

## CHIPFEST 2009 at CAMBRIDGE

**Whilst** formation flying is a standard training requirement in the air forces of the world it is little practiced among civilian pilots - many years ago Anthony and Samantha Hutton organised Chipmunk and Yak gatherings at North Weald but in recent times only CHIPMEET in Belgium, organised by Tony and Edith De Bruyn and their team of enthusiasts, has played host to what has become a virtual Squadron reunion each year for Chipmunk flyers. Usually held in May each year at Zoersel(Oostmalle) airfield near Antwerp it has for some years been the home of this activity courtesy of the Aero Para Club Der Kempen and this year saw the eleventh such meeting.

CHIPMEET has therefore become a virtual Mecca each year for a small band of Chipmunk owners based in the UK, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and Germany and it was inevitable that in order to keep some currency and enthusiasm going for this activity that events outside of Belgium would spring up. One such is CHIPFEST which was first held at Sywell in September 2008, which attracted eleven UK based Chipmunks and crews and also helped to encourage others to join in on the annual May Chipmeet fly-out usually routing via Calais.

This year, through an invitation from Terry Holloway of Marshall Aerospace and Stuart McKay of the Moth Club it was made possible to combine the CHIPFEST 2009 with the Centenary celebrations being organised at Cambridge airport which culminated in a big Sunday afternoon air show on September 20<sup>th</sup>. which included the Battle of Britain Flight, the Vulcan and the Red Arrows. The invitation was “ We need as many Chipmunks as you can get on the ground at Cambridge”.

Meetings with the organising teams at Cambridge commenced in July and invitations to both instructors and Chipmunk crews were sent out and readily accepted and it was agreed that CHIPFEST would take place on the preceding three days commencing at 09.30 on the Thursday morning. Four formation areas were drawn up and local airfields advised including RAF Wyton with whom a daily information exchange was established.

The finale to any formation training session is a mass fly-past and CHIPFEST is no exception and it was agreed that both Cambridge and Duxford would benefit from a fifteen ship Chipmunk ‘balbo’ during Saturday afternoon. Thankfully the weather was superb throughout with very stable conditions and good visibility which allowed seventeen formation flights to be made resulting in 22.6 hours by fourteen aircraft and including the final flypast a grand total of 71.6 Chipmunk hours flown.

Other activities organised at Cambridge during this time were the Moth Club Symposium and fly-in during which Rod Brown and Bill Fisher gave an illustrated talk on Chipmunk History and Sunday was organised to be a day of rest and the opportunity to sit down and enjoy a talk by Bill Purchase and Dave Gill on their ‘Round the World’ flight in 1997 was enjoyed by most of the Chipmunk crews and instructors.

It is not generally realised that Marshall Aerospace have a very long association with Jesus College and so Saturday evening was scheduled to be a black tie social event with a large gathering for an evening meal at Jesus College attended both Moth Club and Chipmunk personnel and was very much enjoyed by all. Such was the success of the event that Terry Holloway has invited us back to Cambridge next year and CHIPFEST will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>.inclusive.

Those attending:-

**Instructors:-**

|                   |                |               |               |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| CFI Robert Miller | Conor Campbell | Digby Dogerty | Roger Milburn |
| Roger Minards     | Dennis Neville | Guy Pearce    | John Plummer  |
| Peter Thorn       | Andy Tomalin   | Ray Watson    |               |

**Formation Aircraft and Crews**

|                    |                                 |                    |                                |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| G-BBND<br>(WD 286) | Carol de Solla Atkins           | G-APYG             | Janice Doyle<br>Paul Doyle     |
| G-BWMX<br>(WG 407) | Ken Kelso                       | G-ATHD<br>(WP 971) | Owen Cubitt<br>Rod Brown       |
| G-ALWB             | Trish Neville<br>Dennis Neville | G-BCGC<br>(WP 903) | Alex Grounsell<br>Tom Stambach |
| G-BWNK<br>(WD 390) | Stewart Smith                   | G-BWUT<br>(WZ 879) | Andrew Herbert                 |
| G-BCYM<br>(WK 577) | Ken Fraser                      | G-VPET<br>(WB 565) | Alistair Fraser                |
| G-BCPU             | Peter Waller                    | G-APLO             | Trevor Bailey                  |
| G-BPAL<br>(WG 350) | Ken Tomsett                     | G-ITWB             | Ian Whitaker-Bethal            |

The above trained on Thursday , Friday and Saturday and were joined by Bob Morcom in G-BBMT for the fifteen ship flypast at Cambridge and Duxford on Saturday afternoon. Twenty four Chipmunks attended in total.

## Visiting aircraft

|                 |                 |                           |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Friday</b>   | G-ARMC (WB 703) | John Henderson + 1        |
| <b>Saturday</b> | G-ULAS(WK 517)  | Tony Clinch & Colin Terry |
| <b>Sunday</b>   | G-AMUF          | Ian Mills                 |
|                 | G-ULAS          | Alan Tipper & Peter Royce |
|                 | G-CBJG          | Chris & Angie Rees        |
|                 | G-BCIH (WD 363) | Peter Richie              |
|                 | WD 325          | Maj Rob Ashley            |
|                 | G-BBRV (WD 347) | Jim Wesson                |
|                 | G-BCXN (WP 800) | Michael Turner            |

Any event takes a lot of organising and the effort of the participants to attend and the following are to be heartily thanked:-

....a huge big vote of thanks to everyone at Marshall Aerospace without whom the event could not have happened especially Malcom and his Staff, Mark in ATC, Jaison in catering and Terry Holloway the gaffer of everything - they all worked tirelessly on our behalf both before and during the event. Also to Alison at the Express Holiday Inn for the room organisation and to David and his team of lovely ladies in the kitchen.

To all the crews and their aircraft especially Ken Thomsett and his wife for flying all the way from Portugal and to our overseas visitors from the USA Victor Stottlemeyer (N 894WP) and Ken Bangert (N22777) and their wives, Lydia and her team of marshalls who worked tirelessly throughout the event including the airshow.

Finally thanks to Janice Doyle, Ken Kelso, Paul Deacon, Dave Harmsworth, Bill Fisher, and Robert Miller and the instructors.

Thanks to the generosity of all at Chipfest some £90 was raised and donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Rod Brown  
September 2009