



October News letter

2011

Welcome:

Hi everyone I hope I find you all well, and you are getting on with the new field ok, we have some plans for the patch which I'll explain later. Such a shame about the Ham Street show this year, we had a good time last year and there was some very good feedback, but unfortunately they were delayed in organisation so only offered us 2 hours, I said we just cant do that as it takes a lot of organisation on my part, but I will be on their case early next year, so I will keep you posted. There has been a lot of people asking questions about the new field as you can imagine there are a lot of things to sort out, the entrance, parking, patch, pits, caravan etc. and we are getting things sorted as soon as possible so please bear with us and any help will be gratefully received. Very disappointed we are unable to hold well not hold but we are not allowed to have fireworks or a bonfire this year which I'm gutted about so we will make the best of our invite by Phill at the Medway flying club where are all invited to attend and bring a firework as per ours. A few of us have been every year and it is defiantly not worth missing. Details on the back of this newsletter.

See you all at the AGM. Iain Stingemore

The Field:

It's been a long year with many changes, and more still to come, so before we run out of time, here's an update on everything ARA.

Field Etiquette:

Please be mindful that we are simply renting use of the land from Jo, and that it is a busy Farm, giving people their livelihoods. As such, please drive courteously at all times; avoid wheel spinning and tearing up the grass in all areas where possible. As the ground softens up, please try not to drive down the same part through the entrance, if we spread out it should help the ground recover a little and mean we can all drive to the caravan for longer. We are very visible to Jo and the other tenants now, it could only take one incident for us to be in trouble! We have already had a complaint, let's keep these to the bare minimum please :) Could all members also please remember to close ALL gates behind them, this is essential.

Hard standing entrance + Electric/Water Hookup:

We have had various meetings over the past weeks regarding our entrance. We have been held up by the bikers camp being left in a terrible state, which Jo has almost finished clearing now. As soon as this is complete, we will be digging a trench for our electric and water hookup for the caravan. As soon as we know the date, we will put some notices up and contact members - we will need a team of helps for this! Once that is done, the scaffolders will be moving their yard to the site of the old bikers camp, freeing up where our entrance will go. We will then arrange for the ground workers to come in and lay down our new gate and hard standing entrance. This will be happening very soon all being well with the scaffolders moving.

Field cont:

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Patch Update:

We have again been having committee meetings for the past few weeks to draw up an action plan to bring the patch up to the standard we require. Up until now the ground has just been too hard to do anything with on our budget (it would have required many thousands and would have turned the patch in to a dust bowl!). The ground is beginning to soften now, and with the help of David Teal and John Ottewill, we have performed a test "rolling". David spread 200 litres of water on to a test patch each day for 4 days to gauge whether the ground would actually soften sufficiently with some decent rain fall. We are please to say the results were very good. We have also had a visit from one of the owners of "Grasslands". They are a turf growing company, so know their grass! We went through 4 or 5 options with them, and they have unequivocally told us that the best option for our patch is to regularly roll it while wet. We discussed more drastic options like scraping the top with heavy equipment, or even ploughing and re-rolling, but these were deemed unnecessary, and would put the patch out of action for an extended period of time! The patch will level out nicely, and if come March/April we still have noticeable peaks and troughs, then we will fill these by dragging some top soil mixed with seed across the patch.

Field cont:

We are preparing the patch with some winter fertiliser; this will prepare the root system for spring and should lead to a much thicker turf. We will also lay down some more seed in spring if needed. Please, if you are at the field after a night of rain, jump on the roller and just give even part of the patch a good going over. There is red diesel in the caravan, and the key for the chain is in the oven/grill.

GMT: After the clocks go back, don't forget that the Sunday morning heli-only slot will end at 1:00 pm instead of 2:00 pm

WORK PARTY

We will be gathering at the field this coming Saturday from approx 10am to do some work on the field, and would seriously appreciate the help of as many members as possible. There are a number of jobs to be done; rock clearing from the runway and pits area, more rolling of the patch (Jamie, Iain and Tony Brooks all rolled it this past weekend with some great results), and digging the trench for the water and power lines (with a digger hopefully!). If you have any buckets, spades etc, bring them along. Correna will be providing us all with some lunch (thanks in advance once again!), and we will have the tea urn on the go all day. Please do turn up and lend a hand, even for a short while, we can't do it all on our own!

AGM.

The date has been set as Wednesday 23rd of November. It's in the same hall as last year, "Sandyacres", Sandyhurst Lane, Ashford. Please be there before by 7:30 at the latest. This is your opportunity to have your say on club matters; if you don't come or don't make your voice heard, you can't make a difference, Please remember though: this is a "club". It's run by its members, for its members. Without help from EVERYONE, we simply can't get things done. There will be food as usual, and a break for some indoor flying. Night flying may not be possible due to complaints last year from adjacent land owners, but we are trying to resolve this currently, so stay tuned.

B.B.Q.'s:

Firstly, it is with regret that we won't be having a Bonfire Night/Firework BBQ. This is something out of our control and would have been the case had we stayed in our old field, so nothing to do with the move. One of the farm tenants keeps ducks, which are now "layers"; as a result we cannot risk "spooking" them and being sued for loss of earnings. This is non-negotiable, and worst case is if we upset Jo (the farm/land owner), we could be without anywhere to fly at all. We will however be looking to make the next summer one a BIG one so keep a look out.

E-Mail:

With the wide use of e-mail now being used by the young and old if anyone would prefer to receive our newsletter via e-mail instead of the old fashioned postman pat type then drop me a line, I'd be happy to do that for you. Also one of our members has started an e-mail group so if anyone has any info or questions or even something to sell then you can send 1 e-mail and it will go to everyone on the list, we have helped with some problems already. Further information please contact Michael Connell (michael@michaelconnell.plus.com)

My address is mail@araclub.co.uk I would also love some pics of anything (within reason !!!)to put in the newsletter.

Fun Stuff

Finally, we have just purchased a Speed Radar Gun. This will be available to all members once it's arrived; perhaps will have to set up a page on our site to log the fastest Helicopters/Planes/Gliders etc, but remember, numbers mean nothing without photographic evidence!! :)

Christmas dinner:

We will be shortly booking our annual Christmas dinner, last year it was at the George in Ashford's town centre, everyone had a very good meal and the landlord has contacted me to see if we would like to go there again, so unless any of you would like anywhere different then I shall look into getting a menu from him. It will be early Jan so as not to clash with any works do's.

Awards

There are 4 awards to nominate for, as usual.

Most improved

Pink brick (for best/worst/most crashes)

Ron Clover competition award

Eddie Frudenburg Wacky Inventor award (for doing some new/different/innovative)

Let a committee member know if you think one person in particular deserves any of the above, all to be presented at the AGM.

BMFA Tests

I'm currently still the only BMFA examiner in the club, so if you know of anyone with their B that has held it for over 6 months and wants to become an Examiner (I'm looking at you, Daz!), firstly speak with Iain who can then put your details forward to the area chief examiner. We really could do with another so we can take "B" tests for our members. If anyone wants to take their "A" fixed wing or Heli, get it touch with me (Jamie.McKeen@googlemail.com), I can talk you through it, take you through a mock test if needs be and give you help and advice, and finally actually take you through the test. It's a nice personal achievement to have it on your BMFA card, and it's not that scary or difficult!

Sorry for waffling, this was only meant to be a short update, but we have a lot going on right now! Exciting times for ARA!

Thanks for reading, please let us know in advance if there's anything specific you want to know/discuss at the AGM.

Jamie

Mewday Bonfire night 12th November 2011

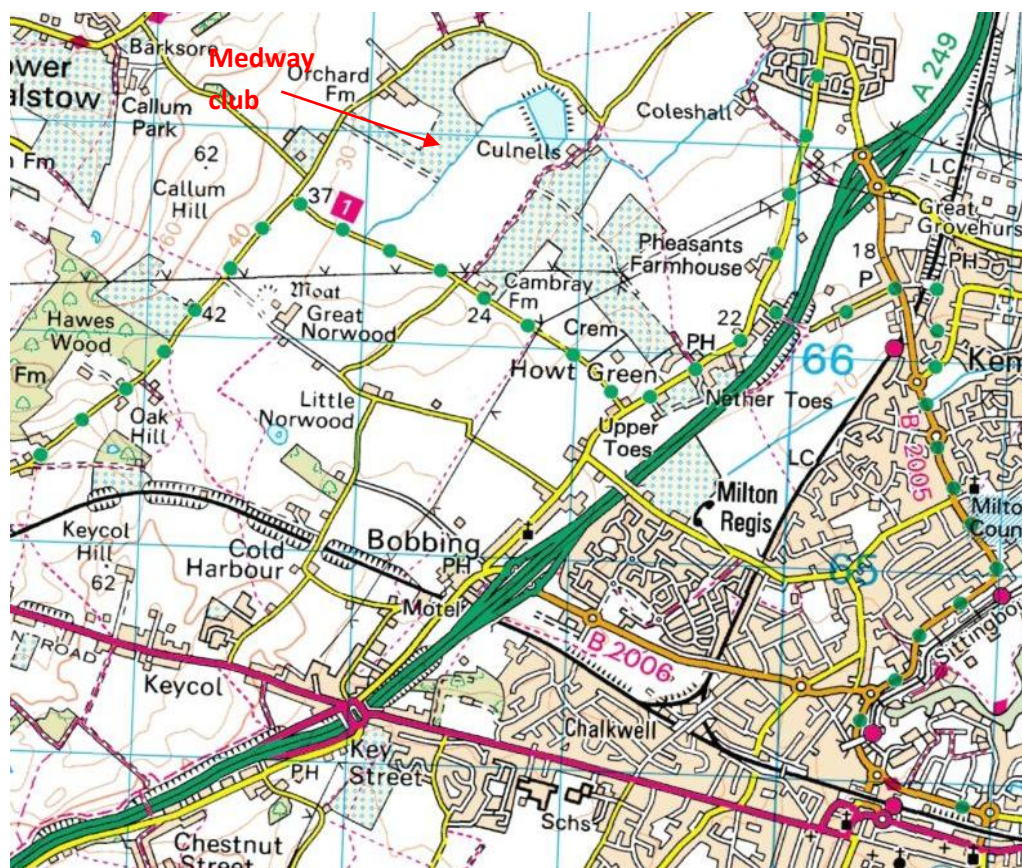
Address Stickfast lane,

Iwade,

Kent.

Entrance bring a firework, flying all day fireworks approx. 7pm

All ARA members and family welcome.



Finnaly:

Please stick with us the patch is getting better all the time and by next year it should be yet again the best around.

These news letters can be viewed online. Not much on there at the moment its www.araclub.com

I hope you liked this if you have any comments good or bad please let us know.

Iain Stingemore and Jamie McKeen

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