



NEWSLETTER

October 2009

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The exotic "Sonic Liner", a 50 inch wingspan foamy powered by two electric motors driving pusher props, is no longer available in the UK. This survivor of the breed gathered dust in a Suffolk cellar for several years before WLMAC's Tony Gower spotted it up for sale on eBay and snapped it up because he was intrigued by its unusual shape. Now fitted out with 2.4 Gig radio it has been flying well at Harefield. Pitch is controlled by the canard on the nose and that means up elevator for nose down and down for up!



Above left: Late September brought the Indian summer we hoped for and members flocked to the field to enjoy days of perfect flying after weeks of wind. Above right: Earlier in the month the last field meeting and barbecue of the year was conducted in the teeth of a chilly breeze.



ANOTHER WORK PARTY TO HIT THE BUNNIES

There is to be another determined assault on the rabbit holes that have appeared all over the field during the year (see left). Volunteers are asked to gather at the field at 1030 on Friday, October 9th. Bread and nourishing soup will be fed to the workers at 1230, when the field will be re-opened for flying. The work party will fill in those annoying wheel traps with sand, anointed with neat Jeyes Fluid to tweak the bunnies' sensitive noses and discourage them from digging out the same holes. Mat Dawson is also to experiment with a watered-on garden centre product that claims to deter all wild animals by confusing their sense of smell. Nobody knows the reason for the rabbits' intensified digging this year though there may

THE CLUB MEETING ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH AT 8-0 pm AT THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN CLUB

is a bring and buy. There will be useful odds and sods from a retired modeller's workshop including engines. And some desirable books on full size aviation from the collection of the late Eric Taylor, on offer at suggested prices. Bring your own stuff too.....one man's cast-off can be another man's bargain.

be a clue in the fact that they have opened a new multi-occupancy residence under the club house (see right). It's only a short hop from there to the pits and flight line, from where they can beat a hasty retreat from predators. There has also been talk of sending in a couple of ferrets to evict the underfloor squatters.





Long time member Roger Woods collects his A Certificate of Achievement from Chairman Bob Young at the September field meeting. A keen flyer, Roger was anxious to get back on the transmitter sticks after several operations to restore and correct his eyesight. He underwent another successful operation after this picture was taken.

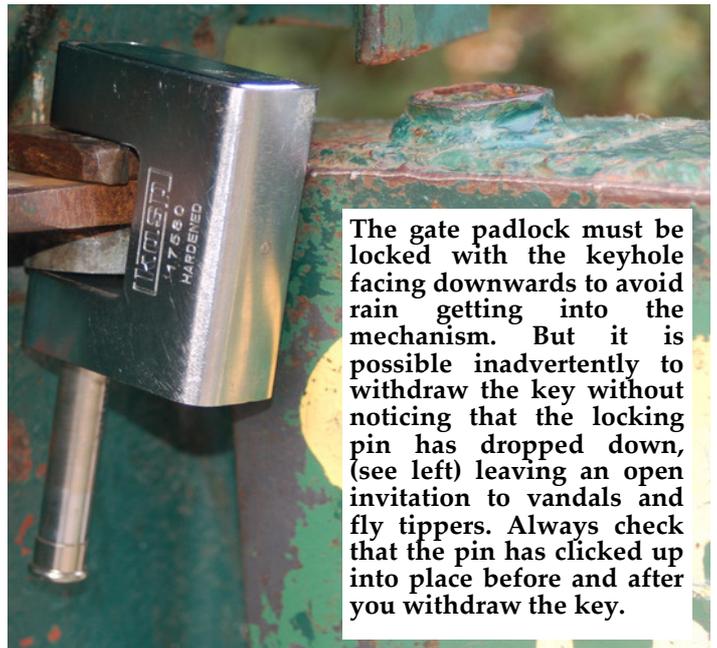
TOO HOT TO HANDLE

When Alan Woods piled his Astro Challenger electric foamy into the rough on the far side of the field, white smoke drifted up from the wreckage. By the time Derek Critcher got to the scene the damaged lipo battery was fizzing fiercely and far, far too hot to handle. Newsletter has carried previous accounts from WLMAC members who have experienced the spontaneous combustion of both Lipo and Nicad batteries while under charge. They will also turn quite nasty if they are shorted out or damaged in a crash, so never be too quick to try to salvage a Lipo from a pranged model. The latest BMFA magazine also carries warnings about the volatility of lipos and the need not only to be ultra careful when charging them, but to follow the right procedure for disposing of them, which involves discharging them, puncturing their plastic covering and immersing them in salt water for several hours before delivering them to your local recycling centre. They are potential firebombs and should always be treated with extreme caution.



Above: Another unusual shape in the Harefield sky has been Dave Whitehouse's 52 inch span electric A10 Warthog, an appropriate name for America's ugly tank buster. Bought second hand, without the instructions, the model was a bit of a handful until Dave found the right CG position.

CHECK THAT PADLOCK!



The gate padlock must be locked with the keyhole facing downwards to avoid rain getting into the mechanism. But it is possible inadvertently to withdraw the key without noticing that the locking pin has dropped down, (see left) leaving an open invitation to vandals and fly tippers. Always check that the pin has clicked up into place before and after you withdraw the key.

GO-AHEAD FOR CLUB CLOTHING

Members have already placed enough orders for those shirts, fleeces and caps carrying WLMAC's distinctive logo for a bulk order to be made. Further orders may be placed at the club meeting on October 8th. The club will pay the manufacturer at the time of the bulk order, confirming individual orders by email to each member. The goodies may be picked up and paid for at the Annual General Meeting in December.



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS. Left: Bob Young's electric Spitfire measures its 48 inch wing span against the 3,144 inch wing span of a passing Singapore Airlines monster A380 as it cruises over Harefield in on its way to Heathrow. Right: Stuart Whitehouse's electric Funtana makes its acquaintance with a curious but quite unfazed Red Kite.