

Airspace

Red Arrows Calendar. The Red Arrows display schedule for 2016 is now available at <http://www.raf.mod.uk/reds/displays/displaydates.cfm>. As always, please respect the areas of temporarily restricted airspace - RA(T) - that are established for these. Always check NOTAM before flight or, for advance details of all RA(T)s, visit the NATS site at http://www.nats-uk.ead-it.com/public/index.php%3Foption=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=162&Itemid=59.html

Glasgow-Stornoway Route. When UK Class F Airspace was replaced in 2014, the old Class F route A1D (Glasgow - Stornoway) was disestablished. However, passenger-carrying commercial flights continue to operate routinely on this direct route at wave flying altitudes. Official charts and available electronic files have nothing to indicate the presence of this activity. As a purely voluntary initiative we have asked Geoff Brown to add the route to the files which generate our moving maps. Note that this is not controlled airspace. You do not have to avoid it. But please be aware that it is an area where you may find small airliners; it would therefore be good airmanship to keep an extra good look out, listen out on 127.275 and ideally give Scottish West Coast a call on that frequency to tell them where you are. Our intention is simply to minimise the risk of possible conflict - and to do that in a way that maintains everyone's freedoms in a positive way. The updated files are available on the SoaringWeb website at <http://soaringweb.org/Airspace/UK> and more details are at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/?p=25699>

Solent CTA Airspace Release. We have just heard that the CAA has approved the FASVIG proposals to disestablish a portion of controlled airspace within the Solent Control Area (CTA), in accordance with the CAA policy for the Release of Controlled and Segregated Airspace. The proposals, which will see the base level of CTA-6 raised to 3,000ft amsl, releasing 500ft to Class G airspace, will be implemented on 26th May 2016. Although the change may not directly impact gliding operations, we are encouraged by this decision as it bodes well for other proposals that we are actively engaged in with FASVIG.

Regulatory

New (Simpler) Medical Requirements for NPPL and UK PPL. Following consultation, the CAA has announced that, from late summer (exact date not yet announced), the medical requirement for UK PPL and NPPL licence holders will be to meet the same standard as that required to hold a DVLA Group 1 Ordinary Driving Licence. Pilots will simply need to complete a form on the CAA website to declare that they meet the DVLA medical standard, removing the need for GP or AME involvement, although existing medical options will still remain available. Pilots under 70 will need to make the declaration once while pilots over 70 must confirm their declaration every three years. The CAA is also aiming to influence EASA in considering reviewing the medical requirements for EASA Private Pilot licence holders flying EASA aircraft.

Adding a Privilege to an Existing Part-FCL Licence. Pilots who hold a UK CAA-issued EASA SPL or LAPL(S) may now apply to add additional privileges to their licence based on BGA training and experience. For details, guidance and the application form see <https://members.gliding.co.uk/pilot-resources-flying-training/pilot-licence-conversion/>

EAS Newsletter. The April edition of the Europe Air Sports newsletter is now available. It offers a summary of the work of the organisation and of the very considerable progress being made in the development of new, lighter-touch regulation in the form of Part-M Light and Part-Gliding. The newsletter is at <http://www.europe-air-sports.org/>

Club Management

Sport England Grants. We've reported before that Sport England has a range of grants available. The Small Grants scheme may be of particular interest to clubs. A number of clubs have already received funding through this scheme for projects such as equipping club fleets with FLARM. More information is at <https://www.sportengland.org/funding/our-different-funds/>

Competitions and Cross-Country

International Successes. Mike Young and Jon Gatfield finished 4th and 5th respectively in the Spanish Sailplane GP, held at Cerdanya. Full results are at <http://www.sgp.aero/spain2016/>. British pilots achieved some great results against top international pilots in the Hahnweide competition which was held in southern Germany at the start of the month. Howard Jones and Tim Scott finished second in the Standard and 15m Classes respectively with Derren Francis (18m) and Andy and Matt Davis (20m Two Seater) also achieving top 10 finishes. Full results are at <http://www.wettbewerb.wolf-hirth.de/wertung.php>

Notable Flights. The last month saw possibly the best start to the season for many years. Roger Barber (Lasham GS) did a 752km flight on 23rd April, followed by a 512km flight the following week and then a 628km flight on 3rd May. Four further pilots - Garry Coppin, David Masson, Roy Pentecost (all Lasham) and Andy Smith (Cotswolds) - all achieved three 500k+ flights over the same period. In total, there were no fewer than 57 500k+ flights between 17th April and 3rd May. On May 5th, Nick Norman along with co-pilot Moritz Korn (Cairngorm GC) achieved a height gain of 25,427ft, reaching a maximum height of 28,534ft, setting a new club record in the process. You can see details of all these flights on the BGA Ladder at <http://www.bgaladder.co.uk>. Let's hope the year continues as it's started.

2017 Nationals. Dates and venues have been confirmed for next year's nationals. These are Club Class: 27th May-4th June, Husbands Bosworth; 18m Class: 1st-9th July, Bicester; 15m/Open Classes: 22nd-30th July, Aston Down; 20m/Standard Classes: 12th-20th August, Tibenham; Juniors: 19th-27th August, venue TBA. Dates and venues for this year's competitions are at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/competitions/>

Competition Rules. With the release of a new version of the IGC Procedures for Handicapped Classes, it has become necessary to issue an update to the BGA Competition Rules. This new version also includes a change to the use of Timeout Distance (Dt) in AAT scoring. The rules can be downloaded from <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/competition-rules/bga-competition-rules/>

Waypoint List Amendments. A revision of the 2016 Waypoint list has been published. This includes new extra waypoints around the Cambridge area. These points have been developed by the Competitions Committee in conjunction with Cambridge ATC to provide well-placed alternatives to some existing TPs that will help interoperability between gliders and powered aircraft in this busy and sensitive area and give competition task setters extra options. See the full news item at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/2016/04/25/waypoint-amendments/>

Juniors

RAeS Scholarships. The Royal Aeronautical Society's Centennial Scholarship Fund has once again agreed to fund gliding scholarships in 2016. We now invite applications from young glider pilots both pre- and post-solo and aged between 14 and 21 years of age for the 10 flying scholarships of £300 each available in 2016. Application forms are available at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/juniors/royal-aeronautical-society-scholarship-application> and should be returned to lizzie@gliding.co.uk no later than 23rd May.

Royal Aero Club Trust Bursaries. Congratulations to the winners of the 2016 Royal Aero Club Trust bursaries. The Bramson Bursary was awarded to Suzie Lyell (Lasham GS) and 15 other young glider pilots were awarded bursaries (out of a total of 50 awards) - for a full list see <http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries>

Youth in Aviation Day. 12th June sees the third Youth Aviation day at Husbands Bosworth where young people come together for a spectacular day of flying adventure. Now into its third year, and building on the incredible success of the last two years' events, the Youth Aviation Day will showcase the most exciting aspects of aviation as we aim to inspire a generation. Already confirmed for this year is the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Lancaster, the Glider FX and AeroSPARX aerobatic display teams, the Reds Duo scale model aerobatic display team, Lauren Richardson Airwhows, simulators, static displays and more. Find out more at <http://www.youthaviation.co.uk>

General

RAeC Newsletter. The latest Royal Aero Club newsletter has been published and can be downloaded from <http://royalaeroclub.co.uk/media/Newsletter%20Spring%202016.pdf>