



Scottish Airsports Club

Latest News

Issue 5, June 2003



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Naughty, Naughty

Scott McMeekin sent in the following reminder:

After a super flight this evening I was reminded by George that their planning permission forbids flying on a Monday. I thought the the planning permission had changed to permit flying on a Monday but apparently this was changed back after 1 month. With George and Sue going through the loops with building control for the new hanger the last thing we want is to upset them or their neighbours.

Anyway, I had one and three quarter hour flight today getting to 2500 east of Blair Drummond then flying back over Calander and Aberfoyle, most of the time on tick over, before running to the landing field from some over development to the west.

Power Unit Warning

Also from Scott:

Please see the Ben Ashman's message below from the most recent FLPHG email list. If you do not currently subscribe to the FLPHG email list I thoroughly recommend it. It contains some very useful discussions and reports. have omitted.

Date: Sat, 21 Jun 2003 16:59:58 +0100
From: "Ben Ashman" <flylight@zetnet.co.uk>
Subject: Mandatory mod. to all powered hang gliders

During the recent French Bivouac Tour, there was an incident with a Doodle Bug hooking on the rear flying wires. The Doodle Bug is designed to have components that resist catching and allow the rear wires to slide off the side frames, however, under load the rear wires are pulled taught around a tube / cable tie / screw head / etc. And they can become very difficult to dislodge. This problem has occurred with VIRTUALLY ALL TYPES of powered harnesses (read past accident reports).

The solution and fix for this is to simply slide a length of 17mm or larger internal bore plastic tube (the sort off stuff that is used for water pipes) over the rear rigging wires. The length needs to be at least a metre long and the lower end of the tube needs to be secured to the corner of the control frame by thin cord or elastic to stop it sliding up the wire. This then stops any chance of snagging the rear wires as the plastic tube will not bend to a tight enough radius to snag on a small protrusion and will allow landing legs, side tubes, wheel guards to roll off smoothly.

With this in mind, Flylight are making it a mandatory modification to any wing that is intended to be used with a Doodle Bug and we recommend that this modification is fitted to all hang glider wings to be used with any type of power unit. The modification takes less than 15 minutes to fit, costs pennies and does not significantly effect the performance of the wing.

There were 11 flphg pilots who witnessed the accident, there were 11 pilots who immediately fitted the tubing to their wings. Please everybody, fit the tubing. Don't think it will not happen to you.

All the best and safe flying, Ben.

Thornhill Gala Day

Another reminder that there will be a fly past at the Thornhill Gala Day on 30th August. It is hoped that as many club members as possible will take part. See Donald for more details.

Shut That Door!

Sue has requested that we keep the side doors to the hangar closed to shut out the noise from the new machinery in the hangar. Does anyone know what that machine does, anyway?

The Tug is Dead. Long Live the Tug!

Geoff May sends in the following:

Well, I guess it's not news by now that some prick managed to duff-up a landing on the club's microlight. Hopefully everything will be back in full working order by the time you're reading this, but I just want to take this opportunity to apologise to everyone for the lack of towing for the past few weeks as a result of my misjudgement. Sorry guys.

I'm not making any excuses for why it happened, it was simply due to a lack of experience and currency on the XL combined with over-confidence in my ability to bring it in low down the runway. I guess in the long-term this incident will make me a better pilot but I'm sorry for working this out the hard way with the club's equipment rather than on a microlight of my own. It's not fair on everyone else to let things like this happen with the tug. In the meantime I hope you've managed to get some hill or doodlebug/booster flying. And don't hesitate to tap me for a beer next time we're down the pub.

Geoff.

Allan writes:

Don't worry about it, Geoff. No-one crashes deliberately. Glad to hear you're OK - the repair bill will be with you shortly, and I look forward to getting a tow off you some day!

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