



August 2013

SKYWRITINGS

Newsletter of the *Kent*

A fine warm BBQ, Treasure to follow!



The strut BBQ at Rochester

brought four aircraft into EGTO in brilliant flying weather with members enjoying John and Gary's culinary skills. Steve Solley's local catering contacts came up trumps with the food. The second BBQ of the season marked the middle of our three months away from the Golf club except not quite, as our next meeting is the **treasure hunt** and this year it will start at a place we all know and love—the golf club! Come along even if you don't want to take part—go straight to the pub (via the golf club for directions) and collect sarnies. Last year's winner, John Luck, is setting the clues this year but if you do not fancy driving around country lanes but want to enjoy some sandwiches and meet up at the destination for the usual chat then come along and get the lowdown on the destination after the hunters have started and go straight there. Also in this issue we have two letters—a thank you from overseas visitors and one on how to correctly address the fairer sex who fly, actually from a rather smart looking Aeronca 7AC.

Several strut members went to Panshanger on the 2nd August to lend a hand with their young aviators day.



Nigel Read - Editor

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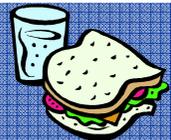
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29th Aug Meeting

Car Treasure Hunt—with Light refreshments at the end!

Cobtree Manor Golf Club, 18:30hrs

to 18:50 hrs Staggered Start but up to 19:30 for those wanting to go straight to the pub



Holiday Highlight.

We recently visited the UK to see our son and Daughter in law in who live in New Ash Green, Kent to meet our new grandson. We live in South Africa, strangely enough a place called Margate on the Lower South Coast of Kwa Zulu Natal.

My son's neighbour, Simon Pratt who owns a Luscombe aircraft at a private airfield nearby arranged a flight for us in John Luck's 4 seater Gardan Horizon aircraft.

My father who was a bomber pilot during the war often spoke about returning back from various bombing sorties, saw the beautiful sight of the White Cliffs of Dover and knew they were nearly home. These could be seen from miles out to sea. To my delight John flew us over Dover harbour and I saw those famous White Cliffs for myself, being a very clear day the coast line of France was also clearly visible, we flew over the monument of the three bladed propeller commemorating the Battle of Britain pilots who lost their lives during the war. On the way back we saw Canterbury Cathedral and Leeds Castle, both also very impressive sights.



Being a pilot myself I could really appreciate the view and the beautiful country side you folks have, completely different to South Africa. Our sincere thanks to John and Simon for arranging this super flip for us, I hope I can return the favour some time in the future.

Thanks again and wishing you folks all the best for the future and safe flying.



Louis & Marilyn Mante.

A letter from “the lady pilot’s” friend—Charlie Charlie ...on sex or rather gender descriptions. This photograph is of the unusually articulate American writer (for an aircraft that is, not necessarily for an American) of our second letter:-



Hangar 1
Maypole

Dear Editor

While I sit on the hangar waiting to fly, I have to make a small correction to some recent mentions in Skywritings.

My pilot was termed "The lady pilotess" by the very talented gent who rebuilt me. (Gee, to have a real English gent fiddling with ones undercarriage is something a gal from Ohio would have never dreamed about! I just love your country).

She maintains that neither noun is true.

Still, us elderly dames stick together and whatever you call us, if it involves a free landing, Avgas or wine we'll be there as fast as my Continental will allow.

Have a great day!

Charlie Charlie.

Ps if you want to read my blogs look at:-

<http://champ-chump.livejournal.com/2010/02/17/>

The editor can see nothing wrong with 'the lady pilot', particularly as we gentleman pilots have only got one in the club, sorry I mean strut. Adding -ess is fine for actor, waiter, manager, shepherd etc. but to add both Lady and -ess is clearly a bit of a mouthful.

Rochester BBQ pictures

Brilliant sunny evening next to Rochester tower



Peter Kember and Paul Matthews heading back to Laddingford

*Nic Orchard's Aeronca from Maypole,
Richard Warriner's Rans from
Heathfield and Laddingford Europa*



John Luck also flew in from Farthing Corner

£135 was collected for the Air Ambulance



LAA Rally 30th, 31st August-1st September Sywell

Plenty of strut members will be attending. Don't forget to book a slot if not already done and download the AIC. Check on the booking page to see when strut members are booked in.

www.laa.uk.com www.sywellaerodrome.co.uk/bookings.php

PAFRA Navigation Exercise. 4th August

Eight teams took part, half were strut members! The course designed by Martin Leusby (also a one time member) took approximately 90 minutes, flying into deepest East Anglia, well to the coast south of Bradwell bay, Raydon, Sudbury and back to Rochester via Chelmsford, required four turning points to be identified and a further eighteen en-route features from supplied photographs.

A missed feature resulted in 30 penalty points and a miss identified, 60 points. Least penalties won. Estimated time to arrive back provided a tie breaker.



Winner Paul Smiddy, right, with Martin Leusby

Entrant	Aircraft	Type	Penalty Points	Time Error (rounded to minute)
Paul Smiddy	G-SKUA	Glstar	210	1
Rob & Lorraine Taylor	G-BIKE	Arrow II	270	3
Ian & Linda Exley	G-BSLA	DR400	330	1
John Luck + 2	G-GYAT	Horizon	360	0
Steve Hayman & Nick Osmaston	G-SHSH	Europa	390	11
Gary Smith	G-CDMN	RV9	420	0
Nigel Read & Tom Eaton	G-FLOX	Europa	420	1
Trevor Houghton & Les Seers	G-ETIV	DR400	570	3

Young Aviators Panshanger

Panshanger arranged a group of eighteen young people to fly on the 2nd August and several strut members offered to help out. The weather in the morning was not too good north of the Thames resulting in the Husky not making it and myself and Tom returned to Laddingford when the area around Stapleford disappeared into the murk. Rob Brown and Graham Hammond from Farthing Corner did however get through as did Richard Warriner from Heathfield and our 'leader' Martin from Frinsted. As the flying was not due to start until 2pm we did catch up when the weather cleared up and were in time to enjoy dinner provided by North London Flying club's Out of the Box café. Licences and insurance were checked, no

age limits imposed! Annual membership of North London Flying club was given to the pilots as well as lunch. Membership brings half price landings, £5, cheaper Avgas and 10% off the café.

It turned into a bright sunny day for the flying. Most flew 3 youngsters.

Relaxing in the sun at Panshanger

left to right, one of the local pilots, Richard, Tom, Graham, Rob and Martin. Editor hiding behind camera.



The day finished with a bang with a live rocket launch—it didn't go very high so no aircraft were in danger!

Waiting for the rocket launch



On the 11th August Panshanger held their revival day, featuring plenty of classic cars and aeroplanes, live music and period costumes and dancing!



Seen at West Horndon:- Man with carved wings and Cessna canard hybrid



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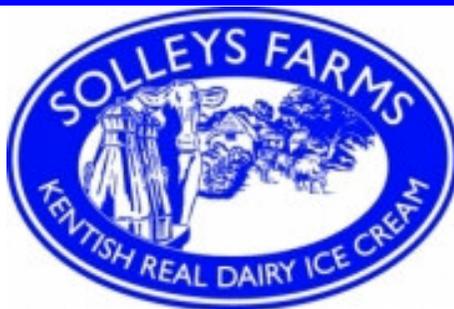
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Next Month Rally news—RSA rally at Vichy and our LAA rally at Sywell

Dates for your Diary

- 29th Aug Treasure Hunt
- 30th Aug-1st Sept LAA Rally
- 26th Sept RAF fighter pilot to 777
Nigel Curtiss
- 31st Oct Turbulent display team
Julie Garside
- 28th Nov Pilot Licencing
Justin Willcocks
- TBA Christmas Dinner