



**March 2004**

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**This month's meeting – 11th March**

We are having a slide show! Bring along your favourite photos, slides, video's or digi-pictures on CD and we will do our best to display them on the big screen. We have arranged to borrow a laptop computer and digital projector, as well as a traditional slide projector, so should be able to handle most formats short of super-8 celluloid! Anything aeronautical will be of interest; that flying holiday, a weekend abroad, or recollections of a local fly-in.



**Last month – Chasing the morning Sun**

In February we were pleased to welcome Manuel Queiroz, along with project manager Graham Shimmin, to describe his plan to fly solo around the world. Following an overview by Graham of the great adventure, Manuel told us how the idea evolved, and described each proposed leg of the trip in his unique light humoured manner. His aircraft, RV6 G-GDRV is currently undergoing extensive modification for the record-breaking flight, with long-range tip tanks, extra radio and navigation equipment, and beefed-up electrics to cope with it all. His departure date has not yet been finalised, but he is determined to set off in the spring while the weather conditions remain optimum for the trip. Bristol Strut has donated a cheque to Manuel's charity, Cancer Research UK, along with a couple of Strut logos which will accompany the aircraft over 24,000 miles around the world! Those with computer equipment can follow Manuel's progress on the website: [www.chasingthemorningsun.com](http://www.chasingthemorningsun.com), which he intends to update as each leg is completed along the way.

**Places to go to in March**

*Free landings in Pilot Magazine: at Andrews field, Bodmin, Lashenden, Sandtoft, Seething and Shobdon.  
Free landings in Flyer Magazine: at Enstone, Fife, Lands End and Popham*

**Next month's meeting – 8th April**

*Airbus – The A380 and beyond...*

We look forward to a very interesting presentation by our co-ordinator Alan George, who just happens to work there! He has obtained a selection of publicity material, which will describe the development of the revolutionary double-decker, and how it's production in Toulouse is coming along using parts manufactured in the UK, Germany, France and Spain.

The 555-seat A380, Airbus' newest and largest aircraft, will enter service in 2006. It offers unequalled passenger comfort, unrivalled operating costs and state-of-the-art technology to minimise noise and emissions. An evolution of aviation technology, the A380 promises to ease congestion at major airports by transporting more people more efficiently than ever. To date, 11 customers have announced orders and commitments for a total of 129 A380s.

*Those with computers online can look up the Airbus web site on [www.airbus.com](http://www.airbus.com) for more information.*

### **The Newsletter Archive**

Since we started printing the 'Strutter' back in '97 many fine articles have been produced by the membership on a wide range of subjects, from holidays abroad to profiles of little known vintage aircraft. All those old newsletters are still available for reviewing on this website, and most can be called up by clicking the appropriate year and month on the buttons above. We are currently working on an index of the articles and features submitted by our members, but in the meantime you can call up your favourites by inserting a keyword in the new search facility on the homepage.

### **The GAAC pilot survey**

Members will no doubt have noticed the article in this month's PF concerning the interest of the GAAC in the economic contribution to the community provided by small airfields. We in the PFA depend greatly on the livelihood and survival of such fields, and should take every opportunity to support them. This survey provides us with a chance to say just how much we use small airfields, both here in the UK and abroad, and also to indicate how much we contribute to the local community when we stay overnight on that weekend away.

The website is published in PF as [www.gaac.co.uk/survey](http://www.gaac.co.uk/survey) so we called it up to see what it's all about. The form presented to you is very easy to fill in (if you can cope with your Income Tax return!) and much of the data requested is taken directly from your logbook. As they say, the more pilots who participate the more meaningful will be the results of the survey. So why not give it a shot? And while you're online, I suggest you backspace over the /survey part of the address and browse the GAAC website – there's a lot of interesting stuff there.

### **The Strut slide show evening**

*On Thursday, as mentioned on the front page, various members will bring along their favourite slides to show us. Since we have no articles to print this month, (and why not?) the following available space can be used to give a taste of what's in store.*

*Ron and Lyn's trip to St Andr e:*



*Graham and Dave's visit to Alderney:*



