

East Staffs Flying Club



Newsletter

September 2008

Chairman's Report

Those who could not make the last BBQ of the summer missed a very pleasant evening and the opportunity to mix with good company and bask in one of the few sunny days of this year.

I would like to make special mention of Jon Faulkner who has put together an excellent series of social events running up to the end of the year. The trip to Shawbury ATC has been very well supported and will require some further visits to be scheduled. Those who have already attended have said that it was an excellent trip and they were very well hosted by Shawbury. I believe that we may have offered to reciprocate and will therefore be looking for volunteers to take some of the Shawbury controllers flying early next year. I am sure that Jon will be on the prowl for said volunteers in the near future!

We have now received the final donation (from HSBC) to the nominated charities following on from this year's Annual Fly In. The amounts will be finalised by the Treasurer and members notified of the donated amounts to both the County Air Ambulance and the BDFA.

Mike Tidmarsh

Recent Achievements

A very, very belated congratulations to Adam Evans, who flew solo for the first time several weeks ago. Well done.

Gareth Burton flew solo on Sunday the 24th of August. Congratulations.

We were all very pleased to see Jess Sparkes fly solo for the first time on Tuesday the 2nd of September. Jess has recently transferred to us from Halfpenny Green. After a fairly serious lack of progress at her old school Dave was able to send her off after only two flights at Tatenhill. Congratulations.

Howard Taylor flew solo for the first time on Thursday the 4th of September. Howard chose the worse possible day weather wise to suddenly be able to consistently land the Warrior nicely. I wasn't at all worried about his flying, but I was rather concerned about the thick low cloud and heavy showers that were closing in around the airfield. Congratulations.

Fuel

In July's newsletter I wrote a short article about fuel management in the low wing aircraft. This month I find myself needing to remind people of the need to make sure that there is enough fuel in their aircraft's tanks to last the duration of their flight. It's also a

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good idea to plan to have at least a forty-five minute fuel reserve when you arrive at your destination. This will allow for a diversion, an unexpected delay, etc.

I shouldn't really need to be writing the above. What's prompted me is that recently a PPL holder returned in one of the company's C152s with almost empty tanks. When I later refuelled the aircraft I managed to put in 88 litres. The C152s with standard tanks hold 24.5 US gallons of useable fuel. The metric equivalent is 92.74 litres. Therefore the pilot in question only had 4.74 litres left in the tanks (approximately 10-15 minutes worth of fuel). It's not often that we see this kind of behaviour, but it does happen more often than it should. Please think before you fly.

Hazy Autumn Days

I'm writing this at the end of what has been a lovely, sunny day. Although it's been fairly hazy the skies have stayed clear all day. Throughout the day I've observed both licence holders and students alike bumble about at 1500'-2000' in order to stay in sight of the ground. In the May 2008 Newsletter I mentioned the benefits of climbing above the haze whenever the opportunity arises. Today was a perfect day to do so. Choosing to stay at a relatively low altitude makes flying/ navigation much harder work, while at the same time increasing your chances of a mid-air collision.

Get above the haze! It makes life both easier and safer. I've got my fingers crossed that the weather holds.

Martin Handley.

CHANGES TO MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

The CAA has just published a General Exemption with regards to the medical requirements for UK PPL holders. In a nutshell, if you have a PPL and just want to bumble around in UK airspace on sunny afternoons (no foreign trips, flight in IMC or night flying) then you can just get a sign off from your GP. This is exactly what NPPL holders have been doing previously. The required form for the GP to sign can be found on the NPPL website. If you do want to fly IMC, abroad or at night then you still need the JAR Class II Medical. This sign off will last until you are 45 years old (assuming that you are under 45) and will then need to be renewed every 5 years

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SOCIAL EVENTS

CLUB EVENTS:-

Tuesday 7th October,
The Albion, Shobnall Road, Burton on Trent, 7.30pm start

DOCTOR CAN I FLY?

A talk by Dr David Hill, Aviation Medical Examiner & Cardiologist

Dr Hill will be well known by many of our members, and is based in Burton upon Trent. An excellent opportunity to improve your understanding of 'Fitness to Fly'

Please Note: This event is on a Tuesday and replaces the September social event.

Thursday 30th October, 7.30pm

Flying to the North Pole

A talk by Timothy Nathan

Timothy has a flying background that many of us can only dream of. He started flying at the age of 14 at Sibson. Having gained his PPL at 17, he then flew with the Cambridge UAS and over the next few years of private flying added Night, IMC and IR ratings. Realising that there was more to life than being a Management Consultant he took the plunge and gained a commercial license leading to time spent flying mail flights, medevac and finally the command of an executive jet, flying VIPs around.

Looking for a challenge, Timothy flew his Piper Aztec, G-LIZZ, solo over the North Pole.

OTHER EVENTS

If you have any suggestions for other events or would like to help, please contact Jon Faulkner at esfc2007@hotmail.co.uk

FLYING EVENTS

Fly-outs

Due to a lack of interest in the further afield fly-outs the club is proposing to have two over water/ foreign fly-outs in 2009 and have more regular local fly-outs which will better accommodate those members who wish to fly-out but lack the time, confidence, skills or money to partake in the bigger trips.

If anyone has any suggestions for a place they feel they would particularly like a fly-out to be organised to please make contact with any of the ESFC committee members or contact Mike Dillon as per the details below

Contact

If you have any other questions relating to any of the proposed events please contact Mike Dillon on 07818 004188.

Please keep an eye on the club notice board and the website (www.esfc.org.uk) for more regular updates on forthcoming events

NEWSLETTER

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

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