



BGA Engineering News

Published by the British Gliding Association

Number 45, November 2007.

It is with great sadness we report the death of R.B Stratton.

Dick passed away on 20 September 2007, the funeral was held on 12 October 2007, in addition to his family, many friends and colleagues attended.

Inspectors and other members of the aviation community will remember Dick for his great contribution to all aspects of aviation not least gliding. I can fondly remember some of his fascinating stories of aviation in the pioneering days. He was our Chief Technical Officer for many years and laid the foundation for many of the airworthiness freedoms we enjoy today. Dick final contribution was attending a Technical Committee meeting just a few days before he passed away, where he was, as always, passionate about keeping airworthiness matters in check. He will be sadly missed.

INSPECTOR RENEWAL

All inspectors should have renewed their authorisation by now. If you have forgotten, now is the time to complete the renewal form and get it off to the BGA.

Don't forget, if you haven't renewed you can't certify and BGA glider work.

If you have lost your form, please contact the office for a replacement.

EASA GLIDER TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS PROGRESS REPORT

The transition is now underway. The majority appear not to be having too much trouble. The forms look daunting at first glance but after taking a little time to read them they are not actually that bad!

The main areas of problems seem to be in recording of Airworthiness Directives and lifed items. We have had requests for an example pack to be available to view. This will soon be available in the transition section. Please remember that this only an example and not necessarily the answers for the glider you are doing.

Also by popular request there will be a forum for inspectors to post their experiences during the transition process. We must stress the forum is not necessarily the official BGA view nor can it be guaranteed as being accurate. There will be an initial trial period with strict rules as to content and use. to use the forum you will be required to sign in using your inspector number. Details on the forum page in due course.

We have made a small change to the way we are processing the transition packs. On receipt at the BGA office of a satisfactory pack, we will renew the BGA C of A up to 28 September 2008 to allow time to process the packs and ensure that the aircraft may fly with the minimum of disruption. This does not affect the transition process in any way.

INSPECTOR TRAINING

Spaces still available at the following seminar:

17 November 2007, Devon & Somerset Gliding Club, Honiton.

This is the last seminar before the New Year, if you need help with the transition we recommend you attend.

New seminars;

Bristol & Glos. Gliding Club, Nympsfield, 12 January 2008

Cambridge Gliding Club, Gransden Lodge. 26 January 2008

Scottish Gliding Union, Portmoak, 17 February 2008

RAF GSA Halton, Aylesbury, 5 April 2008.

(Note: for the Halton seminar, booking is only by e-form and vehicle details are required. It will not be possible to attend if not booked)

Further venues will be published on the BGA web site

Advance notice:

Ulster Gliding Club, March/April 2008 date to be confirmed (Not BGA AGM or Easter weekends)

The Gliding Centre, Hus. Bos, April/May 2008 date to be confirmed

Booking is by e-form download from the BGA web site. Please book through Debbie at the BGA office debbie@gliding.co.uk

There is no charge for the seminars, delegates will need to book lunch (and pay for it on the day) Space is limited so preference will be given to current inspectors. We will have sufficient spaces for all inspectors to attend, however please book early as late booking may mean disappointment and having to attend a seminar outside your locality.

If you book but then cannot attend please advise us as so the space can then be offered to someone else. If you are a no show, you may be placed on a lower priority list.

BGA AGM 2008

A date for your diary.

8 March 2008 at Hellidon Lakes Hotel Golf & Country Club, Daventry.

Same venue as last year.

We shall be there to help with glider transition queries as well as the usual varied programme.

Full details with booking forms in S & G and on BGA web site soon.

ENERGY ABSORBING CUSHIONS

The BGA is committed to improving the safety of glider pilots & occupants.

In the event of a hard landing, or worse, the use of energy absorbing cushions (Dynafoam) has proved that back and lower spine injuries are reduced or eliminated. For that reason the BGA strongly recommends the use of energy adsorbing cushions in gliders.

If the original seat cushions are not made from this type of foam it is recommended that they are changed.

Jim Hammerton
Chief Technical Officer