



www.southern.bmfa.uk

Welcome to the first of several newsletters that the Southern Area BMFA committee intends to circulate to all member clubs over the next few months. The last 12 months have seen us affected by many changes, many of these unwelcome. However, there have been some new initiatives that have been truly beneficial. The adoption of Zoom meetings has enabled us to communicate from the comfort of our own homes, this opportunity is one the Southern Area wishes to develop with its member clubs. For the last 14 years we have used our own developed website to circulate news, advertise activities, and communicate information to all local clubs and pilots. Last year we started to develop a Facebook page linked to our website and since the Covid era we have used Zoom to manage meetings and keep interested parties up to date with progress. This has been so successful that it is only logical that we extend the invite to all member clubs and pilots to join us, an opportunity to air your views, identify your concerns, and help us plan activities for the future that will interest you, the local flyer. It should also be noted that the Southern Area does have a very active free flight contingent, well organised indoor events, e-soaring competitions, and of course fly for fun RC events. We also support many local shows to ensure communities have the opportunity to understand our sport and see the models. This is important, as often displaying at these shows can lead to new flying sites and opportunities - something we all need.

So what's happening in our area? The following activities are planned for the coming months - activities that we extend an invite to you to join ----

1) **March 4th - Area webinar.** This is being hosted on Zoom by Mark Benns, BMFA Hon Sec, and Andy Symonds, BMFA Club Support Officer. It is targeted at all Southern Area BMFA members. The subject is Area Committees; the purpose and function of Area Committees, how they link with BMFA and with you and your club, and their roles for the future. If you have never been involved in Area activities before this is hopefully an opportunity to gain an understanding of the benefits the club flyer can gain from becoming involved and the benefits that the Area can gain from your involvement. Also of course your contributions to this meeting may help us understand whether we need to change our focus, your involvement will provide additional information to help us plan successfully for the future, and we will listen and act on your requests and ideas - we need your help. This webinar is free to join - you will be emailed an invitation, all you need to do is register and we will do the rest.

2) **March 24th Southern Area Committee meeting** An opportunity for your Club Delegate to join an Area meeting, listen to reports from elected officers, understand progress on events this year, find out activities that your club can join in with and of course be able to table subjects for discussion that matter to you. Your support and involvement, via your Club Delegate, will be welcomed. Links to this Zoom meeting will be sent to all Club Delegates.

3) **Popham Model Show** - Popham airfield will be the location for a 2-day model show on the weekend of 21/22 August. The event will include static displays, indoor flying, control line flying, RC display pilots, trade support, swap meet, and on-site catering (see flyer overleaf). This is the first of what is being planned as an annual model flying symposium in Southern Area, the management at Popham have offered their facilities to enable this event to be organised and it is their wish that this is developed over the coming years to become a replacement for the Sandown show of years gone by. They have also expressed the desire for this to be a show that appeals to all local clubs, with local pilots supporting the flying and helping run the event. Perhaps your club would like to arrange a static display of the clubs models, or perhaps you have pilots who would like to join in with the show line flying itself. There are many opportunities to become involved and we welcome your input.

4) Over the past year we have updated our website, google 'Southern Area BMFA'. We would like to link this site to all our local club websites and vice versa. Again, if any club wishes to advertise activities on our website then we will be only too pleased to include such information. We have started a Facebook page, this is still work in progress so watch this space.

We have also developed links with SAM35 - for free flight, control line and vintage RC flying ,and with SAM1066 for free flight. We support both these organisations and through their extensive work we are lucky to still have several flying sites within the area for these activities.

So this is our first newsletter and will hopefully give you an insight into what's happening in our Area. Over the coming months we will be sending out further information as we continue to make progress. We hope you are encouraged to book into the Zoom webinar advertised above and should you have any topics/ideas that you wish to present then your input will be welcome.

Stay safe -- Southern Area BMFA
February 2021



The Southern Area of the
British Model Flying Association



**AUG 21st
TO
AUG 22nd
2021**

POPHAM AIRFIELD

MODEL AIR SHOW

Popham Airfield (01256) 397733
www.popham-airfield.co.uk

The preparation

for the biggest model event in
Popham Airfield's history is
progressing rapidly.

For the first time the airfield will close
its main runways for model flying off
runway 21/03.
NOTAMS will be issued to close the
airfield for the duration of the model
flying. 2021 will be the forerunner for
an annual event in the south of England.

If you are a pilot and interested in
participating then you will need to get
in touch soon as the flight schedule is
open now for entries.
We are expecting Fixed wing - Gliders,
Electrics I.C. and turbines, Rotary
Aircraft and FPV with a full program of
flying over the weekend.
Contact: t_weeks@sky.com

There will be a static display under cover in the main Marquee,
bring and buy, FPV workshops and indoor catering.

Traders welcome £40, for the weekend, limited camping is available so book early.

Public admission will be determined through on line booking with Eventbrite
£10 Adults / £5 Children / £25 family ticket.



Popham Airfield
EGHP
The Spitfire Flying Club