

Take Off R/C News and Views

If you have any news or special interest announcements to make, or even a recently completed RCMW plan design, then why not drop RCMW a line or email RCMW@traplet.com

Ugly Anniversary

One of aeromodelling's most endearing designs took to the sky for the first time in 1966 – Phil Kraft's 'Das Ugly Stik' (or is that Stick?). To celebrate the 50th anniversary of this much loved aeroplane, Andrew Weight and his brother Mark assembled two new versions. Here's what Andrew has to say about the colourful pair:

"It's taken myself and my brother Mark sometime to get these Ugly Sticks done. Amongst other projects, we wanted to honour the 50th anniversary of Phil Kraft's design in some way. Now that we are totally electric, and have been for at least the last fifteen or so years, we thought that the Ugly Stick was a good aircraft to electrify, after having electrified Das Liddle Stick. One of our electrified Das Liddle Sticks can be seen on YouTube (Google 'wingweight youtube')."

The models were built from the original Phil Kraft plan of 66" wingspan. Monokote covering, with trim from Monokote also, in an American theme in tribute to the USA and NASA, for the Ugly Stick came out of the Apollo rockets era and before man walked upon the moon! Futaba radio was used all round, with only three Futaba 148 servos in each model and the original bellcrank set-up used for ailerons.

Our Dad's original Kraft 1968 sets are used in the pictures for display purpose only, although they are still in perfect working order – we will use them again when 27 MHz comes back into fashion! Axi 4120 motors were used, with a Jeti 70 amp ESC and 5S 4500 mAh LiPo. Flying weight is approximately six pounds.

We altered the models from rubber banded-on wings to bolt on, and inset the ailerons as the original models suffered from aileron flutter when the ailerons went right to the wingtips. Also, we did not go with the scolloped trailing edges, as we wanted to leave a bit more area for the control surfaces.

RC Model World is the best magazine out there now. And we should know – we've been modelling a long, long time...!"

A great pair of models, Andrew, and a fine tribute to a fabulous design. Thank you for sharing them with us.



Skyhawk Mass Build Launched



Phil Cooke of the Power Scale Soaring Association writes in with more details about the group's latest mass build, based on the RCMW A4 Skyhawk plan, woodpack and canopy (SET3775) available from Trapletshop.com:

"Just a note to you and the team to say a big thanks once again for all the help and drive you applied to the PSS A-4 Plan, woodpack, canopy and magazine presentation. You'll be glad to know the 2016 PSSA Mass Build venture has been launched today, 1st March, and we should from now see a surge of builds commencing, not just in the UK but abroad too. I've got registered builders as far afield as Australia, Japan, the USA and Belgium.

I've started my 'production' build last night and created my build blog on the forum. There will be many more

very soon I'm sure: www.modelfflying.co.uk/forums/postings.asp?th=115393&p=1

Feedback from those that already have the parts is very good. Everyone seems delighted with the plan, the quality of the wood and the canopy.

My build wont be too pacey. We have a few months until the PSSA Fly-In on the Great Orme, 10th and 11th September. I do hope you will be able to support this with your A-4; it would be great to see some of the Traplet team members there. It should be quite a spectacle too – I would easily expect 25 of the models in build to be there on that weekend."

Calderdale MFC Seek Members

Calderdale Model Flying Club, situated in the Crossland Moor area of Huddersfield, are looking to recruit some new members. The club's flying site is a large field that is available all year round for members to fly all types of R/C aircraft and helicopters.

If you are a beginner then the club want to hear from you too. They have a number of willing members who can assist new members to learn to fly.

Any interested persons are asked to please contact Malcolm Chambers:

Tel: 07484 735171

Email: m.chambers730@btinternet.com

Pontefract Multirotor Fly-In

PANDAS model flying club are hosting a multirotor fly in at Pontefract Park, West Yorkshire on June 4th, 2016. Flying starts at 10 am. This is being run in conjunction with the club's annual fun fly event. Besides sport multirotor flying from the hell patch there will be a professional multirotor pilot to demonstrate and discuss this aspect of flying UAV's. A small FPV course with air gates will also be available.

This is purely a fun event to encourage multirotor (drone) flyers to come along and socialise with other interested pilots, whilst promoting the BMFA's Drone Aware campaign. If you have any interest in multirotors or are just curious about drones, come down and meet up with like-minded individuals. Also, why not bring any unused multirotor related items to sell. Entry to the event is free, and also to fly. If you don't have a BMFA 'A', SAA or LMA achievement equivalent don't worry as PANDAS can supply a qualified pilot to stand with you. But you do need third party insurance.

Alternatively, the club are planning to offer a drone flight experience via a buddy box, if things go to plan.

The flying site is situated within Pontefract racecourse. Leave the M62 motorway at junction 32, head towards Pontefract on Park Road and follow the direction markers to the event. Please email areapleyard@msn.com with any questions and to confirm your intention to attend.

Southern Model Show

Headcorn Aerodrome, set in the heart of Kent countryside, will again host the Southern Model Show over the weekend of 10-11th September 2016. The airfield is always busy with parachuting, pleasure flights, balloon flights, helicopter flights and visitors to the Lashenden Air Warfare Museum (and R/C flying by members of my old model club, Maidstone MFC! – KC).

The Southern Model Show will feature an eye-catching array of model aircraft, helicopters, ships, tanks and other vehicles. A full range of other activities and a showground packed with traders makes this a 'must see' event for anyone with an interest in model hobbies, whether experienced or a beginner.

Have you got a model you want to sell? Or fancy picking up a second-hand bargain? Then visit the popular Bring and Buy stand – who knows what you might find?

The flying programme promises to be exciting and varied, with a series of set piece historical displays. D-Day will feature prominently, as will the Battle of Britain, which is apt as the show is being staged in Kent over the Battle of Britain weekend! From 7.50 pm to 8.30 pm there will also be displays of night model flying.

The Lashenden Air Warfare Museum is free to enter and will be open on both days. The Museum is one of the longest established aviation museums in the country, having been formed in 1970. For more museum and show information please visit:

www.headcornevents.co.uk

3D Modelling Appreciation



Darren-Edward O'Neill from Johannesburg, South Africa writes in praise of Mal Luff's recent articles on 3D modelling:

"With regards to Mal Luff's great articles on 3D modelling. A great read, well written and timely given the emergence of this amazing technology.

As a designer (illustration, 2D, 3D and animation) with nearly 23 years of experience, I found the article of particular interest, given a life long passion for R/C aeronautics and my new found interest in 3D printing. Obviously the more basic fundamentals of 3D design are well trodden by me and I wouldn't have expected to learn anything new in such an article.

Yet I was surprisingly captivated by the read. Mal did well to present the skill as attainable and completely doable to even the most apprehensive and inexperienced reader, and did a great job of promoting the technology.

If there's one criticism it would be that the first major hurdle that has dissuaded many a newcomer would be the fundamentals of the workspace of a typical 3D program. It's true enough that programs vary in complexity and that one has a lot of choice nowadays in the type of 3D software (and apps) available. But I have found that most follow a universal format and as such can be generalised and taught in a similar manner to how he broke down the basics in this article.

It is easy to say that with a basic understanding of the methods explained one can navigate through

the tools and functions of the chosen program. But I really found understanding the program well enough to execute simple tasks from concept to production or output to be my first daunting mountain to climb.

That said, having persevered with the really inadequate learning material of the time and now having encountered the author's clear teaching method, I've realised that it really is entirely possible to cover the fundamentals in an article (possibly a series) like this.

Thank you for another inspiring edition and for keeping my passion alive. I know very well the effort that goes into producing a publication like this, so to me RCMW is true gold!"

Thank you for your kind comments, Darren-Edward. UK readers can see one of Traplet's 3D printers in action by visiting our stand at the major model shows over the summer (and possibly even talk to Mal!). You can also see (and buy!) examples of Mal's 3D prints in the form of a range of WW1 guns, which are sure to add a realistic finishing touch to any suitably scaled WW1 model.

MSRM Drone Weekend

Mike Rieder, Chairman of the Mid Suffolk Radio Modellers has sent in a short report on the club's Drone Weekend, held over the 16th and 17th April. Pictures courtesy of Alan Gamble:

"Last year we sat down as a committee to look at what events we would hold for the coming season. Due to an article in the BMFA magazine on their Drone Awareness month we thought it would be good for us to support it by making one of our events a Drone Weekend. We have a number of competent and keen quad and drone flyers within our 60 plus membership, so it would be a great way to give them an opportunity to show the fixed wing flyers within the club what they are capable of and to potentially bring in new members, as well as imparting some advice to local, non-BMFA/MSRM flyers.

The overall object was to support the BMFA with their Drone Aware month. But we were also keen to see if the event would draw in any new members as we have two sites and the majority of the members that have joined in the last couple of years only fly at our relatively new grass site. So setting the Drone Weekend at the old American airbase near Eye made sense due to its hard standing areas and space for an FPV track. It is easy for visitors to find and we wanted to encourage more members to use the facility.

On contacting Manny Williamson at the BMFA we got funding and support to get signage, flyers printed and the use of their FPV track equipment. We set about advertising in local shops, schools, hobby shops, Maplin's etc., with a number of roadside signs put out as well. Plus use of social media, with it all linked to our new website msrm.bmfa.org, which seemed to work judging by the response we got online and over the weekend. This was well worth doing, even though it took quite an effort. But it allowed us to get to a much wider audience than normal, which was the whole point of the event, as we wanted to speak to flyers that hadn't considered getting insurance or becoming part of a club.

We set up on Saturday and after looking at the forecast the weather was supposed to be okay and getting better. Well it didn't! It drizzled then poured but we kept a stiff upper lip and carried on. A number of

interesting flights were made and considering the conditions we still had a good number of visitors and members, with a few potential new members signed up.

Day two dawned bright, clear and with light winds (the sacrificial burning of hot dogs must have worked). We managed to set up the full quad track and had constant flying of all types of quads from 250 racers to fully camera equipped heavy lifters. This was supplemented by a full program of fixed wing flying throughout the day. There were a fair number of tumbles into the muddy field around the racing track but only the odd prop was damaged.

There was a constant stream of visitors interested in what was going on with advice, leaflets, stickers and hot dogs given out. We were supported by Hobby King, who gave us a FPV plane and a couple of frames to auction, which has covered our costs, as well as hopefully gaining us more than a dozen new members.

So overall the members had one good day (and one wet one!), with a lot of banter, potential new members and the satisfaction of spreading the word of our great sport a bit further and in a better light."

