

COWPAT HILL

NEWS SHEET of the WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS

The kiting News Letter generated by
people with the common urge to build
and then hopefully to fly... kites!

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ANOTHER YEAR

Well, that was 1990 and eleven issues, hello to 1991 and twelve issues? As editor may I along with the regular COWPAT mob (contributors) wish you... (belated) MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR.

STAND-IN EDITOR

As you may have read in the December issue of COWPAT I have changed my computer, and also at the same time the location of my job, all this combined to make producing the December issue more than a slight problem and so, thanks are due to both David Robinson who stood in as it's producer/editor for the month, and Neil Harvey for the 'Mince Pie Fly-in' leaflet and map.

ANOTHER NEW FORMAT

Having changed the computer the DIP software used to produce the original COWPAT HILL will not (as yet) work on the new system, this means yet another layout for COWPAT. So this should I hope be the final design. If you have ideas for COWPAT, let me have them!

SNOW JOKE!

Ok! hands up any of you that managed to get through the snow to Barbury on the 9th December. We could have tried harnessing a train of FLEXIFOILS to a sled! Still, SNOWFLAKE (Dave) was happy!

LOW LIGHT - KITE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Doug Jones proved a point recently, he and Martin Croxton had come down to Chipping Norton for lunch and to bring me a copy of a new kite book KITEWORKS by Maxwell Eden (see later), in the afternoon we all went to the local school sports field to see if we could actually get any kites to fly. The wind at ground level was a problem... actually there wasn't any! Doug walked off to a quiet corner of the field and over the next fifteen minutes worked his Delta up to about five hundred feet.

Now, while our Doug was doing all this Martin and I assembled the Serious Sirius and after trying to launch it by normal methods (you know, charging round the field towing it) we decided that in the very light wind the only way to get it into the air was by towing it up using Martin's Ford Sierra, this did the trick except that there just wasn't enough wind to keep the heavy weight kite flying!

Anyway, when Doug was happy that his kite was going to stay up in the air he attached his camera rig and sent the camera up another two hundred feet (200 feet plus 500 feet gives 700 feet! DOUGLAS! just remember that Russian aircraft!) and started to take photographs. By this time the winters afternoon had started to draw in and the light dropped off very quickly and I have to

(cont'd) say that I thought Doug was wasting both time and film! Having now seen his results I can only... eat my words. Doug was using 400 ISO film in his Olympus compact camera and obtained some excellent results, even down to the lit street lights!

BIG DELTA

The boss and I have made a rather large eighteen foot Delta similar to Martin's big one (kite!) so that with luck we can lift and parachute young George Mannequin in far lighter winds than we could with the Sirius Box.

NEW BOOK ON KITES

As mentioned earlier I now have a copy of Maxwell Eden's book 'KITEWORKS'. This runs to about 280 pages and contains plans for about 50 kites. Some of the plans have been published before although there are several new designs. Of recent kite historical note is a small section on how the FLENIFOIL came into being which is quit good. On the whole it's a well laid out book (shame about the proof reading though) with a good selection of kite building tips and would be good reading along with David Pelhams book KITES. Priced at about 14 pounds from among other places, the Kite Store.

Cassell Publishing - ISBN 0-8069-6712-9.

NATIONAL TRUST?

About ten of the WHKF mob charged off to Pinkney Green near Maidenhead on December 16th to fly with the Chiltern Kite Group. Nice place, marred only by freezing weather, the abundance of DOG MESS and an over zealous and VERY petty National Trust Warden who gave everyone the impression that he was in desperate need of a appreciating that they have a job to do there was no need for this wardens overbearing attitude towards some of the WHKF group. No doubt if we had been Stag Hunting rather than kite flying this would have proved all right! This incident over shadowed what should have been a good days flying with amongst other things the first flight of some VERY LARGE Martin Lester, bright red WHKF legs jointly owned by Dave Robinson and Martin Croxton. Many thanks to those Chiltern Kite Flyers.

MINCE-PIE FLY-IN

Just when you were wondering what to do with the Christmas Pressies, along came... The Bibury Mince-pie Fly-In. High winds made kite flying a problem although a large number of people and Kites came along during the day. 'George' the large parachuting dummy managed only one drop from about three hundred feet because of the high winds though the parachute didn't drift very far. Neil Harvey had built a bright red parafoil shaped like a human heart which held up well under the wind conditions. The event raised over Eighty One pounds for the British Heart Foundation. Thanks to all who attended and helped especially Sue and Neil Harvey along with Bet and Ron Gunter. The Firework display at dusk was provided by Martin Croxton and Doug Jones.

MOTOR-VATION

That COWPAT Mole has been at it again! Rumour has it that one of our flyers rescued an old industrial sewing machine from being destroyed, all that it required was a another electric motor to start it producing kites. A motor was duly discovered in deepest Gloucestershire and our man along with his good lady went off on the train to fetch it. Now the good lady thought she could get on with her Christmas shopping whilst our man collected his motor... wrong! Said motor was so heavy that it took them BOTH to get it to the Railway Station and on the very next train home!

COMING SOON TO A FIELD NEAR YOU!

Yep! our very own WHITE HORSE KITE FLYERS - KITE FESTIVAL at Lydiard Country Park, West Swindon, Wilts (thats half a mile from junction 16 off the M4). To be held (subject to confirmation) over the weekend of 11th and 12th of May. Camping, Toilets and running water. All the usual thing, you know Kites, Parachuting Teddies, Kite Stalls, Competitions and Work Shops etc.,

EVERY SECOND SUNDAY

Remember that the WHKF fly at Barbury Castle Country Park, Wroughton, Nr Swindon, Wilts every second Sunday of the month. WHAT! You want MORE details? Have a look at the front page.

YEARS OLD KITE?

By the way, did you hear about the kite flyer who had the same kite for years? Yep, changed the sail four times and the dowels twice!... look. THINK ABOUT IT!

NO INPUT, NO OUTPUT

Ok people, as always, any material (for a start, 5 metres of Ripstop should do) for COWPAT to the editor at:

115 Walterbush Road, CHIPPING NORTON, Oxon OX7 5DQ.

THE WHO DID WHAT BIT

Published by Ron Gunter on behalf of the WHKF

Edited by Richard Everett

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Whilst every care is taken in compiling COWPAT HILL, the WHKF cannot accept responsibility for errors or mistakes which may occur

And finally people, as always...

Please remember, when out flying your kites, give them a SMILE, they get lonely up THERE. And WATCH those P O W E R L I N E S !

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