

WHKF AUTUMN WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 24/25th

IF YOU WERE THINKING OF BOOKING A PLACE ON ONE OF THIS YEAR'S WORKSHOPS THERE ARE STILL SOME PLACES LEFT, HOWEVER THERE ARE ONLY TWO PLACE VACANT ON BARRY POULTERS CLASS.

ARTHUR DIBBLE HAS PUT TOGETHER AN INTERESTING WORKSHOP: A COMPLETE TEDDY BEAR PARACHUTING KIT. YOU WILL MAKE THE DROPPING RIG, SEW THE PARACHUTE, MAKE THE BACK-PACK, PLUS LOTS OF OTHER RELATED BITS AND PIECES. HARNESSES WILL BE TO INDIVIDUAL DESIGN AND CHUTE COLOUR SCHEMES OPTIONAL, ALL MATERIALS SUPPLIED; COST £25

IF YOU MISSED JOHN BROWNING'S CLASS IN FEBRUARY, HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO BOOK ONTO THIS "WONDERFULL CLASS" TO QUOTE ARTHUR DIBBLE. YOU WILL MAKE FIVE, SMALL PAPER AND RATTAN BEES (these are small yakon kites) THEY ARE FLOWN BRANCH FASHION FROM A CENTRAL FLYING LINE. THIS CLASS IS IDEAL FOR ANY ONE WHO WANTS TO START MAKING KITES BUT HAVE NO SEWING SKILLS, YOU ALSO MAKE THE FORMER THAT THE KITES ARE MADE ON, WHICH WILL BE YOURS TO KEEP, SO THAT IF YOU WANT TO ADD TO YOUR SWARM AT A LATER DATE YOU CAN DO SO. ALL MATERIALS SUPPLIED; COST £25

FRANCESCA CATON MAKES WIND INFLATED STRUCTURES PROFESSIONALLY, IN THIS CLASS SHE WILL GIVE A LECTURE ON THE PRINCIPLES OF WIND INFLATED OBJECTS. THEN SHE WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO MAKE A TEDDY BEAR WINDSOCK, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO THIS CLASS BUT WOULD RATHER MAKE A WIND INFLATED FOOTBALL, (the football would be about 1 metre across) FRANCESCA IS PREPARED TO DO THIS IN THE SAME CLASS, SO THE CHOICE IS YOURS! ALL MATERIALS SUPPLIED; COST £25.

THERE IS NOT A LOT THAT I CAN SAY ABOUT BARRY POULTER, EXCEPT THAT WE ARE EXTREMELY LUCKY TO HAVE SOMEBODY OF THIS TALENT IN OUR CLUB WHO IS PREPARED TO SHARE HIS SKILLS WITH US. BARRY IS MAKING A DEAN KITE, APPLIQUED WITH A CELTIC KNOT. HAS THIS CLASS ONLY AS TWO SPARE PLACES I WOULD ADVISE YOU TO CONTACT US QUICKLY TO AVOID DISSAPOINTMENT. COST £48

FOR A MUCH FULLER INFORMATION ON ALL OF THESE CLASSES PLEASE REFER TO THE LAST "COWPAT" MAGAZINE OR CONTACT ME ON 01793 824208.

ARTHUR DIBBLE

TICK THE APPROPRIATE BOX

JOHN BROWNING

SEND 50% DEPOSIT

FRANCESCA CATON

MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO WHKF

BARRY POULTER

SEND TO PO BOX 585 SWINDON SN3 4YR

Cowpat Hill



White Horse Kite Flyers
Autumn Issue 1998
October - December

Extract from the local paper, the week
before the August Barbury!

White horses flying high

SWINDON: The Swindon White Horse Kite Fliers are holding their next meeting at Barbury Castle Country Park near Wroughton, on Sunday, August 9. Details about the meeting are available from group representative Dave Robinson on Swindon 824208.

White Horse Kite Flyers
PO Box 585
SWINDON
SN3 4YR

Kite Review

Model: Flying wings-Beetle

Specifications

- 1] wing span: 141cm/55.5"
- 2] height: 84cm/33.1"
- 3] weight: 107g/3.7oz
- 4] frame: 3.1 mm carbon
- 5] sail: 3/4 ripstop nylon
- 6] wind range: 4-24 km/h
3-15 mph
- 7] connectors: polyurethane
- 8] bag: heavy duty nylon

Well now for something completely different. So, according to Peter Dawson all I fly is fighters....Wrong! I do indulge in stunters and to my credit flown/owned several. Including a phantom, flexifoil 6ft, spirojet-free styler, Raggedy anne-ultralight, HQ-session 1.1, tribly [s] you can never just own one trlby right lads? and other sundry stunters.

Now I have a BEETLE from Flying wings...this kite is targeted at the new flyer/intermediate flyer. Cost in the USA is approx 49.00 thought I have seen it advertised for less. I received the kite after begging for a friend to stop at BFK's kite store. Well, when I took it out of the bag I just about fell over! ultralight carbon spars, polyurethane connectors, standoffs and I took a good look at the logo yep its a BEETLE, now I'm not sure where its made? but the workmanship is for the price of the kite frankly surprising! well made little kite but at 55.5 inches in width and 33.1 inches in height I held my breath and went to the local kite flying field... actually my daughters school ground....let out my 100ft of 80lb line and....tugged in ever so gently into a 4mph breeze.....wow! what an easy kite to fly tricks, precision take offs, wing tip stands, stalls....what's this a trick or two...hmmmmmm lets go see this kite up close again.... yup? its a BEETLE and a pleasant surprise from what is supposedly an entry level kite...very stable....

Three points that detract from the kite:

1] heavy plastic arrow point connector for the top of the kite.in order to retain the wing spars.seems durable but, watch it could break in nose down crash [oops unscheduled landing chaps!].

2] the flying lines twisted poly should remain in the bag.

3] the method for disassembly after flight should be rethought I ended up taking off the vinyl caps on the wing tips in order to obtain enough slack to remove them from the plastic centre spar. Other than that go buy one its very quick and for the price a real bargain. One small point, this kite has no normal cross sprcader and flex's considerably as wind speeds increase....so watch your wind speed and have great day flying!

Brent Johnson

Workshops

We are pleased to be able to announce some extra classes for the October workshops:-

- 1) Aircraft Recognition, to be given by Dave Robinson with special emphasis on the High Tailed Comet.
- 2) Weather Forecasting by Neil Harvey who will give an illustrated talk on storm types and how to know the Clearing up one.
- 3) Remembering important dates or how to program your personal database with alarm reminders in time to send suitable greetings to the States. This will be given by a surprise guest speaker.

Kite Flyers Kit

We have recently been pleased to welcome a number of new members to our club. They are all very keen in their new found hobby and to help them I thought might do a series of articles so here is the first.

Kite flyers require a basic kit of essentials:-

- 1) Bottle opener
- 2) Cork Screw
- 3) Multiple bladed Swiss Army Knife (no less than 27 blades plus thing for taking boy scouts out of horses hooves).
- 4) Combination folding pliers/spanner/screw driver tool (the larger and more complex the better).
- 5) Wrist watch with built in barometer/altimeter (should be at least 10cm. wide and weigh in at 1/2 Kg).
- 6) Small kite and ball of string to be held whilst making use of items 1) & 2) and discussing the relative merits of 3), 4), & 5).

Future articles will cover the correct mode of dress, so important in our hobby and the personal characteristics required to become a really well known flyer. Other ideas or contributions would be gratefully received.

Arthur

Halloween Night Fly - 31st October.

This event was approved by the council shortly after the deadline date for the last issue and arrangements are now well under way. Officially we will start at 7.30 pm. but you may arrive any time during the day. However we must be cleared up by 11.30 pm. If you arrive during the evening you will probably find the gate closed. This is only to keep out the unwanted element who may be tempted to try and spoil things. Give us a shout and some one will gladly come and let you in.

For similar reasons the event has had to be listed as a closed event open to members only. However as members we will be delighted to welcome your families and friends, so please get them to come along and make this a fun evening!

Following discussions with Lynn (site warden) she has agreed to provide us with hot food during the evening. This will be a mild meat chilli with additional hot sauce available for those of you who like to blow your brains out. Lynn has said she can also provide a vegetarian chilli for those who require it but this must be ordered in advance. To give us an idea of numbers for catering we would be grateful if you could fill in the form below and send it to Lynn or me or ring me on the usual number.

The chilli will be served with a crusty roll in disposable bowls with disposable utensil at a cost of £2. Soft drinks will also be on sale at the normal site prices. As the food will be served on the site rather than at the bungalow no other meals will be available.

If you wish to stay over night camping is available at the bungalow and the shepherds cottage may be booked by the first applicant. This would give you a good early start for Sunday flying.

As suggested in the previous article there will be the following competitions:-

- 1) For children under the age of 13. the best pumpkin lantern. (Other fruit and veg allowed).
- 2) For children under 10 the best Halloween costume. (Wizard/witch/ghost etc.).
- 3) For children under 150 the best ghost kite of your own making. Note it does not have to be the design in the last mag. but my definition of kite includes words such as FLY, wind and string.

I shall be attending the Halloween Night Fly and will require :-

_____ Meat chillis

_____ Vegetarian chillis

Name _____

Please detach and return to any club officer or site warden.

Festivals Report (or What Happened was)

Portsmouth began with a very pleasant journey down with very little traffic even if the Festival of the Sea was on. Wind was on the light side to start with, but increased as the day went on. Many old friends to greet and more new ones to meet. Sam and Ann Huston along with Marla were there so plenty to catch up on plus more of the international kite flyers to chat with. I did try to fly as well. One beauty of single line kites is that you can fly and talk most of the time. There were a few tangles now and again but these were sorted out in friendly banter. Arthur was busy dropping Teddies, some dropping a long way through the single line area from near the sea front. As we as a Club were not invited to do a turn; it was nice to be able to fly what we (Gloucestershire We) could fly or chat without watching the clock and even watch some of the main arena events.

On the Sunday the wind had changed direction and was not as good, but still the sun shone. Lovely day to laze and do more chatting, tongue had a pasting. Wind died even more in the afternoon so, just before tea, I made a break for it hoping to miss the traffic on the way home. To my surprise, I had a very clear trip so much so that I had time to call in and see an old friend en route. A very enjoyable weekend.

Bristol, well forecast was not very hopeful, still I had Sam, Ann and little Vic to take and, as you know, Sam likes to be flying at a festival as early as possible and Vic is pin hunting as soon as his little legs hit the ground, shorts and all. Got the frogman's legs flying away from everything only to be attacked by an octopus moving into our space. No, not Peter Lynn, but his mate from down under, Clive. It must be an antipodean complaint. Flew a few other kites but the wind coming over Beggars Lane is never clean. There again, is Bristol wind ever good? Finished Saturday off with a good meal and drinks in the marquee followed by a lively auction, a very enjoyable evening. Many thanks to the Avon Kite Group for their hard work. Sunday started with no wind. Even the Indian fighters gave up, that's how bad it was. As the morning progressed, the wind did improve a bit, with it more kites came out of the bag and had an airing and that B....y Octopus as well, attacking everything in sight, even our H.Q. (the small Easi-up). Rain was forecast, but it stayed away until late afternoon and the H.Q. was a godsend as it filled to bursting. On reflection, this was one of the better Bristols.

Dieppe, is it another British kite festival or does it just seem like that? There are so many British kite flyers there that you would think that they would do the commentary in English. Still, joking apart, this is a marvellous international festival. Thirty something nations plus invited this year. The World Cup for **Sports Kites**. One big headache was to fit it all in the limited area available, until the weather came to the rescue or hindrance. First of all was getting there. Well, the crossing was a bit bumpy and quite a few of us were a shade pale, I even fed the fish. We made it more or less in one piece to register for on site badges and have a look around before the hordes came. By then it had just stopped raining. No kite festival on the back of the ferry this time due to the winds and rain on the crossing (great pity).

On Friday morning went to a Cody Symposium. Very worth while going and, believe it or not, I managed to learn a thing or two but remind me to sit on Dave R. if he starts talking big Codys. Whilst in there the heavens opened up again so I called it a day and rested for the affray on Saturday. Well, Saturday came and so did the winds so most of the day was spent gassing and doing a bit of shopping, sorry retail therapy, when the rain came again. Away for a meal and ready for the night fly. This was quite good as there was a steady wind blowing and just about dry. The kite flyers had to work hard but their efforts were appreciated by the fairly large crowd. Sunday was a bit better, wind still blowing well but it was fine, so out with the kites. Too strong to put the frogman's legs up so out with my gale buster man. Sited it away from you know who trilabit which was flying on three line (made a note of the idea to use at a later date). When, lo and behold, Peter and Clive together but up another trilabit alongside me making a trilabit sandwich of my man. I lasted about another hour and a half then gave up. Still, it was great watching Peter and Co. running over their own lines and kites with their buggies. Am I missing something or do all buggiers act this way? Then came the climax of the weekend when the Japanese, with the help of a few other kite flyers attempted to launch their giant kite. The winds were far too strong but they were there to fly it and they were going to do just that. First attempt, there was a sickening snapping of bamboo as the head was lifted, so back down, unbowing of the kite, and much lashing of more bamboo and a lot of hard work, then ready to try again. This time the kite rose off the ground but not high enough for the tails to come into play. It carved a beautiful arc to the right hitting the ground with a terrible crunch (le crunch) with untold damage to the kite. Later, they did fly a smaller one, when the wind dropped, before dark.

On Monday morning we, The White Horse Kite Flyers, did fly the legs plus a few other kites before it was time to stock up with booze and head for the ferry. At least it was not raining but the wind was still blowing. So, with the kites flying astern, we left the harbour with the aim of flying all the way back home. However, with the wind speed between 45 and 50 m.p.h. it was nearly impossible but a valiant attempt was made. Then along came BOF, never one to be outdone, we then saw a sight never seen before - the sight of sleds flying in tight circles just above the waves 400 yards or so astern taking more kites, poly bags, coke bottle tails and anything else and still flying in circles just above the waves. It did pass the time away, although some were a little queasy. Just before we came into harbour there was the cutting away ceremony and more trash into the Channel.

Time to get off home and reflect on Dieppe. Shame there was so much wind over the whole weekend that so many kites never saw the light of day, but we did all have a good time and came back with teeth intact

Neil

P.S. At Bristol some of us were Marlaized (our spellchecker wanted to replace this with "moralised" ! - Jane) with Tee shirts. Good one Kim! I will have to watch what I say in future.

Sky Chat

Dear Members

Here we are again, nearly at the end of another busy season of displays and workshops. Time to put up our feet and rest. Well no, there are plenty of things to be thinking about for next year. There are the displays and workshops to fit into the diary, there are Club projects to think of and, before it is on us, there is a project for the Millennium. It has to be in true White Horse Kite Flyers Tradition, something that will be remembered for years, so put your thinking caps on!

This year we have been busy as usual, if not more so, with some new events and many of the old ones. We must be looking forward to planning for next year's Festival and all that entails and Club workshops as well. Talking of workshops with the ones at Headlands School at the end of October, there are a few places still vacant (see Dave's Bit) so please try to fill them. You, the members, asked for the workshops so do not let us down! Again we are indebted to Mark Ashby (Head of Headlands School) and to Dave Jones and Dave Neate (the caretaker) for the use of the school's facilities. So, can one or two more make the effort to attend and not let them and Dave R. down, thank you?

There are still a few events to go, 11th October is One Sky One World at Barbury, and on the 18th October there is a display and workshop at Deddington, Oxon, 10.00 a.m. onwards. This is one of these Countryside awareness events so please try to come. The flying site looks good. The following weekend are the the Workshops, enough said. Then on the 31st of October is the Halloween Event at Barbury. This is a new event organised by The Vice, Arthur and Lynn so come and have a bit of haunting and night flying. If you intend coming, can you let Arthur or Lynn know so that we can cater for you? You can come in fancy dress, but I know some that do not need to dress up (only joking). Come on, let's have fun! Then, on the 11th of November, it is the A.G.M. at the White Hart, Wroughton. As I say every year, this is your time to spout out, to say what you think about the running of the Club and any ideas for the future and if you are brave or foolhardy enough to do something for the Club.

I would like to thank all the helpers around the display and workshop circuit this year. Without you, we could not take the kiting message to so many people.

I had better finish there or else I will have a hard job finding something different to say at the A.G.M. Keep your lines tight!

Neil

Stack News

Stack is being reborn, fresh team, new ideas. They are offering affiliate membership to clubs (Approx £5 per year). In addition they want to promote the idea of a Winter League more widely. Anyone interested in running a league in this area can get details from Stack... Ring Kathy Jarvis on 01277 373865.

And finally a note from the Editor.

The sun shone, the wind blew, the people came, but where were the kite flyers? What a beautiful flying day, one of the best we've had at Barbury for a long time. It was great to see our President looking so well again too. The few of us who were there had a great time flying, but the public who responded to our press release didn't! "Where are all the big kites?" they kept asking. "They aren't coming." "Why not, it said in the "adver" you'd be here?" If we advertise, then surely we must make sure that someone is going to be there with something big, otherwise it portrays the Club in a bad light. This is not the first time we've deserted the people of Swindon!

It's been hard work this time, very little to put into the magazine. If this a sign of the times then maybe it's time to look again at the idea of a club magazine. This must be the thinnest Cowpat I've ever produced. Is this the beginning of the end?

Dates for your diaries: October 11th - One Sky One World, October 31st - Halloween Kite Fly, both events at Barbury, 8th November - WHKF AGM at the White Hart Wroughton and October 24th & 25th - Workshops at Headlands School.

Kite Flying Safety Tips

The NEVERS of Kite Flying

- Fly a kite in wet or stormy weather: try to keep your kite line dry.
 - Fly a kite near power lines, transmission towers or acrials.
 - Fly a kite with wire or anything metallic in the line.
 - Fly a strong pulling kite without wearing GLOVES.
 - Leave odd bits of flying line etc on the flying site.
 - Fly a kite at over 200 feet.
- *Kite festivals may have C.A.A. clearance to fly higher.....ASK!

The Things to AVOID

- Motorways, roads, car parks railway lines or buildings.
 - Airfields and low flying air traffic patterns.
 - Members of the public.....stunt flyers please take care!
 - Those kite eating trees.
 - Animals, they can be frightened by kites.
- Remember...your kites can get really quite lonely up high in the sky, just occasionally, look up and give them a little SMILE.*
...AND PLEASE, MIND THOSE POWER LINES!

Where the WHKF go to fly their kites

WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS fly at Barbury Castle Country Park, Wroughton, Swindon, Wilts on the SECOND Sunday of each month

Will YOU be there?

Local WHKF contacts are:

Neil Harvey on: (01285) 740295

Arthur Dibble on: (01635) 865976

Dave Robinson on: (01793) 824208

and

Lynn & Brian Simpson on: (01793) 845346

COWPAT HILL

Journal of the White Horse Kite Flyers

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