

*East of Scotland Strut of the Light Aircraft Association
January 2023 Newsletter*



Photo Keith Boardman

Chairman's bit

Hi all, I trust all the aeroplanes are safely hangared. The weather has been dismal and looks set to continue for at least a while.

These spells of sub-zero temperatures have me worrying about an engine ice up. The garden hose tap is solid ice following my failure to drain it so I have set up a greenhouse heater on the floor of the trailer underneath my Europa cowling. It's plugged in by me when the temp is 2 degrees or less.

That should do it. Some would say 'over cautious' when you know that to freeze the coolant in the engine might take -18 degrees. I wouldn't, however, bet my life on it.

So Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. Let's hope for a better 2023. Fly safe.

Justin

Co-ordinator's bit

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and seasons greetings to you all.

The winter Solstice was on December 20th so the days have started to get longer - I noticed today that it got dark shortly before 1700 so things are starting to improve.

Looking forward to next year there is no January meeting so the next one will be on February 6th, and March will be our AGM.

We are always looking for new blood so if you would like to get involved in the running of this Strut let myself or Justin know.

Hopefully the weather will be a bit more predictable than last year.

Iain

The next meeting is on...

**Monday 6th February
at the Harrow Hotel
Eskbank Road, Dalkeith
at 8.00pm**

**There will be
no meeting
next Monday**



About the Light Aircraft Association:
www.laa.uk.com

With a history extending over 70 years, the UK Light Aircraft Association promotes safe and economical operation of sports and recreational aircraft. Representing the aviation interests of around 8,000 recreational pilots, amateur-builders and enthusiast members, the LAA oversees the operation of more than 2,500 light aircraft and the build of another 1,700, whilst providing sector-leading consultation and advocacy in aviation-related regulatory matters both in UK and Europe.

**This newsletter can also be viewed on
the Strut website:**
eos-strut.org



Cover photo

Another of Keith Boardman's great photos. Remember to always take a camera with you, you never know what you will see.

Meetings

Nothing next Monday but we hope to have Skyrora, the Edinburgh based rocket builders and satellite launchers to give a presentation at the February meeting. Watch this space!

More from the Birnie Flying Circus



Mike Wood took this photo of their resident Pietenpol from his Minisport. He is trying out new ways of working the camera shutter while flying, including using his teeth! There is a lovely video made by him of last summer's flying, mainly in their own Highland back yard.

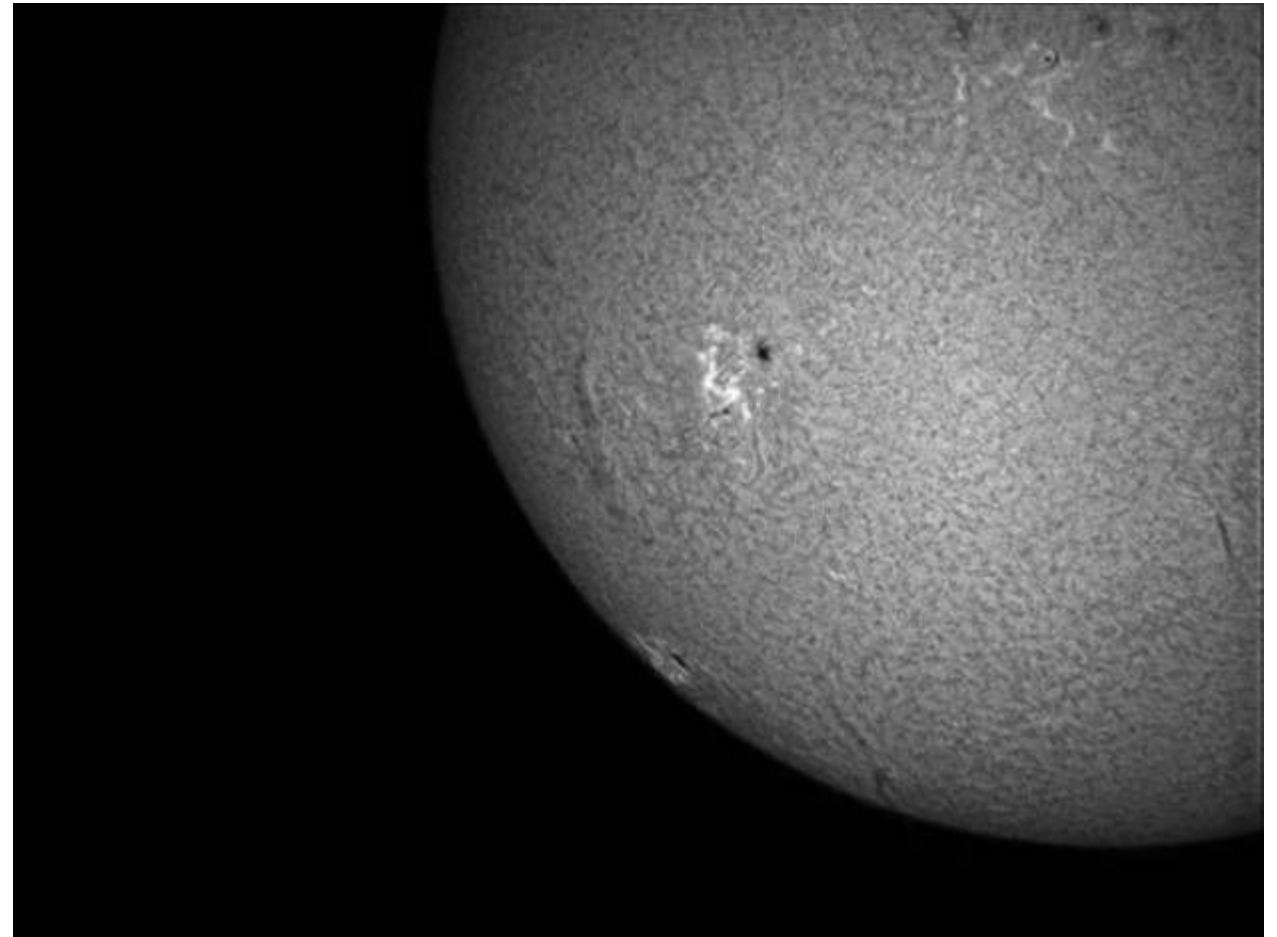
<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=birnie+flying+circus&docid=608007313385395389&mid=0CE42769FAB34E83A4C20CE42769FAB34E83A4C2&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

Ted Grossmith's obituary in the last Newsletter prompted this. 'The Meteor article was fascinating and reminded me of my mother's opinion of the life expectancy of RAF pilots. She gave birth to me while my father was based at RAF Odiham – a Meteor NF base at the time – and the cemetery was filling up with RAF graves. Her view of a career in the RAF was formed then, and remained when I enlisted in 1971. I didn't tell her what I'd joined to be..as far as she was concerned I was going to do 'officer training', and that was as far as it went. It was many years before I told her...'

Wow!



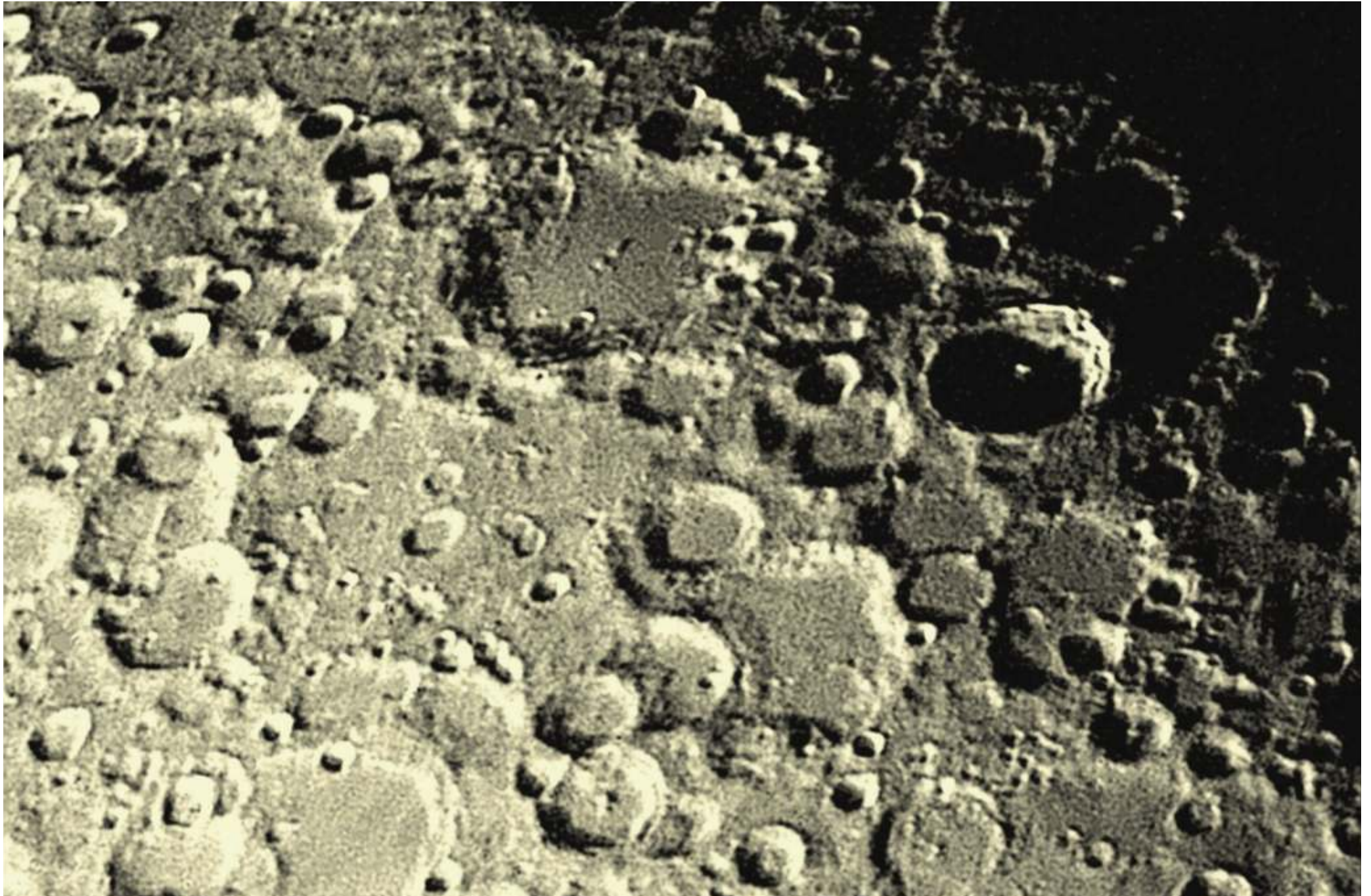
It's hard not to be struck by awe and amazement with the photographs on this and the next two pages. This is Saturn, seen by John Whitfield from the observatory he built at Candymill, near Biggar. More of these images overleaf.



Jupiter with two of its moons, Ganymede and Io, on the left. The sun is above, (can you just imagine what's going on inside there), and a photo of John's observatory alongside.

Overleaf, sunrise on the Tycho crater on our moon.





Mount Baker

Alan Swegle took this photo of the 10,000 foot mountain that he can see from his front porch.

This is Boeing country and the view frames the photos Al sends us of the latest airliners as they fly over, always with the bonus of his engineer's comments.

The forest is part of the Tulalip Indian reservation.



Eric Brown

John Whitfield sent in this link to a very good video in which Eric Brown tells his life story. He flew 487 different aircraft types and made 2,271 deck landings, both records that are unlikely to ever be beaten.

The commentary is spoken by him but the subtitles are obviously not written by someone who understands the subject, (or maybe they are machine created), and is full of howlers.

I ended up enjoying them not being annoyed by them, and nothing can spoil the story of this amazing pilot.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSRAdZzRycc>

The 1½ Strutter

Just been watching the BBC news and there were the Aviation Preservation Society of Scotland, plus our own Tim Rayner, readying the 1½ Strutter for its first flight. Hopefully this will be in the next month or so.

It's taken 22, now heading for 23, years since starting to build it in the year 2000. What a journey and what a plane.

I tried to get a copy of that programme's video but it's not available yet, so here is another from a few months back. The photo is one of mine taken in 2015.

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Sopwith+1+1%2f2+Strutter+east+fortune&&view=detail&mid=2C401C94A5FB9674DD352C401C94A5FB9674DD35&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3DSopwith%2B1%2B1%252f2%2BStrutter%2Beast%2Bfortune%26FORM%3DHDRSC3>



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