

and pilots are made "Aware" of possible infringements on their track approximately 10 minutes range before any airspace infringement might occur. The good news is that the airspace warning updates are provided free of charge and are available every month in accordance with the AIRAC cycle. Note that the underlying charts have to be updated at a charge of £25 per chart or £60 for a pack of three but you don't have to do this as the airspace warnings are overlaid. Go to <http://www.airspaceaware.com/> for more information.

Also recommended web viewing is the fly on track site at <http://www.flyontrack.co.uk/content/> especially the radar replays.

GASCo report

As you may have read elsewhere, John Thorpe has now stepped down as the Chief Executive of GASCo to be replaced by Mike O'Donoghue. Mike has a long background of working with flight safety at various times in his life and will be a great asset to the GASCo organisation.

The CAA is coming under new management with Gretchen Burrett being appointed to the board as Group Director, Safety Regulation as of the 1st April. She is currently Group Director of Safety at NATS. Her background is from the US Air Force and human factors and safety management in the defence industry. GASCo's CE and Chairman will be having discussions with her and with Jonathan Smith at NATS to determine a closer working relationship in future between NATS and GASCo.

The CAA has recently had Dame Dierdre Hutton appointed as the chairman of the board; she was previously chairman of the Food Standards Agency. They have also got a new Chief Executive, a new post for the CAA, in Andrew Haines who comes from South West Trains, the rail division of First Group and First Great Western. Should be very interesting?

Discussions regarding the way forward for safety in aviation in the UK are continuing with detail discussions between the GASCo board and the CAA.

LAA moving towards LAA Ltd

Remember that a GM of LAA Ltd will be held on Saturday 13th February 2010 at the LAA headquarters, Turweston Aerodrome, Nr Brackley, Northants, NN13 5YD commencing at 11.00am. There will be a forum starting at 10:00.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES (or PDA's!) 2010

13th February – LAA Forum & AGM, Turweston

14th February – VAC Valentine Rally, Old Sarum

10th March – LAA Oxford Branch meeting

13th March – VAC Annual Dinner, Littlebury Hotel

28th March – VAC Spring Rally, Turweston

14th April – LAA Oxford Branch meeting

17th April – VAC Daffodil Rally, Fenland

12th May – LAA Oxford Branch meeting

9th June – LAA Oxford Branch meeting

19th September – VAC & Turweston Wings & Wheels

Have you checked out the LAA website at www.laa.uk.com ?



OXFORD

Branch Newsletter for Jan/Feb 2010

Chairman – Pete Smoothy Secretary – Barbara Rose;
Treasurer & Aerial Events – TBA
Evening Events – John Bean; Social Events – Colin Hughes;
Safety Officer, NC Rep, Newsletter & web moderator – John Broad
john.broad85@talktalk.net

Regular Meetings

19:30 hrs on 2nd Wed of each Month at Foxcombe Lodge Hotel, Boars Hill Oxford

December meeting – Quiz night

Great fun was had by everyone who attended the usual December quiz night. The usual format of alternative general knowledge and aviation questions was followed. Barbara Rose produced a superb range of general knowledge questions. For this year the aviation questions were compiled by Brian Lamb, one of the groups most experienced aviators. Five sets of questions were asked and the answers given to enable each team to see how their scores matched up with the other teams. Seven teams of around four people each were chosen by drawing numbers from a box. The reason for this is that in previous years all the "experts" gathered in one team and always won. I'm not sure the plan really worked as many of the "experts" ended up in the same team anyway.



The winning team

General knowledge questions ranged from gardening; as in what is John Innes, through various literary subjects and some very clever questions requiring adding up the results. Aviation I was more comfortable with but in spite of trying some inspired guesswork to define the dates of various flying machines, I still failed to

get them exactly right. When asked which 4 engine aircraft with three fins only had one rudder between the Constellation, Boeing Clipper and the DH 86b, I would never have guessed it was the DH 86. Did you know where the first tarmac runway was built? Most thought Germany but it is in fact Stockholm back in 1936. Who was the one eyed pilot who flew round the World? I didn't realise that Wiley Post was one eyed.



(Note the quizmasters at the back)

Photographs of the teams

By the end of the questions my team had dropped back from a good start.

Team 5 were the final winners comprising of

Dick Tolley, Peter Davis, Peter Chisum, Ian Melville and Don Johnson. The prize winners all received a small gift from Barbara.

We must thank Barbara and Brian for finding such a diverse range of excellent questions and for running the evening so well.

Fond Farewell to our hosts at Foxcombe Lodge

After 25 years of running the Foxcombe Lodge Hotel, Jill & Roger have decided to sell up and move to the Isle of Wight.

Since the Oxford Branch has moved to the Foxcombe Lodge, Jill, Roger and all the staff have been the friendliest and accommodating hosts we have ever found. The "nibbles" produced for after the speakers have finished are far more than would be



The brown scar was the Rover factory!

With another snow shower on the way it was prudent to get back to the aircraft and set off for home. Having spent some time at the Rover Longbridge factory it is very sad to see how much has been flattened and what little is left; progress I suppose. My thanks got to Pete for a very pleasant day out and to Colin for his company.

OFCOM Spectrum Charging!

This one keeps coming back like a bad penny or should that be like a tax, which is what it would be! Rather than try to explain the details of how OFCOM think they can get away with this, I will refer you to the excellent report on the LAA website written by John Brady. As he suggests at the end, wait until he has put together the response to enable you to extract the main arguments for you to submit. Do not copy his response but write your own in your own words.

AIWG

Controlled airspace infringements exceeded 1,000 by the end of last year! Whilst admitting that they are not all GA types, there are far too many GA pilots are in these statistics. Before the CAA comes down with the dead hand of more regulation or more Transponder Mandatory Zones (TMZs), GA needs to show a big reduction in these numbers. Make this the subject of discussions round the bar or when chatting to flying friends as awareness of the problem is part of the way to resolving it.



afterwards for £24:99 each. The database contains the NATS airspace information

The National Air Traffic Services (NATS) have worked with the company Airbox, local to us at Wantage, to produce a relatively inexpensive GPS called "Aware" This can be purchased as either as a moving map display to back up the map and compass navigation for £149:00 including VAT or with full navigation functions for £249:00. The navigation function can be purchased separately for £119:00. The device is loaded with full ICAO 1:500,000 CAA charts for the UK and 1:250,000 charts can be purchased