

HAMPSHIRE HEDGEHOPPER



April 2017

The Official Newsletter of the LAA Andover Strut

This is YOUR newsletter. If you would like to contribute or pass some interesting news on – please get in contact. If you are currently working on a project or have a friend currently working on a project, and have a few pictures – please share them with us.

AGM

The Strut AGM is scheduled to be held at Popham on **Monday, May 8th**, starting at 8:15 pm

The agenda will be published in next month's Hedgehopper but this is an advance call for any members who would like to offer themselves for election to the committee to let me know no later than May 1st 2017. We have various positions as listed on the back page of the Hedgehopper. Also if any member wishes to raise anything for discussion during or after the AGM please let the committee know.

Chairman's Chatter.....

We are fast approaching the time of year when additional activities to the usual strut meetings take place. The first off the rank this year is the Popham Microlight Trade Fair and Aero/Auto Jumble on 29th/30th April and May 1st. The strut will have the marquee up and be in attendance over all 3 days (hopefully), we may also be hosting the LAA HQ stand within the Strut marquee. What is needed are volunteers to assist during the weekend. If you can offer a few hours on any of the days please let myself know (contact details on the last page).

Talking of the marquee, do you know that it is available for strut members to hire for a nominal fee, just £60/weekend will see the marquee delivered and erected in a garden of your choice for your summer party and lighting is also available. Let us know if you'd like to use this facility, but bear in mind its size, (10mx3m)

The AGM to be held next month on May 8th. I would urge you all to attend and to make your views known as to how you want your strut to be run. To encourage you to be there we will, as usual, be laying on refreshments for after the meeting.

With this in mind this will be my penultimate piece of Chairman's Chatter as I have decided to relinquish the position of Strut Chairman after more years that I can remember. It's time the Strut had some new blood at the helm. This position will likely be filled by an existing committee member which will leave some vacancies for other roles that are essential for the running of your club. In the Andover LAA strut tradition all new committee members will get a welcoming flight from the outgoing

committee members*. Unless anyone else comes forward I intend to address the strut website and attempt to bring it, and keep it, up-to-date.

Well, that's all from me this month, the sun is shining, the grass is growing and I can hear an empty aircraft calling.....

(Almost gone) Bob

* redeemable on Monday night the 12th of June.

Andover Strut Winter Programme

Monday 10 April 2017: Biggles Bi-plane.

A second visit from Steve Slater, this time without his CEO hat on. Steve will give us a talk on his involvement on the rebuilding of the BE-2 look-alike.

Monday 8 May 2017: Annual General Meeting

Your opportunity to have *your* say about how *your* strut is run. Please do come along with your comments, questions and feedback.

Andover Strut Summer Program

Monday 12 June 2017:

Our traditional Bums-on-Seats night followed by Fish & Chips. Do you have a plane with a spare seat or know some fellow pilots that do? Please start putting the word out to get this popular event booked in the diary!

Monday 10 July 2017:

We will be firing up the BBQ, possibly for a fly and natter evening (weather permitting), with additional activities if possible

Monday 14 August 2017:

Our winter evening programs start again. Do you know any interesting people, projects or planes that would be able to put on an interesting evening talk? If so, please let us know!

Key dates for the diary:

5 to 8 April AERO Friedrichshafen - Germany

Contact website: www.aero-expo.com

Saturday 29 & Sunday 30 April 2017:

Popham Microlight Trade Fair

*** Please let us know if you could volunteer a few hours on one of the days to join us and the LAA HQ man the stand and talk to the folks that have turned up to drool at the planes.**

Saturday 1 May 2017:

Popham Aero/Auto Jumble and Classic Car Rally

Sunday 21 May 2017: Fly in

Andover Strut Flyin at Popham

Thursday 1 to Saturday 3 June 2017:

AeroExpo UK festival of aviation. Held at Wycombe air park -
<http://www.aeroexpo.co.uk/>

30 June – 2 July 2017:

4th Annual BMAA SDR Rally to be held at Enstone Airfield, Oxfordshire.

In the Pipeline

- We also hope to have our fly-in at Barton Ashes and one at either Old Sarum or Middle Wallop – but these latter two options have yet to be confirmed.
- Possible Strut Fly-Out to Stow Maries and/or a group visit to the FAST Museum at Farnborough.

Out and about: Wessex Strut | Anniversary Fly-In

This year The Wessex Strut we are holding their 40th Anniversary fly-in at Henstridge on Sunday 23rd April, put the date in your diary if you wish to attend.

The event is open from 10.00am to 5.00pm with free landings, while discounted fuel (AVGAS and UL91) will be offered on the day.

They are also inviting a local vintage motor bike club to attend and line their bikes up for show, as well as modern and vintage aircraft from various clubs and owners. The airfield based company Aircraft Coverings who represent Poly Fiber will also be on hand to give demonstrations and talk with aircraft owners. The LAA will be in attendance meeting LAA members in the marquee. Food and drink from the kitchen including all day breakfasts, curry and more, will be available.

Please refer to their website www.wessex.strut.org.uk nearer the time for joining details and circuit patterns. You will need to get a code from the website before you leave home, and quote it when first calling up the airfield please. The airfield will be closed from 1.00 - 2.00pm so that spectators and pilots can walk around the visiting aeroplanes, so please keep this in mind.

CAN YOU HELP OUT?

1-3 September 2017: LAA Sywell Rally

Once again we will offer to run the campsite to help out the rally. Are you able to help out with a bit of time here? If so, please get hold of Alan Lovejoy.

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT?

An airliner flew into a violent thunderstorm and was being thrown around in the turbulence. One very nervous lady was sitting next to a Clergyman and in desperation somewhat angrily asked; "Can't you do something?" "I'm sorry ma'am, "the reverend said gently. "I'm in sales not management."

A young Marines pilot flying a twin-engine fighter was flying escort for a B-52 and generally being a nuisance, acting like a hotdog, flying rolls around the lumbering old bomber.

The hotdog said over the air, "Anything you can do, I can do better."

The veteran bomber pilot answered, "Try this hot-shot."

The B-52 continued its flight, straight and level.

Perplexed, the hotdog asked, "So? What did you do?"

"I just shut down two engines, kid."

Flying like a bird....

Ever dream of flying like a bird... might be closer than you think

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fg_JcKSHUtQ

Project news

Please contact us should you be working on a project and would like to share a few pics or stories with others...

Dragonfly update: the metal work is sloooooowly coming out and not hacksaws have been needed – yet! The engine is out the box – but not much closer to figuring out how to mount it to the unique firewall fittings... the head scratching continues! (also haven't figured out if it actually will work or if I have expensive anchor)



Why You Should Join Our Club...

If you have an interest in light (or possibly heavy) aviation, be a home builder (or considering a project), a PPL holder, a LAA member or a plane spotter and you live not a million miles from Popham Airfield in Hampshire joining the LAA Andover Strut will give you access to like-minded people, interesting aviation related talks and the opportunity to take part in the various events we hold throughout the year.

Annual membership is £15 a year – please speak to Eryl Smith.

How to find us...

2nd Monday of the month start at 7:30pm till we finish

Spitfire Flying Club, Coxford Down, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 3BD



The Strut Committee

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