

East Staffs Flying Club



Newsletter

June 2007

Chairman's Report

Can you believe it - a wonderfully hot and sunny April and now we are into 'Flaming June', flaming wet that is! The planned Fly-Out to Bembridge was cancelled due to a line of storms forecast for the South Coast; however we still have two further Fly-Outs planned for later this year.

The Rally and BBQ was a great success with some 12 aircraft taking part - a record for us. Everyone appeared to enjoy the event and the weather was kind enough to allow the BBQ to run through to 10pm in the evening. Thanks to all those who took part and to Liam Darcy, Mike Dillon, Pete Mills and his wife Sue for all the planning and support that went in to make the day a success.

The plans for the Fly-In & Display are now almost complete, all display aircraft booked and CAA approval obtained we just need the weather to be sympathetic. There is a good 2 page article in the July edition of Staffordshire Life describing the day which will provide some good publicity and encourage local people to attend and support a very worthwhile charity.

The dates for the Planning Appeal for the proposed airfield development have still to be finalised and are looking to be more like August now. The Duchy of Lancaster will be presenting the plans for the airfield at the Fly-In & Display on 4 August.

Here's hoping for some great weather and enjoyable flying.

Mike Tidmarsh

Recent Achievements

We've any number of students waiting for a nice day to complete their qualifying cross-country flights, skill tests, etc. Unfortunately the weather conditions this month have slowed everything down. I've got my fingers crossed for better weather next month. Robert Hall flew solo after just under eight hours of training on Saturday the 23rd of June. Well done!

Martin Handley.



FLYING EVENTS

The first of this year's flying events, the Rally, incorporating the Spot Landing Competition was held on Saturday June 9th.

This year's event managed to be a sunny day, which lasted for the evening barbecue, though the haze did affect visibility somewhat when trying to spot the various landmarks along the route.

The overall winner of the ESFC 2007 Rally was Alistair Pritchard and Laura in N84VK, followed by Dick Larder and Mark Hoffmann in second place. Vic Holliday in G-PARI won the Spot Landing competition.

OTHER FLYING EVENTS

Fly-out to Ireland - Saturday 28th July

A planned fly-out to Waterford in Southern Ireland.

Fly-out to Belgium - Saturday 15th September

The second of the club's non-UK fly-outs will be to Ostende in Belgium.

ESFC ANNUAL FLY-IN & DISPLAY - UPDATE

In the April Newsletter, Rob Rowley, wrote with details of this year's fly-in and display.

That was 2 months ago, and with the event now less than 6 weeks away things are stepping up a gear. The sponsorship money is in and banked, display a/c and pilots booked, paperwork with the CAA approved, caterers arranged, toilets hired and key responsibilities dished out. There is however plenty more to do, especially on the day, and this is where you can help...more later.

A brief moment of weakness some months ago had me answering 'yes' to Liam when asked if I could help with the Fly-In. The interview process was remarkably short and I seem to remember walking away with the esteemed role of 'Sponsorship and Publicity'. (To this day I'm sure that I was the only candidate and had I have said 'No' it wouldn't have made a difference.)



Publicity & Sponsorship

It is fair to say that when I came on board, Rob had already pulled together sufficient sponsorship to put on the event. This left me publicising the event both to the flying community and also the general public.

All of the specialist general aviation press (Pilot, Flyer, Loop etc) have been informed and we appear in most of their publication and web site calendars. Posters have been designed and sent out to approximately 150 flying schools, clubs and airfields within an hour or so flight of EGBM. In addition, posters left in the clubhouse have been consumed at an alarming rate, hopefully a good sign.

Some months ago, Rob made contact with one of the local glossy publications, Staffordshire Life. They were sufficiently interested that their Features Editor and a Photographer spent a Saturday morning at Tatenhill with members of the ESFC during which they were treated to a trip in G-BELP, copious cups of Margaret's tea and a fine display of clubhouse banter courtesy of the usual suspects. Thanks go to Colin & Jane Reeves, and John Calverley for turning out and letting us use their aircraft for photographs, the results of which will be in the July edition of 'Staffordshire Life'.

In addition to the above, I am approaching the specialist press to see if they can be enticed into covering the event and also, nearer the big day, the local press.

Can you help?

Firstly, it's a club event so come along and enjoy yourselves. Bring your family and friends. If you have other flying acquaintances, forward them one of the posters that can be downloaded from the website (www.esfc.org.uk). Maybe even put up a poster at work, in the pub or corner shop.

Alternatively, if you can volunteer help, either on the day or assistance with setting up on the Friday, please get in touch. From the outset, this year's event was planned to be bigger and better than last year's and the sheer logistics of dealing with arriving aircraft, cars and people shouldn't be underestimated.

We require, in no particular order.....

Marshals (traffic, aircraft and people)

Programme sellers

Bucket rattlers



Car Parking Wardens
Official Photographer
Waste collection facilitators (glamorous, hey?)

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact me on esfc2007@hotmail.co.uk and I'll pass your details to the committee

Jon Faulkner

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Some more pearls of wisdom from the notes left between pilots and the engineers.

Problem - Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

Solution - That's what they are there for!

Problem - Number 3 engine missing.

Solution - Engine found on right wing after brief search.

Problem - Aircraft handles funny.

Solution - Aircraft warned to "Straighten up, Fly Right, and Be Serious."

Problem - Target radar hums.

Solution - Reprogrammed target radar with words.

Defect: Turn & slip indicator ball stuck in centre during turns.

Action: Congratulations. You just made your first coordinated turn!

Defect: Whining sound heard on engine shutdown.

Action: Pilot removed from aircraft.

Defect: Autopilot tends to drop a wing when fuel imbalance reaches 500 pounds.

Action: Flight manual limits maximum fuel imbalance to 300 pounds.



Pre-Flight Preparation

Due to recent incident of a microlight blundering into a display by the Red Arrows I thought I would re-run a newsletter article by Martin Handley from a previous newsletter.

Recently, while I was having a nose through a couple of pilot forums on the Internet, I came across a story relating to the Kemble Air Show. Apparently an unidentified light aircraft bumbled through Kemble's ATZ while a "Red Arrows" display was in progress. This aircraft was unaware of what was going on that day, thereby causing chaos. This made me think about how regularly I check the NOTAMs myself. The answer should have been daily, but I must admit that recently I've only been checking them if I'm going on a land away trip.

Therefore I'm writing to mention the "Aeronautical Information Service" (AIS) website. It can be found at www.ais.org.uk. The site is similar to the "Met Office", in that you need to register, and that it's a free service. The site contains NOTAMs (aerodrome, area, and route information), the AIP, and AICs. The AIP section has up to date aerodrome information; and it is this section that should be referred to rather than old "Pooleys Guides", etc. For those of you that aren't connected to the Internet at home please remember that there's access available in the ESFC clubhouse.

If you have any questions then please feel free to ask me. I'm not fully up to speed on the website myself yet, but as I go through it with my students I'm sure that it will become second nature.

I hope that you all have both a fun and safe summer.

Martin Handley. (Flying Instructor).

SOCIAL EVENTS

CLUB NIGHT - GLIDING EVENING Wednesday 18th July 2007

We are repeating the very successful 'Gliding Evening thanks to our colleagues at Needwood Forest Gliding Club. The event is planned for the evening of Wednesday 18th July assembling as soon after 5.00pm as possible.

The cost will be a special price of £20.00 for the first flight per person and £10.00 for a second flight.

We would like to encourage at least 12 members (with a couple of reserves) to take part (first come first served).

If you have not had a go at gliding before - it is an experience not to be missed! The event is open to all - students, PPL's etc.

If you would like to take part please contact Piet Walton-Knight so that he can collate the numbers. Piet can be contacted on: piet.waltonknight@btinternet.com

If you have any suggestions for other events or would like to help, please contact Hugh Clarke on 01283 531556.

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