



Welcome to the

JERSEY AERO CLUB

December 2023 members newsletter

Social Events ... *by Mike Pownall*



SKY DEMON presentation ... *by Rob Hart.* *Saturday 2nd December -19:30*



An evening not be missed

Rob Hart from Sky Demon will give a 2 hour talk on the use of Sky Demon.

His talk should be of interest to many local pilots.

During the evening, Mulled wine and nibbles will be served.

Whatsapp ... news from David Brown



Jersey Pilots Fuel & Info 

There is a local pilots Whatsapp Group that shares local knowledge and general information about G.A. around Jersey. It's a useful resource to share information between local pilots.

David Brown is the administrator of the group. If you would like to be added to the group please send him a Whatsapp on +44 7797 717340 asking to be added to the group and he will arrange for access.

Syd Bowsher's recent talk ...

We had a very interesting talk at the Club on the 19th November. Syd Bowsher talked us through his flying career and it was great to hear his stories, both military and post his military career, including times when things did not go quite as planned. Many learning points were given.

We had a good turn out on a cold Sunday evening.

Looking forward to seeing people for the Sky Demon talk on Saturday 2 December at 19:30.





Update ... by Richard Hawkin

The 50th Guernsey International Air Rally! June 7th – 9th 2024

This extremely popular event will follow a tried and trusted format (with a little tweaking here and there) providing entrants with a weekend of fun and activity.

The Air Rally is geared up to accommodate all types of aircraft and pilot experience with the popular Saturday NAVEX (usually over Brittany) a favourite.

The Saturday night Hangar Party is the highlight (and yes we do empty the hangar of aircraft and convert it for this large function). This year's theme will be a Masquerade Ball (fancy dress not compulsory) and will no doubt result in masks of many types and sizes from the demure and sophisticated to the darn right irreverent!

Book early to register your interest to avoid disappointment! We already have 13 aircraft on the list.

Initial information and booking packs are available at below with one hotel offering a 15% discount on their 2024 rates.

Contact the Guernsey Aero Club office on manager@guernseyaeroclub.com
Or phone +44 1481 265267 for more details.

For sale and wanted items ...

Anything you wish to sale or to buy? Simply send me an email at evelinehawkin@gmail.com and it will appear in the following month newsletter.

Please remember to send photos separately.

For sale

"Survival" 4-6 person life raft (EX N37US) out of test period £900

(Mendelssohn new price £1795 Pooleys new price £2274)

Please contact - strassercharles@gmail.com

I have not received any flying stories for months ... and although it was published in December 2016, I thought it was such a brilliant story that it is worth repeating! So, if you have not read it before, I hope you enjoy it!

Christmas Story ... *by Mike Le Galle*

It was Christmas Eve and as the only instructor on duty I was hoping to finish early, however this was not to be, as about 15.00 Liz the secretary came in with a request for a trial lesson, the weather was not too bad and Cessna 150 G-AZID was outside so let's do it.



The student duly arrived shortly after, he was French with limited English, he was tall and very slim his hair was short with a weathered tanned face and intense dark eyes. Whilst completing the paperwork Jean-François said he had flown once when younger and just wanted 30 minutes flying as it was Christmas Eve.

When we arrived at ZID I showed him around and opened the port door for him. Without any delay he jumped in and when I arrived around to the starboard door, he had already fastened his harness and as ZID was an Aerobat it was fitted with a full harness, so this caught me by surprise.

During start and taxi out Jean-François was quiet and said little, he was looking around and seemed relaxed and comfortable, almost as if he was at home.

The flight to the south east corner and back went well, and I let Jean-François fly for most of the flight which he did without any assistance from me. Approaching Noirmont at 2000ft a light broken cloud layer appeared below us and as the sun was low to the south west I noticed our shadow on the thin clouds below us with a halo around.

At first glance I didn't notice it but this strange feeling made me look again at the shadow, my heart raced as I saw that the aircraft shadow within the halo was not a Cessna 150, it was a low wing aircraft with what looked like a radial engine. I looked at Jean-François, he was just looking ahead with a relaxed expression. Maybe there is another aircraft near us that I had not heard on the frequency, so I asked approach, it was Ray Lock as controller he said they could see a weak return but they thought it was just radar ghosting and not an aircraft.

I started descending over Noirmont almost by instinct as I was transfixed on looking at the shadow, then as the descent continued below the light cloud the shadow was gone, at first looking around for another aircraft there was nothing, then I spotted it, another aircraft, just to our left and below our level, close to us and on the same heading. By this time we had lined up on runway 27 at around 800ft.



I can only describe it as horror looking at this aircraft that ATC said was not there and now I recognised it, as a T28 low wing radial engine military aircraft, it was lining up gear down for runway 27 but just to left of centreline. My voice must have sounded shaky to ATC as they again said they only saw a weak ghosting return as they cleared me to land.

As I watched the T28 continue towards the runway I had time to see its markings, all silver with the French Tricolore on the tail, it must be the French Air Force, well we often see these aircraft at low level transiting the zone on route to Landivisiau, but not on finals with gear down and not talking to ATC, something wasn't right, my heart was thumping. As we approached closer to landing I watched as this T28 flared and landed, not on the runway, but on the parallel 27 taxiway.

Seconds after we also landed and as I turned left at the centre intersection I expected to see the aircraft parked somewhere on the apron or taxiing around to the south apron, but there was nothing. ATC cleared me back to the club, I was shaken so said nothing to ATC. I now had time to look across at Jean-François his expression had not once changed, just looking calm and controlled and at home

After parking both of us walked back to the flying room and once up the stairs I went straight to the phone and called ATC, Jean-François followed me up the stairs but as I looked behind he was gone, he must have already left. ATC had the same story, they had seen a weak radar return but said no aircraft other than ours had landed.

Shaken I went across to the club house looking for Jean Francois, no sign. John Such the chairman was there and I told him the story and as John worked in ATC he went up to the tower to find out what had happened. About an hour later he came back, he had a picture with him a French Air Force T28 Fennec, that's what I had seen.



John had looked back and on Christmas Eve 2 years previously a flight of three French Air Force T28's had landed in Jersey before departing for Landivisiau. On calling there ATC directly he had found out that one of the T28's had crashed on approach to Landivisiau.

Sadly the pilot Jean-François had not survived.

Plane spotter's corner ... *from Bob Sauvary's collection*



HB-DAA Nord 1203 Norecrin
July 1971 - Jersey



D-EOAM Piaggio FWP.149D
25 May 1973 - Bad Oeynhausen



F-PKXD Denize RD.105 Raid Driver
July 1981 - Brienne Le Chateau



G-AEXT Dart Kitten III
27 October 1985 - Old Warden



VT-9 DH.115 Vampire T.55
1985 - Helsinki-Vantaa



N43732 Taylorcraft BC.12D
July 1986 - Oshkosh



N78852 AM Texas Bullet
July 1986 - Oshkosh



F-ZVOH 03 Nord 262
23 July 1987 - La Ferte Alais



F-PYHD Mignet HM.293W
July 1987 - Brieenne Le Chateau



13142-F-BLOZ Douglas C-47A
23 July 1987 - La Ferte Alais



56-3937 11-YH N.A.F.100F Super Sabre
29 July 1991 - Savigny Les Beaune



N36SF Hawker Sea Fury FB.11
12 June 1994 - Wroughton



G-YAKS Yakovlev 52
30 September 1995 - North Weald



N4655C Cessna 170B
8 March 1999 - Hollywood-North Perry FLA



G-ASXX NX611 Avro Lancaster
30 April 2011 - East Kirkby



Update ... *by Eveline Hawkin*



Thank you Santa ... *thank you Blue Islands*

Saturday 16th December will prove a very exciting day for the families who have been offered a round the island flight with Blue Islands in an ATR. We are extremely grateful to Blue Islands for their kindness and generosity in providing the flight.

There will be a few surprises whilst on board and there will be a chance for those memories to be shared as the families will be invited to the club for refreshments after the flight.

We are also grateful to the JAC committee for allowing the families to gather at the club prior to being bused to the airport and for their continued support.



And finally...

Yes, Christmas is nearly with us ...



As usual, Fatima has played her magic with her wonderful Christmas tree and decorations, so why not pop upstairs, have a coffee and a mince pie and get in the Christmas spirit !

... and of course, below is the usual reminder ...

The committee can be contacted on - committee@jerseyacroclub.com

Anything for the newsletter should be sent directly to me on evelinehawkin@gmail.com.
Please remember to send any photos separately.

Please, please, please, can I have more stories!!!

Looking forward to seeing many of you on December 2nd for the Sky Demon presentation and wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year!

Eveline