



RADIO DAYS

Radio Days - a column for traditional radio flyers

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The Rocket Launches

In the February 2019 Radio Days column I described a classic design by Dave

Thornburg called the Honker Rocket which was designed for club racing using a Cox .049 for power. I mentioned in a later column that I had decided to build one just for fun and, of course, for electric power. As always with one of my model builds, life, household chores and other modelling projects delayed progress but I finally got it finished a couple of weeks ago and also managed to find a weather window for a test flight. As you would expect from a Thornburg design, it flew perfectly off the board and is good fun to fly. I built the rudder/elevator variant but I am sure that the aileron version



Two views of my Honker Rocket. Tissue covered unlike the original which used film!

would fly just as well and would be slightly more aerobatic.

My version has a Thunder Tiger Ripper 2824/14 motor (which is 1430Kv) running on a 3s 1300 LiPo through a 25 Amp ESC. On a 7x5 prop this pulls about 110 Watts which is roughly equivalent to a Cox TD.049 on 25% nitro fuel. Two cheap 9 gram servos and one of the new Spektrum internal antenna receivers complete the line up in a very light model that only weighs 16 ounces. The receiver seems to work very well and certainly makes installation easy. The fuselage was designed for early digital radio and the modern stuff looks lost in a cavernous interior! The model is not super fast but flies very positively in a moderate breeze and will do all the usual rudder/elevator manoeuvres. The finish is tissue and dope and duplicates the original



scheme as far as possible but not the covering which was film –yuk! Unfortunately the only tissue I had in stock at the time was pretty grotty stuff so it is not one of my best covering jobs but you can't see that in the air so that's a good reason to fly it as often as possible.....

Hole of Horcum

I have mentioned a couple of times in this column that Michael Kitchen from the North York Moors Ridge Soaring Club was planning to hold an event for traditionally built R/C gliders. The event took place on the 16th of June and here's Michael's report on the event:

'As Paul Simon once said during his track Papa Hobo - It's just after breakfast, I'm on the road and the weatherman lied.

Sunday, 16th June was the date of a Classic Glider event at the Hole of Horcum in North Yorkshire hosted by the North York Moors Ridge Soaring Club.

Given the previous week's weather, there was still a risk of showers in the afternoon. Morning in the Vale of York was bright and quite still. What would the rest of the day bring on the slope?

By 10 o'clock a group of enthusiastic aero-modellers keen to show off their traditionally built gliders had gathered in the public car park close to the flying site. After a gentle walk with all the kit we arrived on the main south slope with a respectable 12mph breeze and broken cumulus clouds as far as you could see. This is the main slope with a long gentle drop to a wide valley floor that can produce good thermals in the right conditions.

Having set up camp between the slope edge and the Cleveland Way public right of way to the rear, I was pleasantly surprised to find that the heather surrounding us was not very wet at all. Great for soft landings. As an informal event there was only need for a quick safety warning about walkers and remembering to call for landing.

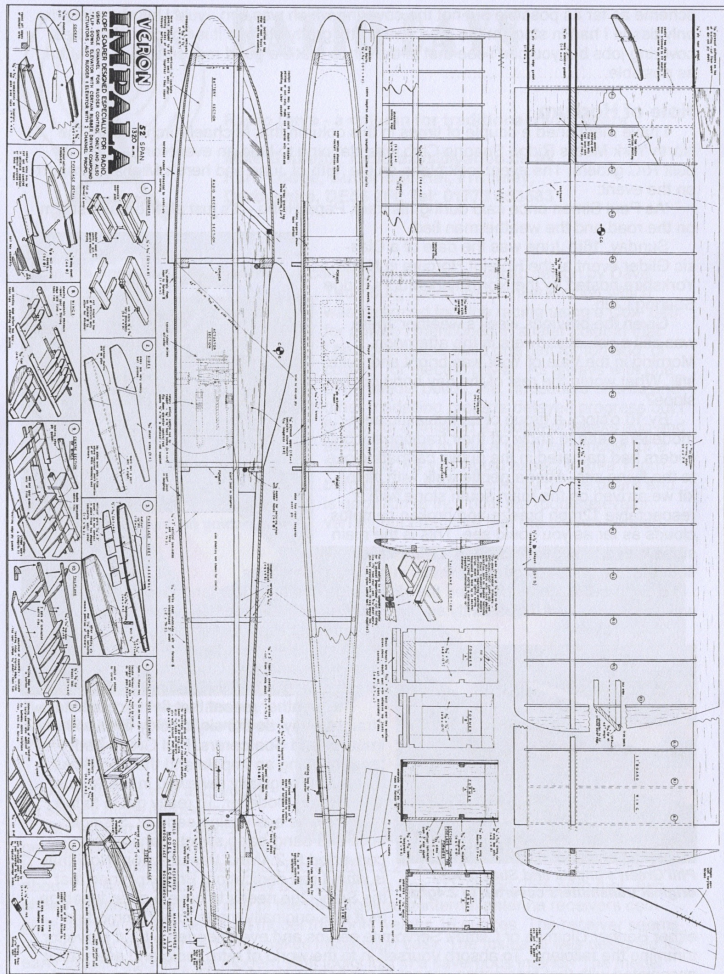


Phil Green's Impala and Suzy Q with original transmitters converted to 2.4ghz

either Bonner Digimite or Climax Servomite servos and even needed a third servo for trimming the tailplane. To absorb yourself in to the world of retro radio and everything associated with that fascinating aspect of our hobby, check out Phil and Shaun's Single Channel Vintage R/C page - <http://www.mccrash-racing.co.uk/sc/sc.htm>



Phil launching his Veron Impala



The day progressed with a steady increase of wind speed to over 20mph after lunch, so almost anything could fly. A hint of rain out to the south caused some worry, but that was seen to float away towards the coast and cause no further worries.

Stan Batty brought along an Easter Eagle. Originally for electric power, by removing the propeller it became quite a floater in the breeze. The wind was working so far back that penetration became a little tricky and some land outs required a steady walk to retrieve. However, the soft bouncy heather ensured a gentle arrival. Stan's other model was a 2 metre Amethyst by Premier Balsa Products. Not readily available although some kits do turn up on eBay. Very graceful lines and a good model for beginners with two function radio on rudder and elevator.



Stan Batty's Easter Eagle from the RCM&E plan

Jon



Stan's Premier Amethyst

Edison had brought along his Soarcerer which was enjoying its first outing for 20 years. It flew amazingly well and Jon views it as a 'Great little model'. A laser cut version is now available from Sarik Hobbies including plan, and all wood required to complete this model that will fly in a wide range of wind strengths.

The whole event could not pass by without mention of the very generous prize supplied by Leon Cole at Belair Kits. He was very keen to assist and chose a kit of the Sunspot by Roy Yeabsley for the person judged to represent the

best elements of classic gliding on the day. It may come as no surprise that Phil Green was the winner with two classic models and supporting radios to accompany them. He was extremely grateful for being chosen. The only proviso was that we expected to see it on the slope at the next Classic Glider event in 2020.

It was agreed that a good day had been enjoyed by all and a very relaxing way to spend your Sunday. Thank you to all who attended. There is less than twelve months left to dust off that classic model gathering dust in the attic or choose a new build from any of the kit suppliers such as Belair, Sarik Hobbies, Vintage Model Co. RC Europe or Phoenix MP. Watch out for dates to appear during next year in Aeromodeller, BMFA, SAM35 Speaks and RCM&E magazines.



Phil Green's models with his prize

Many thanks to Michael for both organising the event and for very quickly providing a report which came just in time for this column. I will be sure to let you know when there is a date for next year and, hopefully, I will be able to get there next time!