take a few hours off to visit Jack Brown's Sea Plane base at Winter Haven and have an hour in their Maule. Having flown the Cubs previously, I had an idea what to expect as far as landing and taking off on water goes but the Maule is a complex aircraft affording me the opportunity to practice with the variable pitch propeller as well as all the rest of the things one has to do in a seaplane. We did not exceed nine hundred feet at the most and keeping the circuits tight provided a full on hour packed with multiple take off and landings from various lakes. The Maule in comparison to my Jodel is akin to driving an old fashioned truck as the controls are heavy but the performance was great and made for a fantastic time. Flying seaplanes could be addictive. I would strongly recommend flying the Maule or the Cubs at Jack Brown's if you visit Florida.



The Exeter Airspace Change Proposal has been very much on our minds and has taken up some time with discussions and meetings. Most of you will be aware, at least to some extent of the ACP and its ramifications. The Devon Strut has now placed a formal objection to Exeter's proposal in its present form. The Struts submission is filed with Exeter Airport, their consultants and with the CAA.

Our strut now has quite a few members who do not own an aircraft or are not current licence holders but are interested to fly on a fuel cost sharing basis. May I propose we Buddy up with a Buddy and go flying? If any of you are interested in taking fellow members for a flight, please let me know and I will endeavour to put people together.

The first frosts have begun and it is time to start thinking about winter flying and how we might prepare for it. - Perhaps it is time to revise Safety Sense leaflet number 3

<http://publicapps.caa.co.uk/docs/33/20130121SSL03.pdf>

I look forward to seeing some of you on Thursday for our strut evening when Paul Catanach will entertain us on the subject of "Gone Bush." - Clearly an evening not to be missed!

Best regards,

David.

Winter Meetings

The first of our winter meetings at the Ley Arms kicked off in fine style with a humorous and enlightening guide through James Stevenson's life as a trainee jet pilot during the early 50's. Over 40 of you came to the meeting, which is a great turnout. I'd like to extend a warm welcome to those of you who came to the meeting for the first time. Interestingly, it turns out we have quite a few "cold war jet" pilots in our midst now!

Our next meeting, as David mentioned, is on **Thursday 9th November**, at the Ley Arms and it will kick off at 1930 hrs. I very much hope to see as many of you as possible!

The rest of our calendar is a mix of interesting talks and practical sessions that should help us become better pilots:

9th November	Paul Catanach - Gone Bush!
8th December (Friday)	Christmas Meal
11th January 2018	GASCo Safety Evening
8th February	AGM & guest speaker Alan James (Isaacs Spitfire)
8th March	Dave White - Going Foreign
12th April	Mark Batin (RIN) - Modern Navigation & CRM

I'd also like to draw your attention to the **Christmas Meal**. If you'd like to attend, (which I heartily recommend you do) Please could you send your names and menu choices to Chris Jackson via email, in the next couple of weeks? The Strut is subsidising the food, which means it's only £10 per head for the food, which will be of excellent quality.

Also, for any of you that might not be able to attend the GASCo Safety Evening, there is one being run at Bodmin Airfield on Weds 23rd March 2018. Contact Pete White for further details.

Members' News

David Millin has just won an **award for Services to the LAA**, more specifically for his services to Struts and Clubs and the Strut System. The award was presented at the recent LAA AGM. When I spoke to David a few days ago about this, he was keen to point out that it is a reflection of the dedication and enthusiasm of Devon Strut members, and this was particularly evident at the LAA Sywell Rally, where we represented all Struts on a stand for the weekend. Congratulations on your award David!

Welcome to our youngest new member **Alex Reid**, who is just 13 years old!

Barry Flicker has purchased a share in Robin Charles' Vans RV9A, based at Dunkeswell.

Mike Mold has moved house recently, to 39 Catalina Close, Dunkeswell.

Dunkeswell Fly In 2018

The date for our flagship fly in at Dunkeswell next year has been confirmed as the **2nd June**. Please make a note in your diaries! We always require a fair bit of help on the day and usually the day before to set up, in order to run a safe, smooth and fun fly in, so if you can spare a couple of hours, please consider volunteering to help. If the weather is decent then there will likely be a few of us staying over to enjoy a few beers!

We're working towards getting a date for the always excellent **Farway Common Fly In**, and amongst our suggested fly outs will be the **Radial and Trainer Fly In** at Compton Abbas on the 12th and 13th May 2018.

We'll still be on the lookout for decent days to scramble, so keep your eyes peeled for the emails; better still, you can always arrange your own impromptu scrambles. There are quite a few members who like to fly to interesting places midweek, so it doesn't have to be confined to the weekends.

Normal service will be resumed next month, but in time honoured tradition, here's the tailpiece:

