

ROMAN CANALS 21



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International Brotherhood of Parachuting Fauna and the U.K. Ted Devils. Containing less Bovine Scatalogia but much More Mindless Drivel than any other Publication, so there.

The Spring has Sprung, the Kites have Ris, so we are well into Fauna Bombing time. However, the way things are going at the moment, Weatherwise, its cold enough to still be Kip time. Never mind, its quite entertaining to see all the Kite Loonies suffering from Hypothermia in May and June.

Yes, we did have one Official Complaint from the Po Faced Kite Association of Great Britain, saying that they actually did'nt Hate Soft Cuddleys, its just that they are a bit fed up with Soft Cuddleys stealing the Limelight. Hows about that then? Nice to be acknowledged as Superior. As it happens, we know the real reason why they are so Po Faced, whisper, whisper, Its all to do with Flattened Wallets and Giving their Flexible Freinds a Right Bashing. Thats enough to make anybody Po Faced,

Jessica Sparrow wrote to tell us what was going on in Connecticut. It seems that Dropnik Sparrow organised his first Festival, which went off well. Remembering that Vic had a good session at Oxford dropping Fauna from a Fire Engine Ladder, Dropnik Sparrow decided to attempt something similar. Jessica Bear says that his Flabber was well and Truly Gasted when the City provided him with the Pride of the Fire Brigade, an engine with an 110 ft Aerial Platform, from which over 100 Fauna were dropped, therby raising quite a few Squids for Muscular Dystrophy, now that cant be bad. Yoo wot. Jessica also said that she had been Posing at a Kite Exhibition at the local Maritime Museum, by swinging from the Rafters, chute deployed and held open with F/glass rod, but that she got a bit Brownd off with all the Pervies looking up her Kilt. wear strides next time.

Also from the States, Theodore Edward O'how's yer Farva writes. to say that after reaad R.C. No20 about 20 times, he thinks he's beginning to understand us. This is potentially a disaterous situation. We cant have residents of Her Brittanic Majestys Former Colonies understanding us, whatever next, its not Cricket old Bean, they'll probably want Butter and Jam, then they'll go Barmy and start chucking the Tea Bags into the Sea, and not one of them poor Tea Bags will have a Parachute . Boo, Hoo, and my Brain hurts.

Ahem, now wherewere we? Dropnik Andrew of Bristol has been pedalling his Computer and has come up with a very nifty set of tables for Parachute Sizing for a particular Fauna. I.E. what size chute for what weight Fauna. Hugh has caculated for Three rates of descent for any Fauna/Chute combination, I.E. an 8oz/250gm Fauna with slow descent would require a chute 13.33sq ft/1.37 sq mt. for Medium descent speed a chute 9.64 sq ft/1sq mt. and for a faster descent speed the same Fauna would require a chute of 8sq ft/.82 sq mt.

No doubt Hugh will include the full details in future BIG BOOKS or you may care to contact him yourselves.

The Boring Old Farts MkI ersatz version of Jan Fischers Hi Tec Fauna Ferry proved to be so efficient, that at Easter Blackheath Fest in an F.5, it roared up the Kite Line so fast with poor Leroy on board, that when it hit the line stop, it self Destructed, hence the MKII version(see elsewhere)Your Dropniks Junk Box should contain enough rubbish for him or her to knock up thier own.

We Can Bearly Contain Ourselves

Says the Blurb for a range of Uniformed Bears from WINGS Inc, of Daleville, Alabama. The range includes Desert Bear (right) Army, Navy, Airbourne, Special Forces, Ranger, Army Aviator, Marine Corps etc, and they are complete with Insignias, Patches and Bear Tags. They are all priced at 50 U.S. Green Drinking Vouchers each. Judging by Desert Bear who appears to be shook rigid, not one of these Bears has a Parachute.

It would appear that sans chutes these Bears are no Mugs, Yoo Wot.



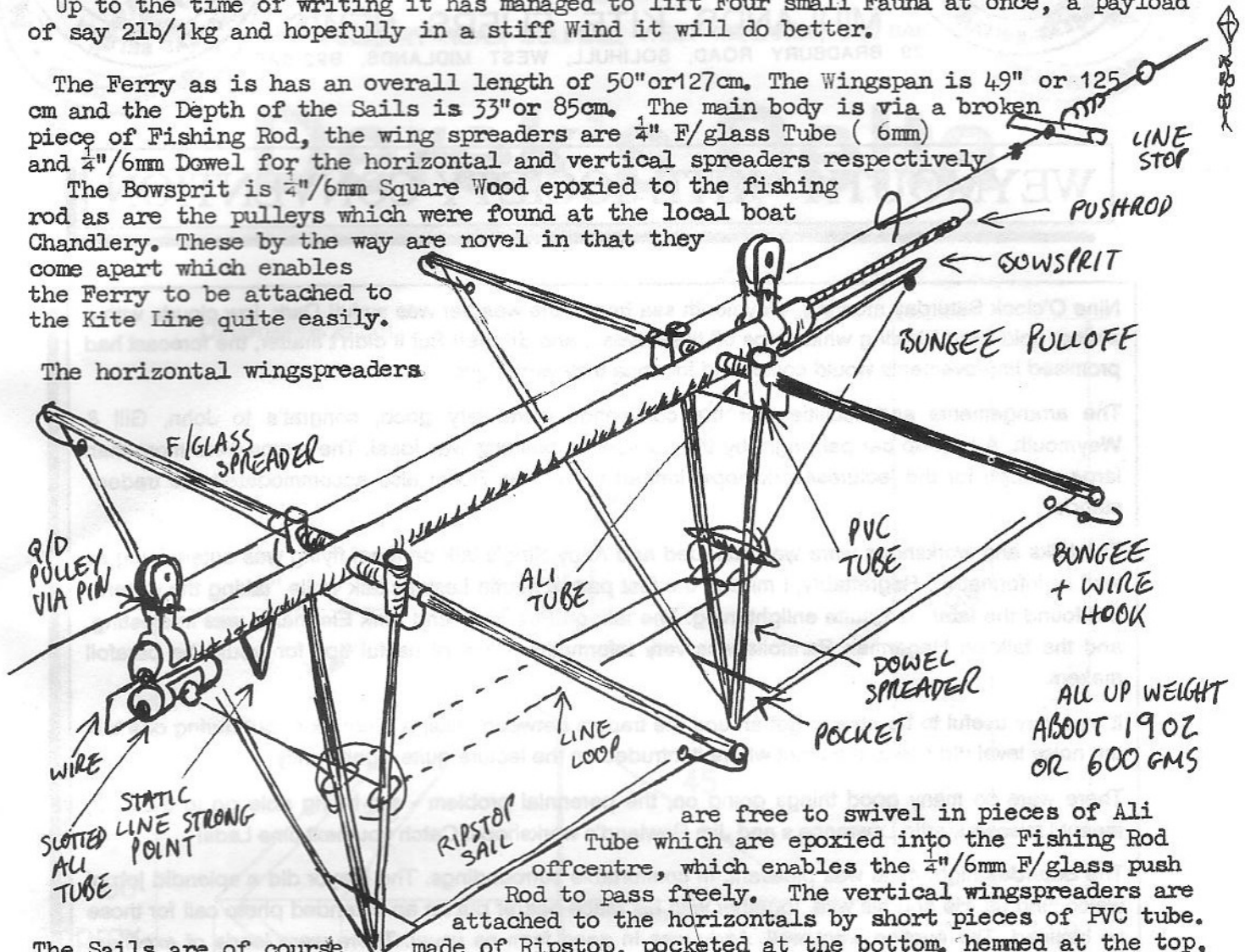
Compared to Jan Fischers Hi Tec Fauna which served as the basis of the BOFs attempt at a nifty Fauna hoist the Ferry shown here is definately Lo Tec, nethertheless it works quite well. Depending of course entirely on the Wind its performance does vary.

Up to the time of writing it has managed to lift Four small Fauna at once, a payload of say 2lb/1kg and hopefully in a stiff Wind it will do better.

The Ferry as is has an overall length of 50" or 127cm. The Wingspan is 49" or 125 cm and the Depth of the Sails is 33" or 85cm. The main body is via a broken piece of Fishing Rod, the wing spreaders are 1/4" F/glass Tube (6mm) and 1/4"/6mm Dowel for the horizontal and vertical spreaders respectively

The Bowsprit is 1/2"/6mm Square Wood epoxied to the fishing rod as are the pulleys which were found at the local boat Chandlery. These by the way are novel in that they come apart which enables the Ferry to be attached to the Kite Line quite easily.

The horizontal wingspreaders



The Sails are of course made of Ripstop, pocketed at the bottom, hemmed at the top, through which the spreader passes and are sideways tensioned with Bungee and wire hooks. A loop of line connects the two Sails and at the front a bungee pulloff is attached to the bowsprit. At the back, an adjustable piece of line terminating in an Ali ring engages with the pushrod wire and this is where the Fauna are attached.

The Kite line Stop is 3/4"/10mm Dowel and is spring loaded to absorb the shock from a hit with a fast moving Ferry which is what demolished the MkI version. The stop is free to slide on the Kite line between two wraps of Gaffer/Duct Tape about 7"/13cm apart. A light spring and a little washer from the junk box are above the dowel and as the Ferry comes up to the stop it pushes it back and the spring absorbs the resultant shock.

This Ferry is a useful addition to the average Dropniks Ordnance and the average junk box should be able to supply all the odds and sods necessary to cobble one up.

I think we Fauna are finally getting to the Humes... Picture the scene, Midlands Kite Fest. Cofton Park, Brum. Dropnik Billings is on Sweet dropping detail to keep the hordes of anklebiters quiet. Got the Sweets Steve? Yes, a 4lb Bagfull. Up goes the bag under Steves Delta, then down comes the Bag of sweet complete, whereupon one of the little darlings grabs it and hightails in the general direction of Wolverhampton, a complete cock up from start to finish, and to Cap it all Tony Slater Hollers out that Dropnik Billings should be Drummed out of the BMISS for dropping Fauna without a Chute. Yes in every way we are gradually getting to those crazy Humes.

News, Views, Complaints etc to 48 Laurel Lane, West Drayton, UB7. 7TY. United Kingdom.