



NEWSLETTER

December 2008

Editor: Michael Sullivan

AGM IS ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH.

Our Annual General Meeting at 8–0 p.m. at the Battle of Britain Club in Uxbridge on December 11th is the time for members to get together, pay their subs, and enjoy a jaw over a drink and a bite to eat “on the house.” There will also be an aviation quiz, with a £20 voucher prize for the winner. The membership fee for 2009 remains at £55 and senior BMFA membership remains at £28. Treasurer Peter Nielsen asks that members pay by cheque but if it is to be hard cash, that it should be the exact amount to avoid the necessity for finding change. Those intending to renew but not to attend the AGM, should send their cheques, made out to “West London MAC” to Peter Nielsen at 176 Cherry Tree Road, Beaconsfield, HP9 1BA. His telephone number is 01494 675716.



Left: Ian McPherson gets brave with an “Alouette” helicopter, flown by electric fan David Whitehouse, at the November club meeting, where Peter Emanuel staged his “Try Before You Buy” Christmas bazaar. The wide range of ingenious and highly controllable little indoor helicopters has triggered great interest among WLMAC members, several of whom tried out their hovering skills during the evening. It also triggered a sales boom for Peter, who did a lot of selling that night!



Above. At the November meeting some of the 2008 Scale Day class winners were presented with their trophies with their names newly engraved on them. And three more A Certificates were presented. Left to right are John Smith (Electric Scale), Matthew Dawson (Military Scale), Alan Coleman (A Certificate) Chairman Bob Young (who did the presenting), Tony Gower (A Certificate), Ben Coleman (A Certificate) and Peter Emanuel (Peter Conway Trophy). There are still a few members left—some of them known to be competent flyers—who have yet to gain the A Certificate to fly solo at Harefield from the beginning of 2009.

For a colour copy by email please contact Bob at bob.t.young@btinternet.com



WE WISH YOU ALL
A Happy Christmas
AND GOOD FLYING
IN 2009

We combine our Christmas greeting with a stunning new aerial picture of our Harefield site, taken by new member Gordon Tarling from his extraordinary American designed camera ship "AP Solution" (see right). It's a six foot wingspan, electric pusher powered "foamy" of just under 3.5 lbs, carrying a Canon S80 compact camera with a clever plug-in device that does away with the need for a servo to fire it. Considering how many people there are on the flight line it's surprising that there are no airborne models to be seen in the shot! Taken on a busy flying day in the late summer, the picture is a reminder to us of the luxury we have of being able to drive our cars right up to the pits and shows the expanded boundary of the close-mown grass. The committee has financed a programme to reduce the dense forest of brambles and stinging nettles at the edge of the field —not with the intention of further expanding the mown area, but to make the vegetation less hostile to members looking for downed models.



Nice model. Nice flying site. Pity about the clobber!
(US soldier launches surveillance drone in Afghanistan)

SINISTER CLUE

The true reason for the disappearance of a member's keys, inadvertently left unattended at the front gate, does look like opportunistic theft. One of the two padlocks on the container behind the club house, a duplicate of the old gate padlock, was later unlocked and removed, though the remaining lock foiled the would-be thief. Which shows yet again that we are always watched by thieves, vandals and others who do not wish us well. Take care!