



Raydon and District Model Aircraft Club Newsletter

February 2019

Hi All,

Hopefully this is the first of a bi-monthly club newsletter that I am intending to produce to keep members updated and informed about what is happening in the club.

We have been having a very mild winter so far! And the hardy souls amongst us have been flying every week of the year so far, sometimes more than once! This year however the grass is not as flat as we would normally like, as it has been purposely left to recover after the terribly dry summer took its toll. The good news is it is about to receive its first cut of the year, and we will then continue to cut as normally required, so we should get our beautiful flying field back to normal flying condition.

In this newsletter I am looking for any contribution for inclusion from members. So if you have something to share, send it to me, and I will look to include in an upcoming issue. Trevor Williams has kindly submitted an article for this issue, which is a timely reminder for all of us. Thank You Trevor.

Trevor's article:

Winter Transmitter Blues

Those RADMAC members who have been flying alongside me during the colder flying days at Raydon, may be aware I had the misfortune to suffer radio failure resulting in the loss of three scale aircraft. Despite carrying out radio range and safety checks prior to flying each model all seemed ok. Just to be sure I changed batteries, and receivers after each crash and still could not understand how such failures kept occurring. Luckily Tony Waters, (our newly elected secretary) offered to carry out a transmitter power output measurement using his own equipment. This test indicated my transmitter was only outputting 30% of maximum capability. What a relief we have finally located the source of the problem. To rectify the situation I immediately purchased a new Futaba Transmitter and insulating metal carrying case. I am pleased to say to date all models have been fully repaired and are again flying at Raydon without any radio or flight problems experienced.

Now the dust has settled I decided to look more closely at the faulty transmitter to ascertain any likely cause of low power. Upon removing the back cover from the Transmitter it was self-evident that all the circuit boards had become white with moisture present resulting in degradation of performance. I deduced that my transmitter after a flying session was placed in my workshop without any insulation protection over a two year period being exposed a wide range of temperature changes.

Lesson learnt the hard way, I now house the transmitter in the new insulated metal case away from the workshop to indoors where temperature is more constant and does not fall below a level that would give rise to equipment damage.

Trevor Williams RADMAC member

One for all of us to take note of. Again thank you Trevor.

Some of you might have been working on your new project over the winter period, why not share what you are building with your fellow modellers here? Just a thought...

Many keen eyed members would have noticed the work our "Webmaster" Lee Marshal has been doing with our club web site (Now www.radmac.club). Lee has made the web platform far more user friendly for mobile phone use, and has greatly improved the safety/compliance, layout and contents. You should have noticed the new picture galleries and a new video gallery for our member's models. You might have also have noticed the new "Members Forum" which has been under trials. (A notice to this effect is on the web pages). Following this month's committee meeting where Lee undertook a presentation to the committee, demonstrating why, what and how the changes had been made and how to take the forum forward. The committee unanimously agreed to all the proposals, so the new forum section will go live in March. Members will be individually emailed with your personal "log-on" and advice of what to do. You will then be able to access a number of forum "Threads" ranging from club chat, maintenance, events, model builds, help, flying days, for sale and wanted but to name a few. Hopefully you will all find something of interest to you.

There are a number of club maintenance activities required at RADMAC this year. Some will need support from members to carry out the work over the year. So all volunteers are very welcome.

Firstly Mark Allum will be replacing the main club hut door, it will have a new digital lock fitted, and members will receive an email advising them of the door code and how to work it. Then each year once the club members' renewal process has been completed, a new code will be set and current members advised of the change.

Paul Jefferies will be looking for some help with marking out the access roadway with double yellow lines down the length of the main field either side of the road (agreed with our landlord John Peacock). Hopefully this will deter people from stopping and keep our flight line clear of stationary vehicles!

Nigel Banham will be looking for volunteers to undertake maintenance on the club hut. The cracks around the windows need repairing then the outside of the building is overdue some repairs and painting, along with the lean-to roof!

Nigel will also be looking for some help to paint the mower shed main doors once "Gilcan" has weld repaired the rusty parts of the doors.

This year Nigel will be running a new event for RADMAC in the form of a "bring and buy". This is an "Open" event advertised with the BMFA on March 24th in the club hut, with a fixed price of £5 per table, anyone can bring that unwanted item or model to sell, or just come along to see what you might like to buy! Irene and Dick will be on hand with teas and coffees, so why not just come for a drink and a chat!

Check out our club web site for all the events and details.

Well that's all my ramblings for now, any articles for inclusion or feedback and ideas are very welcome. You never know if I get enough material I could make it monthly.....

Meantime safe and happy flying. Hope to see you over the field soon.

Tony

Club Secretary.