



NEWSLETTER

June 2004

Editor : Bob Young

CHANNEL 68 FREQUENCY ALERT

On several occasions in recent weeks, an unknown R/C model has been seen flying under competent control, above the lakes that lie on low ground to the northwest of our flying field. At times the model has appeared above our tree line and thus easily visible from the clubhouse.

In spite of speaking to occupants of nearby flats and gardens on the Uxbridge/Rickmansworth Road, so far we have been unable to identify or contact the errant flyer or even to establish precisely the spot from which he controls his model.

The club's frequency monitor shows that he is using channel 68, which probably explains the loss of control and subsequent crash recently experienced by committee member John Fowles who habitually uses that frequency. As a matter of urgency, if any member has information that could lead to identifying this pilot or just witnesses him flying, please telephone a committee member without delay as we need to trace him to reduce the risk of serious accident. It is not the committee's intention to wage war on this flyer, rather to advise him of the risk he runs and to cooperate with him, perhaps even by inviting him to join us.



In the meantime, members are advised not to use channel 68 unless the frequency monitor which is kept in the clubhouse is connected and clearly displays that channel 68 is not in use.

However, on a more cheerful note:-

" SUMER IS ICUMEN IN" (anon. c1250 AD),

and the picture above, taken within the last few days, reminds us of the blue skies, puffy clouds, wonderful vistas and the good companionship that we can all look forward to during the coming months at the best model flying club for many miles around.



Ian McPherson and Leon Taylor (behind the camera) check out the exhibits at Hendon following the recent talk.

NEXT MEETING

There will be **no** meeting at the Battle of Britain club this month.

In June, July and August social fly-ins will be held at the field on the second Wednesday in the month - weather permitting. Scale day will be on 12th September 2004 so make a note in your diary.

OUR FRIENDS



In view of the trouble we have had with Rabbits over the few last years we are always looking for help to deal with the problem. When Peter Emanuel arrived at the field and found the SITA approved "Shooters" there, he took time out to tell them how much we value their work. He captured this picture of them and we ask all members to make them very welcome when they see them so that hopefully we'll see less of the Rabbits.



Lew Wrapson found this example of a pilot who got too close to the club house!

MODEL FLIGHT SIMULATORS

It's often quite hard to get enough 'stick time' when you're learning to fly models, especially in the winter. So how about using a simulator on your PC? There are plenty of commercial ones available, offering different levels of realism. None of them is quite like the real thing, of course, but they can be quite helpful in certain areas. One simulator that appeals to the pocket, is FMS. FMS is freeware. That's right, it doesn't cost a bean except for the time online needed to download it.



A Cub returns to the pits

FMS offers different aircraft, including helicopters and gliders, and also different landscapes. It can be controlled via your keyboard (not recommended), a computer joystick (OK), or, via a home-built interface, from your transmitter.

The ground handling may not that realistic, but once airborne it's not bad at all. It shares the problem that all simulators have in that it's very hard to set up a landing approach, as you don't have the wide angle of view that you have in real life.

Where it can prove very useful is helping you get to grips with orientation and 'wrong sticking' and, of course, crashing a simulation is not nearly as painful as crashing the real thing. Why not give it a try? You can download it from:

http://n.ethz.ch/student/mmoeller/fms/index_e.html

TRACTOR ON THE MOVE

On Thursday 6th May 2004 Phil Snowden decided to fly at the field. When he arrived at 10.30am everything was normal. When he left at 12.45pm he found that the skip at the gate had been dragged to the edge of Springwell Lane and the old tractor had been removed. Did anybody see the tractor on a vehicle after this time? If the people responsible are able to move an object of this size what will they take next? Members are asked to keep a sharp eye for any suspicious activities or people and let the committee know if any are seen. The contact details are shown below.

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