



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2010

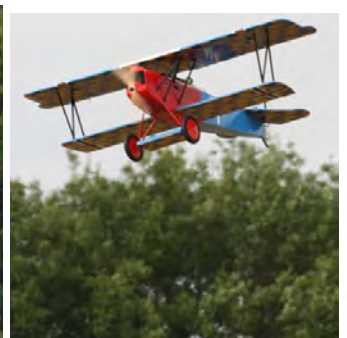
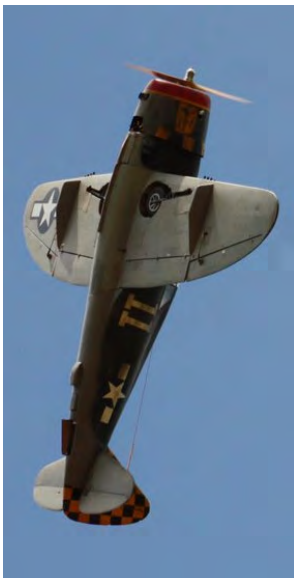
Editor: Michael Sullivan

ANOTHER SUNNY SCALE DAY

(SHAME ABOUT THE WIND!)



A stiff, blustery wind blew up from the south west to hit Harefield on our Scale Day, grounding some models and making every take-off and landing a white-knuckle affair for many brave entrants who did fly. But hot sunshine and another record breaking turnout of members, friends and families made our Scale Day a sunny summer day out and barbecue. See page two for results.



**THE JULY MONTHLY MEETING
IS AT THE FIELD
NEXT WEDNESDAY THE 14TH
FOR A BARBECUE AND
ELECTRIC FLYING**



Scale day winners on parade, left to right are:- Mat Dawson, winner of "Large Military" class and also "Best Flight of the Day" with his P40 Warhawk. David Orrells, winner of "Small Military" with his Spitfire and also the Peter Conway trophy for the best built model with his Sunderland flying boat. Stewart Wilkinson, winner of the "Small Civil" class with his far-from-small electric C130 flown by Peter Emanuel (far right). Peter won the "Large Civil" class with his highly aerobatic Extra. Runners up in "Small Military" were Graham Stone (2nd) with his Trojan and Frank Dalby Smith (3rd) with his electric DF F16. Runners up in "Large Military" were David Orrells (2nd) with his Sunderland and also third with his Fokker D.VIII. Below:- Some random happy snaps from our big day at Harefield.



See page three for the story of the rogue model that flew for over a mile to crash onto a housing estate!



THE DAY A RUNAWAY MODEL DROPPED IN ON A HOUSING ESTATE.

A five foot wing span ARTE, powered by an 80 Four stroke, hit a house in London Colney, near St Albans nearly a mile and a half from its flying site. The model went berserk in the sky above the Phoenix model aeroplane club, crossed the busy London Colney dual carriageway bypass in a series of uncontrolled loops and crashed into the housing estate. The local newspaper carried a picture (see right) of the wrecked model, a Sebart Angel 50.



Informed witnesses at the model flying field say that the cockpit canopy, held in place by magnets, was seen to fall away at the top of a loop, accompanied by immediate loss of control. A likely theory is that the in-flight battery fell into the canopy (remember the model was upside down at the time) disconnecting itself as it fell away with the canopy, instantly cutting power to the receiver and leaving the model looping away under power.

This hair-raising incident gives us all something to think about as we fit radio systems into nice, shiny ARTFs with canopies held on by magnets.. Is your in flight receiver battery properly secured inside the fuselage – held in place by cable ties or wedged into a compartment so that it cannot break out during aerobatics? And do you use those little plastic snap-on gizmos (see right) that make it impossible for a servo lead or battery plug to pull out? So simple, and they cost peanuts!



And by the way, is your failsafe set to close the throttle if contact is lost with the transmitter, or if you switch off your receiver when testing it on the ground? 2.4 Gig outfits can be set for this to happen. If you are in any doubt, consult one of WLMAC's several experienced flyers before you next launch off. But remember: No failsafe will work without battery power. It may detect dropping voltage in a battery, but if the battery disconnects itself for any reason your model will go on doing whatever it was doing at the moment of disconnection.



ABOVE AND RIGHT. A selection of snaps of some of the untidy landings on Scale Day, brought about by the wind and low level turbulence. They are a tribute to the generosity of members who risked their models to make it all an entertaining day. Our thanks to members Lew Wrapson and Peter Dorow, and Alan Bristow, Chairman of the Wycombe model club, for judging the Scale Day competition. And thanks, too, to Roy and Jill Lanning for yet another delicious barbecue (they are pictured on page 2.)



Members of the Coombe Hill Soaring Association have been invited to visit us at Harefield on **Thursday, July 22nd.** Be there to welcome them!