



Fairweather Flyer



The Newsletter of the [Medway Model Flying Club.](#)

June 2011

Chairman's Bits N Bobs

Hello All,

A short report on the clubs recent events, starting with the swap meet at Stickfast Lane. It was a reasonable success, but it would have been nice to see more of our members there supporting the club . The wind tried its best to blow us away and put pay to the afternoon fly-in . The swap meet still raised over £150 towards the KAA . (I can't put an exact figure on it as some of the money went straight into the collection boxes) . A lot of bargains were had on the day ranging from complete air frames to engines and radio stuff.

Thanks though to everyone who supported us and the KAA and particular thanks to Sue and Betty and Barrie and Geoff for running the tea bar and to Gary for giving the 'portaloo' a spring clean .

The next swap meet will be in August but the exact date to be confirmed shortly. We hope to have a scale fly-in afterwards, again weather permitting!

Late news:

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Lionel Bennett. Neville has composed a wonderful eulogy which is also attached on page 3. Goodbye from your friends at MMFC.



Ramblings from a flight line.

On ramblings this month I thought it would be nice to show members models, and start off the proceedings with Mal Spry's electric Pawnee.....excellent

Also in a second model to join the MMFC club is this beautiful B17 from Martin Watson.....mmm nice!



HAVE WE GOT YOUR DETAILS RIGHT?

Don't forget you can update with your details anytime, You can;

Email : adrian@fshrecruitment.co.uk

Write: 21 Sedley Close, Aylesford ME20 7JG

Text: 07824 600763

Carrier pigeon: (you can find your own)

Fax : 01622 210722

Cheers Adrian



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The Other side



Rochester Airport Fly in—Dates: July 16th 5pm till late. Sept 11th 10am-2pm INDOOR & Sept 24th NIGHT flying. Contact Vid for details on 07979 153328

Rochester Airport Fly In— A big thank you to all that came to Rochester airport that flew and helped out.. we raised some money for AA and would love it if more club members turn up at the next ones.. the first night went really well with a lot of good positive comments back.

If you could put dates down in your diaries!
16th July, 11th Sept and 24th Sept flying and night fly
Hope to see you there. Many thanks Vid



The award for prolific writing goes to Malcolm and Matt Spry this edition!
They have devised a pre-flight check list and have said....

"Don't know if this is any use to anyone else in the club, but with 10 flyable models it helps keep track of the current state of airworthiness.

Regards,

Malcolm and Matt"

Diary Dates:

Bartons Point Fly in 9th & 10th July

Harty Field free flight 17th July

Old Warden 23rd & 24th July

Lionel Bennett
Gone Flying For Ever

I had known Lionel all of my life, it would be more accurate to say that he had known me from the day I was born. He had been friends with my dad since their school days in Gillingham, building and flying models during the war years, on many spare bits of land. Lionel did an apprenticeship as a carpenter/cabinet maker, and was a very good one from the jobs that I saw. When they were called for national service, Lionel and my dad both joined the RAF.

After national service, the modelling carried on and I believe Lionel was one of the founder members of the Medway Pirates club, then there was the original Medway MFC. Those of you that saw Lionel's models would agree that he was a very good aero modeller, though the joke was that his models were built from teak, as they were so heavy, he used to say they were built to last. He would come around to our house with his latest model, and as a kid in the 50's and 60's I was in awe of these models, mainly control line models then.

We were all members of the Elliot Model Engineering Club by then, flying control line models from the car parks at Rochester Airport. Lionel had a thing for Jaguar cars, and my dad and I were taken by Lionel to the 1966 Nationals at Hullavington in Wiltshire in his Mk 10 Jag, (I think!) I seemed to have a huge amount of room in the back as we did a 100 mph down the A4 passed the white horse around the Marlborough area! He had several other marks of Jag after that.

When this Medway MFC was formed in '74, my dad and I asked Lionel to come and join, but when he found out cost of the membership fees, in typical Lionel fashion he nearly choked as shouted 'OW MUCH!!, we'd been used to paying 2/6- then 50p to be a member of Elliott's, to pay £18.00 was a big jump! There were only about 7 of us at the time, trying to hire a field. Lionel did relent about a year later and joined.

Lionel also used to build wonderful plastic models as well. He was hoping to start building a few plastic models when I saw him in hospital about 3 or 4 week ago, but it was not to be. We will miss his presence at the club meetings. Our sympathies go out to his wife Jean, son Nigel, daughter Caroline, and stepson Steve.

One of my overriding memories of Lionel, was at Stickfast Lane, when he was flying his vintage Buccaneer radio model, quite a large model, he got himself totally disorientated by flying around in tight circles low to the ground, in fact I think he made himself dizzy, then there was a crump sound followed silence then a shredding noise! He'd flown the model into the ground, it then bounced up and hit the fence, damaging the fence, and leaving a big rut in field the where it made contact, so maybe there is something to be said for making your models from teak?

Neville Club Sec.

