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Bristol Strutter

Newsletter of the PFA Bristol Strut

May 2006

NEXT MEETING— PARAGLIDING

We are looking forward to hearing Fiona Macaskill at this month's meeting, and to learn about the sport of paragliding and Fiona's achievements at competition level.

Her passion for the sport has taken her all around the world, earned her a place on the British paragliding team and a place in the Guinness Book of Records. She has competed in nations as diverse as Brazil, Australia, France and India.

At the age of 50, Mrs Macaskill is one of the top 12 women paragliders in the world and is one of only two women on the British para-

gliding team. She has just had a new world record ratified - breaking her own world record for speed around a 25km triangle.

We are hoping that the weather will be good enough to enable

Fiona to bring along her paraglider and set it up for us on the field outside BAWA for the first part of our meeting, and then we will move inside to hear all about her many achievements.



Inside this issue:

Next Month's Meeting	1
Where to Go	2
Member's news	2
Mountain flying	3 & 4

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LAST MONTH—FLYING ABROAD

We invited a representative of Special Branch to the April meeting, to review the procedures involved when flying a private aircraft abroad. As it turned out, however, Mike and Rik from Special Branch at Bristol Airport had arranged for two officers from Customs to come along as well, so we had a team of four experts to answer our questions! Steve and Mike from HM Customs gave a very interesting presentation about their primary responsibility which is drug traffic detection and enforcement. An assortment of case photographs demonstrated graphically what the authorities are up against, and the message was clear - they need our feedback if we should notice anything suspicious going on around the small airstrips we might visit. By comparison, Mike Sage

from Special Branch outlined their concern over terrorist activity, and echoed the message - be alert! If we wish to fly to the Continent, the Channel Islands or Ireland, it is necessary to tell them so we are not suspected of foul play! The means to do this is the GA Report, available on our website for filling in and faxing to the authorities. A suggestion from the meeting was to e-mail the form, but Mike explained this doesn't work because .pdf files are blocked by the system. Since then, however, we have got together and developed an e-mail friendly version which works great, so we now have that option if preferred. All together, a well worthwhile meeting, from which we all learned valuable lessons. Thanks to Mike S, Rik, Mike R and Steve for traveling such a long way for our benefit.

Wanted - Strut Co-ordinator

It will not have escaped most people's attention that the Strut is still short of a Co-ordinator. It is a prime requirement of the PFA that every Strut must appoint one, otherwise it's not a legal Strut, so we have to at least nominate a 'Caretaker Co-ordinator' if no one feels they can take on the position at present. Please give this some serious thought and bring any suggestions to our May meeting.

Where to go in May

Landing vouchers valid during May in:

PILOT magazine - Bagby, Blackpool, Fife, North Coates, Old Buckenham and Shobdon.

FLYER magazine - Beccles, Donegal, Gigha Island and Old Sarum.

TODAYS PILOT magazine - Campbeltown, Enstone, Newtownards and Redhill.

Fly-ins (always check before going)

14th - Plymouth - 1st Devon Strut fly-in this year. PPR is essential before you take off - 01752 515341.
(Note: High-Viz jackets required on the field!).

20th - Hucknall—East Midlands Strut fly-in. Please call 01159 470554 for PPR.

27th to 29th - Keevil - G-VFWE

27th / 28th May—Shobdon Fly in 9 till dusk, no landing fees, food all day, camping available. For PPR please Tel 01568 708369.

AERO EXPO

This GA event is to be held at Wycombe Air Park on 23rd 24th & 25th June 2006.

The GAAC has been offered unlimited 'FREE' Tickets to AeroExpo so if you are interested then let us know and we'll apply for tickets.

Quoted below are comments from the Organisers:

" Whether you're an aviation professional, a recreational pilot, or someone with a passion for flying and just want to learn more, AeroExpo is the one event in 2006 you must not miss.

This three day event will be the largest General Aviation gathering ever seen in Northern Europe. Visit AeroExpo and be part of this celebration of all that's best and topical in today's world of General Aviation..

We want everybody that is thinking of learning to fly, anybody who flies, anybody that has any interest in what is happening in the GA market, to have a ticket and to make the show a success for our exhibitors."

FULL DETAILS FROM: www.expo.aero

Members news

Stuart Spencer has recently spent a couple of weeks in the Yukon, and sent us some of his photos. In this month's Strutter we have reproduced his report about his visit to Canada, and some of the incredible scenery he discovered during two hours of mountain flying.

Flying abroad...

As a timely follow-up from last month's discussions, Ron & Lyn along with Ian & Mary took both Smaragds over to France for a long Bank Holiday weekend. We started at Le Touquet, camped over at St Omer and called into Calais on the way home. Hopefully, an article plus photos will be put together in a future newsletter.

Looking ahead...

Summer's nearly here and the weather is improving so do we want to hold our June Meeting indoors? How about an evening Bar B Q on 8th June instead? Do any of you know where we could hold one? Suggestions at our May meeting!

The PFA

Minutes of the last National Council Meeting in March are now available for reading on the PFA website: http://www.pfa.org.uk/ec_nc.asp If anyone not having internet access would like a copy, please let us know.

Chasing the morning sun

Congratulations to Manuel for completing his epic flight around the world! He arrived home at Gloucestershire Airport on Saturday 8th April after 39 days and 8 hours of solo flying. The complete story can be read on www.chasingthemorningsun.com which also includes a donation form if you wish to support [Cancer Research UK](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org), the charity which Manuel has chosen for the help given to him personally in recent years.

Engine Failure: A condition which occurs when all fuel tanks become filled with air.

A Yukon Experience

by Stuart Spencer

I recently spent some time in Canada and this included a two week stay in Whitehorse, capital of Yukon Territory. The Yukon is a vast highly protected area of pristine wilderness, a jewel in Canada's northern crown. Out of a total population of only about 40,000 people, roughly 26,000 live in the capital which, despite so few, is the country's fourth largest city! There's no shortage of space in the Yukon.

Whitehorse International Airport (elevation 2317 ft), apart from being unable to offer a radar service due to the surrounding high country, has all the facilities you would expect at a major North American airfield including a Flight Service Station with the usual expert and friendly advice for the asking. There are a number of aviation related businesses located around the airport including Whitehorse Air Services, the good people of which offer a C172 for hire and training. Too hard to resist I hear you say!

My plan was to meander south through mountain valleys towards Skagway in Alaska, returning to Whitehorse about two hours later.

For the time being I do not have an endorsement for flying in Canada, and have no real ex-



perience of mountain flying so a safety pilot was essential for this trip. Kelly Collins, CFI at the flight school agreed to come along and show me the ropes.

The chosen day dawned bright and white and blue with a soft breeze and an OAT at the airfield of minus 15C but so dry it didn't seem that cold. (Yukoners call that warm). I helped Kelly load two weeks of survival equipment onto the rear seats and preflighted the aeroplane.

I took off to the north and turned slowly through 180 degrees to continue climbing to 8000 ft amsl.

An extraordinary vista opened up below and around us, spectacular views quite unlike anything I have seen before, two hours of flying I shall never forget.

Stuart

↑ Top: Stuart and Kelly with 'GS

← Left:

Showing the South Klondike Highway passing US Customs (on the right) to Skagway, Alaska - on the coast in the distance.



A Yukon Experience

Here are some more of Stuart's pictures...

