

Everybody at the BGA wishes all pilots a happy and safe 2017.

## Safety

**FLARM.** We have evidence that some FLARM aerial installations are nowhere near as effective as they could be. This is not a new issue. Have you checked your FLARM coverage using the online tool? The tool is available on the FLARM website at <http://flarm.com/support/tools-software/flarm-range-analyzer/> (or, for LXNAV 9000, 8000, 8080, Flarm mouse, at <http://www.lxnav.com/flarmrange.html>). You can learn more about increasing FLARM coverage at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/bga-safety-management/technology/>

## Airspace

**Farnborough.** Following the latest round of consultation, TAG Farnborough has published its 'Feedback Report C'. Details are at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/airspace/tagfarnborough-acp/>

## BGA

**BGA Courses and Seminars.** A reminder that there is a wide range of BGA courses and seminars running throughout the early part of the new year. Assistant Instructor A Modules are being held at Dunstable, Seighford, Tibenham, Portmoak and Lasham in January and February; C Modules will be at Lasham, Tibenham, Millfield (full), Husbands Bosworth and Dunstable in March and April; and D Modules at Dunstable Tibenham and Portmoak in March, April and May with more scheduled for the summer months. Instructor Coach Seminars are scheduled for Dunstable, Seighford and Pocklington. EASA FI(S) Refresher Seminars will be at Rufforth, Dunstable, Lasham and Portmoak and there will be a FE(S)/FIE(S) Refresher Seminar at Bicester.

On the airworthiness front, there will be Club Maintainer Courses during January at Lee-on-Solent, Saltby (full) and Millfield; in March, Lasham will host an ARC Signatory course and an Inspector Refresher and Initial Issue course.

Club Safety Officer Seminars will be held in January and February at Lasham, Pocklington and Husbands Bosworth.

For full details of these, please see <https://members.gliding.co.uk/courses/>

**2017 BGA Conference: Nottingham Belfry - 25<sup>th</sup> February.** The 2017 conference is fast approaching. Tickets for the awards dinner are selling like hot cakes and the hotel is quickly becoming booked. Don't miss out on one of the highlights of the gliding year - make sure you book soon. This year, the conference will have a technology theme: the CEO of HPH Sailplanes will be presenting the concepts behind the Shark and there will be presentations on instrument connectivity and new vario technology. Please visit the conference web page at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/conference> for a full agenda (available soon), details of the exhibition, online booking for the awards dinner and lunch, and hotel details.

## Regulatory

**8.33kHz Radio Equipage Funding.** The CAA has released details of the criteria defining the eligibility requirements for claiming the 20% rebate against the costs of equipping aircraft with 8.33kHz radios. The criteria are in CAP1501 at [www.caa.co.uk/CAP1501](http://www.caa.co.uk/CAP1501). Note that you cannot yet make applications for the rebate; the CAA GA Unit hopes to make the application form available early in 2017 with the first application round deadline being 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. Further rounds of claims will be accepted only if there are funds remaining after the first round so it is recommended that you make your claim as soon as possible after applications open.

**Drone Consultation.** The UK Department for Transport is seeking views on proposals 'to harness the positive benefits of drones for public and commercial services and the benefits to the UK economy'. The consultation closes on 15th March 2017 and can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/benefits-of-drones-to-the-uk-economy>

**EAS Newsletter.** The latest Europe Air Sports newsletter (available at [http://www.europe-air-sports.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/newsletter/EAS\\_NL\\_December\\_2016.pdf](http://www.europe-air-sports.org/fileadmin/user_upload/newsletter/EAS_NL_December_2016.pdf)) provides an update on all the work that is going on to achieve appropriate legislative control over all spheres of sporting aviation.

## Competitions and Cross-Country

**World Gliding Championships.** The 34<sup>th</sup> FAI World Gliding Championships for the flapped (15m, 18m and Open) classes begins this week at Benalla, Australia. 116 pilots, from 27 countries will be taking part in the two week competition. The strong British team comprises: Derren Francis and Ed Johnston in the 15m class; Steve Jones and Mike Young in the 18m class; and Russell Cheetham and Andy Davis in the Open class. You can follow the latest news from the team at <https://www.britishglidingteam.co.uk> and keep up to date with tasks and results on the championship web site at <http://www.wgc2017.com/>

**Notable Flights.** The new year has already seen a couple of 500km flights. Roy Wilson flew 501.7km at 126.8kmph on 3<sup>rd</sup> January from Aboyne and the next day Sant Cervantes flew 509.8km at 134.6kmph from Portmoak. As we finalise this newsletter, we have just received a 1250 km triangle claim from John Bally on 30<sup>th</sup> November in Namibia in an EB29.

## Juniors

**RAeC Trust Bursaries.** Applications are now open for 2017 Royal Aero Club Trust bursaries. These bursaries, ranging from £500 to £1000 are available to any UK citizen aged between 14 and 21 who wishes to advance their gliding or other air sport. Follow-on bursaries are also available to those aged up to 24 to enable well qualified air sports persons to enter international or national competitions or other prestigious events or to advance their existing qualifications to a higher level to the benefit of the sport (eg to gain an instructor qualification). Applications must be submitted via the BGA and, to ensure that the overall timetable can be met, these must be received at the BGA office by Lizzie Pike ([lizzie@gliding.co.uk](mailto:lizzie@gliding.co.uk)) no later than 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Full details of the scheme are on the RAeC Trust web site at <http://www.royalaeroclubtrust.org/bursaries>

**FAAOA Scholarships.** The Fleet Air Arm Officers Association Aviation Scholarship Trust awards gliding scholarships to young people (17-20) who are interested in pursuing a career in military aviation. Gliding Scholarships are normally programmed to take place during the Easter and August holiday periods and offer an intensive gliding course of up to eight days at one of

three locations - RNAS Yeovilton in Somerset; RNAS Culdrose in Cornwall; and Lee-on-Solent in Hampshire. Food and accommodation is also provided. Where possible, a powered flying navigation exercise and visits to FAA training facilities are included. Full details are on the FAAOA web site at <http://www.fleetairarmoa.org/faaoa-gliding-aviation-scholarships>

**Air League Scholarships.** A reminder that applications are now being accepted for 2017 Air League gliding scholarships. These are for post-solo pilots, aged under 26 on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, to help them advance their gliding skills in areas such as aerobatics, cross-country and SLMG training. Applications should be made online to the Air League by 17<sup>th</sup> February at <http://www.airleague.co.uk/scholarships/gliding-scholarships/> where more details can be found.

## General

**New Pilots - We Want Your Help.** Did you start gliding during the summer of 2016? Would you be prepared to share your experiences with us? We're looking for people who can help us during February and March 2017. The BGA's aim is to develop some introductory gliding packages to suit people who want to learn to glide, rather than just have a generic trial lesson experience. We'll be holding a focus group meeting that the BGA Sporting Conference, in Nottingham, on Saturday 25th February. The rest of the time, up to 3 weeks before and after, we'll be communicating by email and Skype. We don't expect your contribution to exceed 2 hours a week. Interested? Please email Dave Latimer, BGA Development Committee Chair [dave.latimer@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:dave.latimer@blueyonder.co.uk)

**RAeC Newsletter.** The latest Royal Aero Club newsletter is available for download from <http://royalaeroclub.co.uk/media/Newsletter%20Winter%202016.pdf>

**2017 FAI Young Artists Contest.** Do you know a young person that is keen on painting or drawing? Or that has always dreamed about air sports? If so, then encourage them to pick up their pens, pencils or brushes and enter the 2017 FAI Young Artists Contest. The aim for contestants is to create a picture that illustrates this years' theme "Beyond the Clouds", and to show the world just how talented they are. The deadline for submission of entries to the Royal Aero Club will be Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Full details are at <http://www.fai.org/about-fai/fai-young-artists-contest>