

42 ROMAN CANDLE 72.



The Journal of the Bearly Made It Skydive Squad. The International Brother and Sisterhood of Parachuting Fauna, and the U.K. Ted Devils. Not yer average Happy Clappy Right On load of Brain Softening Bilge, just good old Mindless Drivel.

Tales of the unexpected



Arfa at the controls preparing for liftoff.

UNEXPECTED? WE CERTAINLY THOUGHT SO WHEN, AFTER REPEATED DEMANDS THAT "THOSE BUMS SHOULD JUSTIFY THEIR EXISTENCE" the bums in question being the BMISS espionage section, they suddenly came with this, and its a pretty good this.

Ever wondered what Electric Arfa gets up to during those long winter months of "Official Kip"? No, we didn't either, Ahem,

It appears that Arfa is not content to rest on his laurels as regards Fauna hoisting gear, and is permanently striving to improve on what has gone before

We are reliably informed by our tame spies that what purports to be an 1891 Ransomes 1½hp lawn mower, is in actual fact the top secret Dibble MkXVII*Gasolene and Newcastle Brown powered Gentlemans Model portable Parafauna Hoister, un-going secret trials at Cowpat Hill.

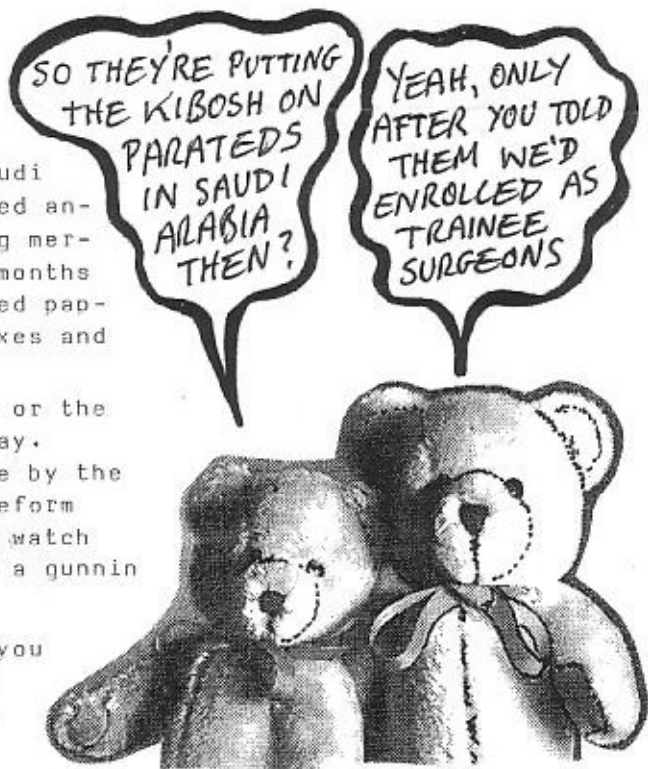
Why, you may ask would anyone in their right mind wish to disguise a prototype fauna hoister as as a lawnmower, which only goes to show that you are not up to speed with the current state of play in the cut throat world of Parafauna hoisting gear. If Arfa did not resort to such subterfuge, why, within a week there would be fifty clones of his design on sale ate every Boot Fair. Suffice it to say that even before the Mk XVII*goes into full production, Arfa is already working on the MkXVIII, however until that model appears you can find what you require in powered hoisting gear at www.ger@choocowson.com. or your local branch of the flying queerthing emporium, yes, this old established firm is still going strong

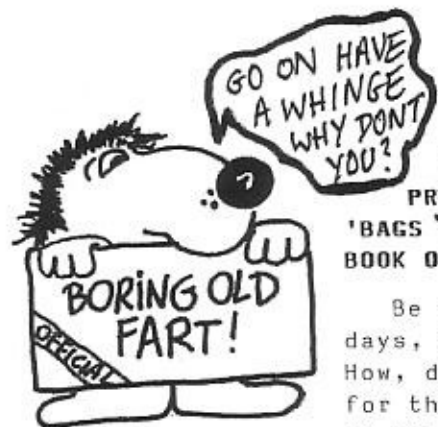
The writing's on the wall

It certainly is for Teddy Bears and Dolls in Saudi Arabia as the importation of such things as stuffed animal toys and female Dolls has been banned, giving merchants holding stocks of such things, just three months to dispose of them. The Saudi Government controlled paper Al-Riyadh said the ban also applied to crucifixes and models of Buddha.

Whether or not the ban was simply protectionist or the state had gone of its rocker, the paper did not say. This begs the question as to has the reported move by the heavily criticised state towards moderation and reform been halted by government hard liners or what. So watch out all you Teddys and Dollies, Thaym varmint is a gunnin for yers. Gordon Bennett, whatever next?

STOP PRESS. A report in THE LANCET says that if you are completly up your own fundamental, you can be removed via a tricky and expensive operation with complete success, so thres no problem there then.





Natural selection?

THOSE DAYS WHEN RAGGED ARSED ANKLEBITERS STOOD WITH NOSES PRESSED AGAINST FREEZING COLD TOYSHOP WINDOWS, WHILST SCREAMING 'BAGS 'OI' THAT' ARE A DIM AND DISTANT MEMORY, AS IS THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS. WOTCHA GOT NOW IS GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS, ALRIGHT!

Be that as it may one does wonder if like every other thing these days, Guinness is in the process of dumbing down its amazing book. How, do you think one P. Lynn Esq feels about holding the record for the worlds largest Kite ever flown? Pretty good I guess, but at the same time pretty miffed to discover that the same Kite, the one and only MEGABITE is listed in the section headed Toys. Yoo wot, come on Guinness get real, how on earth do you class something that in a good wind could alter the spin rate of planet Earth as a toy? Even in this day and age, the Megabite is hardly a play-thing for todays version of a ragged arsed anklebiter.

D.k., the cynics among you may think that we've got the 'ump 'cos theres no parafauna records in Guinness, so think what you like, though actually we could not give a toss as to wether or not any of our records are in there, its just that compared to say the 1962 Guinness Book of Records, the 2004 version seems to be very pale in comparision.

Bouncy parachute



EQUIPPED MARTIAN LANDER, BEAGLE 2, WHICH IT WAS HOPED WOULD MAKE A LANDING ON THE RED PLANET, GENTLY CUSHIONED BY ITS BOUNCY CHUTE APPEARS TO BE A TOTAL LOSS.

Far be it from us to say we told you so (we did'nt) no contact with the craft has been made since its scheduled landing on Chrimbo Day in 2003. Its a racing cert that the so called bouncy chute failed bigtime and the £30,000,000 craft self destructed on impact, unlike the American lander Mars Express which landed A,O,K and has been sending back picture and data info from the moment it landed.

Pity really, as the earthly remains of the 10 gun brig in which Charles Darwin made his landmark voyage, HMS Beagle have been found buried in the mud of the Thames estuary and there is a connection between the ship and the lander apart from the name. Prof Colin Pilger, the man behind the lander is also part of the team who believe they have discovered the remains of the ship. Parachuting, here or there some 35,000,000 million miles away is always fraught with danger, though yer average Parafauna Total always works out somewhat cheaper. Better luck next time Prof.

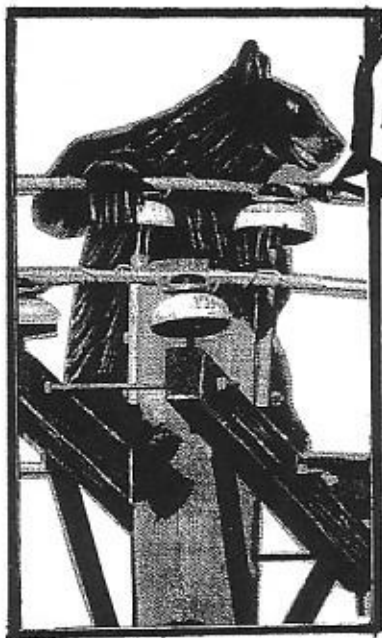
DID THE ALASKAN BROWN BEAR GO MAD ON THE ATKINS

Funny enough, having a further trawl through the 1962 Guinness Book of records we saw that the Alaskan Brown Bear (*ursua gyas*) was listed as the largest land carnivore weighing in at 1,600 lbs- or 728 kg, and standing around 9ft or 2.77m tall.

However, a quick shufti at the 2004 Guinness World Records finds the worlds largest land carnivore is now the polar Bear (*thalarctos maritimus*) which weighs up to 1,320 lbs or 600kg and has a nose to tail length of about 8ft6in or about 2.6m

So what happened in the interveaning 42 years? Did the Brown one go mad on the Atkins Diet and waste away or did science type guys back in 62, have a rubber tape measure and a dodgy set of scales?. Mind you, anyone from the local trading standards who wanted to check up on Brownie or Whitey, would have to be right out of their tiny mind, or dosed up on Nandrolone for a quick getaway if they was barmy enough to try,





IT SORTA LOOKS LIKE A TREE MATE

In seventh heaven Sparks will fly

AND SPARKS ARE NOT THE ONLY THINGS THAT FLY IN NEW MEXICO. IT APPEARS THAT LARGE BLACK BEARS DO TOO, ESPECIALLY AFTER A 7.2 kva KICK UP THE JACKSIE.....

Titter ye not dear readers, its all true, if somewhat rather shocking, though for all that this tale did have a happy ending.

Picture the scene in balmy New Mexico, long regarded by its inhabitants as a sunny seventh heaven. Momma bear enters stage left, calling for her lost cub. she knows just what to do, get up a tree for a better view of the surrounding area. Of course the poor bear does not know that her chosen tree is actually a power pole.

A large crowd quickly gathers, attracted by the distraught bears calling for her lost cub, and of course its not long before the inevitable happens. One minute the bear was up the pole and suddenly there is a massive bang, an enormous flash and a huge shower of sparks from which emerges a flying bear which crashes to the ground, with as one eyewitness says a sickening thud. Needless to say, that as this was the real world and not la-la land the poor bear was not wearing a parachute, All together now, Ahhhhhh.

OUCH! HOW WRONG CAN YOU GET?



Mind you, its a moot point as to wether or not a chute would have had time to deploy, but that is neither here nor there, because after the police and animal welfare officials had given the bear a severe prodding with various sticks etcetera, the unconcious beast revived with nothing more serious than badly singed fur and a super kingsizes headache.

Momma bear was eventually reunited with her lost cub and released from police custody back into the wild blue yonder, where hopefully there will be no weird looking trees that give you a 7,200 volt kick up the jacksie.

We bears aint too hot on geography, but aint Noo Mex-hico somewhere near Californhyay, the biggest open air loony bin on the planet? maybe some some of them bunny

huggers thereabouts could start a campaign to provide all the wild bears with parachutes just in case they mistake any more power poles for treess(they're coming to take us away)

Million dollar babes ?

WE'RE NOT SURE IF THEY ARE ALL BABES AS SUCH, PROBABLY A FEW GEEZERS IN THERE TOO.

But whatever, they all sound like a million dollars to us. Who we talking about? why, the 'RED HAT ASSOCIATION' A group of seniors in a retirement complex in Florida, who have formed their own Kite group, and whats more having decided to grow old disgracefully, have also taken up Bear bombing, yes, they have seen the light.

Electric Arfa was introduced to the leader of the gang, one Barbara Hall, by the one and only 'MARLA'. Babs is quite a girl and wishes to raise parachuting merry hell in Florida. Well on her way to flying a Kite in every country in yoorup, Babs can be contacted at bahkiter@thevillages.net which is no prob for you Babbagers out there. so give em a call or whatever it is you babbagers do with yout differencing engines.

Once bitten...

THOSE R.C. READERS WHO AS OF YET HAVE 'NT GOTTEN INTO THE PARABOMBING LARK, SHOULD REALISE THAT ONCE BITTEN BY THE BUG, THEY WILL BE HOOKED FOR LIFE, MIND YOU, THATS A WHOLE LOT BETTER THAN BEING PO-FACED FOR LIFE. PARACHUTING EASY O.K.

So, you've aquired a Teddy Bear by fair means or foul and the next thing you need is a parachute and the assorted bits and pieces that go with it. The following sketches will give you a start. For the chute its best to

unproofed or loomstate Ripstop, or failing that, the lightest material you can find.

Remember there is no correct way to do this, whatever works for you is correct, this is just a rough guide.

A Template for the chute gores can be cut from card the sides of which should be curved (f/glas rod) otherwise the chute will be distorted. How to equalise both

sides of template? cut half template, flip it over and Bingo. the size given include a 1/2" hem and 14 of will give a chute of about 1m dia. 14 shroud lines, each about 1m in length are needed, seven to each shoulder riser.

Make Chute first and then make a paper chute pack adjusting given dims to your chute. The Pack is made from a couple of layers of proofed ripstop the cent being stiffened with a piece of wash-up liquid bottle. Three flaps of the pack are fitted with eyelets, the fourth has a 1/2" loop of line sewn to it. The loop goes through the eyelets when the chute is packed and the pin on the static line goes thru the free end end of the loop. Four eyelets are fitted to the centre of the pack and a piece of elastic is threaded through, this secures the shrouds.

Packing the chute at first seems complicated but its not. Lay out chute with static line inside, roughly fold to one gore size, concertina chute, likewise the shrouds, but tuck these under the elastic, place chute on top, close flaps with loop thru eyelets and secure with the static line pin. A couple of goes at this, you'll do it in yer kip. The harness size varies according to size of fauna. Make from Ripstop or what have you, same with shoulder risers and suspension strap, strap sewn to pack, risers to shoulders of harness.

Loads a scope here for bags of suck it and see, thats half the fun and theres loads a that, A pipecleaner is the easiest way to attach fauna to Kite line. Fix one end securely to line a few feet down from kite, free end goes thru suspension strap and is loosely looped over Kite line (experiment) attach static line, Delay in pipecleaner letting go enable you to long launch and if the fauna is reluctant to jump give it a few hard jerks. Above all have fun.

One final question

HOW COME THOSE WHO HATE OUR GUTS AND PROFESS NOT TO READ THIS LOAD

OF MINDLESS DRIVEL ARE AWARE OF ITS CONTENTS? DO WE HAVE CLOSET R.C. READERS, YOU BETCHA.

Bit like the SUN really, where nthe chattering classes deny that they read it, whereas we know in reality they they're telling porkies, they are the most avid readers cos they wish to find out who the SUN is having a go at. likewise with R.C. Come out of that closet you silly sods, we know you're in there.....

As ever, its the usual to the whatnot, c/o The Boring Old Fart (at least he's honest) 48. Laurel Lane, West Drayton. UB7. 7TY in what will be forever Beautiful ENGLAND, yoo dig.

