

East Staffs Flying Club



Newsletter

January 2009

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2009 and here's hoping for an improvement over 2008 with regard to the weekend weather.

Hopefully you will have seen the list of planned social events and fly-outs that have been posted on both the notice board and the website. This year we have selected some closer locations for the Fly-Outs to encourage more members to take part, how about student pilots encouraging their instructor to book a double slot and join us on some of the Fly Outs?

I believe that we achieved a good result with regard to social events, fly-outs and the annual fly-in in 2008 (in spite of the weather) - credit for this goes to the committee and those members who volunteered their services. We plan to have the Annual Fly-In this year at the beginning of August, as per usual we will be looking for volunteers to help with the organisation, set-up, operation on the day and take-down - you have been warned!

Also, this summer we will be holding a series of BBQs to encourage partners and family members to get involved in the social events.

A vote of thanks to John Calverley and John Deaville for the time and effort they put into producing an excellent talk on their trip from Lithuania to Uganda in an Antonov AN2 at the January club night. The trip itself was a great achievement and if you were unable to make the talk you can always grab one of the Johns at the club house and I am sure they will be delighted to give you the highlights!

Try to attend the February club night (Thurs 26th) to hear all about the changes to ATC services that are effective from March and we all need to be knowledgeable about. Pete Garrard, of Air Traffic Control Training and Operations at East Midlands Airport has kindly offered to speak to us. Pete is currently in charge of training all the ATC operators at East Midlands and will be well placed to answer all our questions.

The club AGM will be held on Thursday 26th March, again please try to attend and contribute to the better running of the club. We will be looking for nominations for the committee roles so if you are interested in how to improve the club then now is the time to do something about it.

Finally, a reminder to all those who have yet to renew their 2009 membership please do ASAP as this reduces the administrative burden of chasing the late payers. For those who have already renewed many thanks.

Mike Tidmarsh



Recent Achievements

January is traditionally one of the worst months for flying. We haven't done too badly so far. Although there has been a lot of bad weather, the days that have been flyable have on the whole been glorious. Clear skies and fantastic visibility. In the first three weeks of this year I've flown thirty hours, and so can't complain too much.

Ken Hopkins flew solo for the first time on Saturday the 3rd of January. Well done.

That's about it, as far as I know.

Timely Thought

Recently any number of low-pressure systems have passed over the UK, it's that time of year.

Yesterday the low-pressure very nearly helped me to make a very daft mistake. A cold front passed through during the morning and was followed by lovely clear skies. Ideal weather for stalling. So I set off with one of my chaps, departed to the area just north of Blithfield Reservoir, while climbing to an altitude of 3500 feet. We remained at and below this altitude while stalling. Halfway through the lesson I suddenly had a bit of a nasty thought about the low pressure and the base of the Class A airspace above us. The area that we were in was on the boundary between the Class A with a base of FL45 and FL55. With a QNH of 984mb I rapidly worked out that we were in danger of being in Class A. I then set the standard pressure of 1013mb and found that we were at approximately FL43...whoops.

Calculation

$1013\text{mb} - 984\text{mb} = 29\text{mb}$.

$29\text{mb} \times 28 \text{ feet} = 812 \text{ feet}$.

$3500 \text{ feet} + 812 \text{ feet} = 4312 \text{ feet} / \text{FL43}$.

An easy mistake to make. I should have known better, but it's easily done.

Martin Handley.

FLYING EVENTS

Sunday 5th April – Elvington, Yorkshire.

Home of the 'Yorkshire Air Museum'. 5 miles SE of the City of York, Elvington boasts a 3000m runway and was considered as a diversion airfield for the Space Shuttle. 5th April is advertised as 'Thunder Day!'

Saturday 9th May – Leicester.

Bacon butty run, and hopefully in range of those with non-touring aircraft. May be an opportunity to route back via Bruntingthorpe.

Sat/Sun 6th & 7th June – France.

Overnight trip to northern France. Possibly Le Touquet or Deauville or somewhere just a little further afield.

Long Weekend during July – Scottish Highlands & Islands.

2/3 night, round Scotland tour. Details, dates and route to be developed but one night at Glenforsa (Mull) a must.

Initial meeting to discuss ideas to be held during March.

NOTE – many of the above trips, especially those later in the year, are at the planning stage only at present. More details will be issued as dates are confirmed; however you are more than welcome to register your interest in any of the above with Jon Faulkner at

ESFC2007@hotmail.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

If you have any articles for the newsletter or comments on the format, please contact Alison at alie_todd@yahoo.co.uk.



SOCIAL EVENTS

CLUB NIGHT – 26th February 2009

“EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ATSOCAS”

(Air Traffic Services Outside Controlled Air Space)

A presentation by Pete Garrard, ATC training and Operations, East Midlands Airport.

From Thursday 12th March aircraft flying outside of controlled airspace but wanting air traffic services will no longer be able to request flight/radar information or radar advisory services. Pete Garrard will be giving a talk on the new services that will be replacing them. As he is currently tasked with training the ATC staff at East Midlands he is ideally qualified to give this talk.

The talk will be held upstairs at The Albion Hotel, Shobnall Road, Burton-on-Trent. The evening will start at 7.30pm prompt.

ESFC AGM 26th March 2009

ESFC AGM starting at 7.15pm, to be held at The Albion Hotel, Shobnall Road, Burton.

NEXT MEDICAL DUE?

As a reminder Dr Hill, our local AME, continues to give a discretionary £5 discount on aviation medical examinations to East Staffs Flying club members. To receive the discount you must show your current ESFC membership card at the time of your medical.

Contact details for Dr Hill are as follows:

Dr J D Hill AME
Burton upon Trent
01283 730201