

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

REMS January at Home Thursday 15th January 2004

This visit has been organised by David Pick

The REMS January “At Home” will be held as usual in the Rutherford Conference Centre at IOP HQ in 76 Portman Place. The cost is maintained at £18pp

The programme for the day is:

- 10.30 - 11.00 Arrival and coffee
- 11.00 - 11.05 Welcome and future programme
- 11.05 - 12.00 Frank Singleton Sailing and Meteorology
- 12.00 - 12.55 David Pedgley Hill Walkers' Weather
- 13.00- 14.15 Lunch
- 14.15 - 15.00 Mike Quinton The Potential of Water - Carrying on Canalling
- 15.15 - 16.00 Peter Murden Gliding
- 16.00 - 16.15 Overruns and AGM
- 16.15 Tea and disperse.

Frank's talk will summarise, briefly, the various ways in which sailors from dinghy racers to round the world yachtsmen use weather information. The data sources and information available to the coastal cruising yachtsman will be covered in particular. The general approach to using forecasts in a pragmatic and practical manner will be described.

He joined Met Office 1955, retired 1993. In mid-career, was a Senior Forecaster at Bracknell with overall responsibility, among many functions, for the Shipping Forecast. Final post was as Divisional Director in charge of Observations. He has sailed racing dinghies with his wife for many years. He has done much bare boat chartering including the Caribbean (10 trips and about 2500 miles) and one brief week in Turkey. In his own yachts they have now sailed about 25,000 miles (out of a total of nearly 31,000). He is an RYA Yachtmaster (Offshore).

David's talk will touch mainly upon wind and rain because these are perhaps the hill walker's main weather concerns, and they do introduce a little physics! He will discuss how hills modify the broad-scale wind and rain systems, and how some understanding of the modifications can be used both in planning and enjoying a day's activity and in avoiding danger.

David spent 12 years with Met Office (starting with National Service in the Suez Canal Zone) as observer, forecaster and instructor; then 28 years with Overseas Development Administration in research with multi-disciplinary studies to develop systems of forecasting the breeding and spread of migrant insect pests of tropical agriculture, with the aim of increasing yields of food (leading to appointment of OBE).

Mike will be talking about the trials, tribulations and joys of exploiting the UK canal system. Besides a career with Kodak, he has also ably run REMS.

Peter will describe a number of his most interesting flights to illustrate several different aspects of gliding, covering hill (or orographic), thermal (including 'stubble bubbles') to wave flights in various types of glider.

Peter joined Imperial College Gliding Club (ICGC) in 1946 when private flying and gliding restrictions were being relaxed. After soloing in a Kirby Cadet he flew Tutors & T31, T21 two seater, Eon Olympia, Weihe, Kranich, K6, Skylarks III & IV and others. He became an instructor around 1950 and a member of BGA No1 Flight Test Group around 1960. He has participated in various National Championships in Derbyshire and Hampshire as representative of ICGC. He has led many 'expeditions' to discover and fly at potential slope soaring sites in Southern England in the 50s & 60s; indulged in wave soaring in Scotland in Octobers of the mid 1970s; flown at many established & non-established sites in UK.