

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE.....

The special Christmas edition of the Biggin Hill Airport "BUGLE" by John Bryan is available for viewing/downloading on the Social Club's website at <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk>

The January issue will, because of the Christmas and New Year holiday period, be issued well into January next year - I will email as usual when it is available online to view and download...

THE AIRPORT UPDATES.....

BHA have confirmed that the airport will be closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, but will reopen on the 27th as normal weekend hours. It will operate at WEEKEND hours on New Year's day, which is a Thursday. It is strongly advised, however, that if you plan to fly in or out on New Year's Eve, you make advanced contact with the airport.

The new fixed point refuelling site adjacent to the Kilo taxiway, in front of the RAS Completions (formerly Express and Jet Aviation) is nearing completion. It is hoped to start testing towards the end of January, and for it to be fully available from early February. The pumps there will operate in a similar way to credit card garage fuel pumps, with payment being required by Credit Card or special account "swipe" cards. Owners and Operators that hold fuel account facilities at the airport will be supplied with pin validated cards in advance of the service being introduced.

This new facility will, I am certain, make life considerably easier for aircraft operators, as well as making fuel facilities at the airport much faster and more efficient generally.

ELT / PLB (Emergency/Personal Locator Beacon) CARRIAGE

The French requirement for carriage of an ELT or at least a PLB with a built in GNSS receiver (with 406Mhz transmission capability) for operation in their airspace is getting remarkably close now.

Several people have asked me where they can buy these, since the article earlier this month - At Biggin Hill we are very lucky! Adams Aviation, which incorporates the Flying Shop (online service at www.flyingshop.com), is one of Europe's leading suppliers of PLB's and ELT's - they can be contacted at 01959 579800, or you can call in any weekday from 9am to 5:30 pm to their premises - located on the corner opposite Surrey & Kent Flying Club/Shipping & Airlines.

BIGGIN HILL AIRPORT SOCIAL CLUB LTD....

Whilst we do not, of course, have premises at the moment, the club is still going strong, and we are trying to keep it together for that day when we may finally be able to get premises that are suitable for us, near or on the airport.

The annual membership is now due for 2009 - rates the same as last year - £10 for single members, £15 for a couple, or £20 for a family (which includes all dependent children living at the same address)

All members will be issued with a photo membership card for each person. The membership card will entitle the holder to some excellent concessions in local restaurants and businesses (see below and the website <http://www.bigginhillclub.co.uk/concessions.html> for full details of these)

STOP PRESS - I can confirm that all "Airport" members will again have free entry to the 2009 Biggin Hill Air Fair - an excellent and valuable concession, as I am sure you will all agree.

NEW CONCESSIONS to be added from January 2009 are:

Dizzy's Diner

A discount of 15% for anyone showing their photo membership card at the time of paying their bill in Dizzy's Diner in Beckenham High Street - Although operating for some 20 years, this restaurant is now being taken under new management. An American style diner, it will re-open on 15th January, and will offer an excellent choice of food and drinks, including cocktails. The restaurant will be designed to be very family friendly, and the discount applies to the entire meal including drinks for all members of the party. Full details on the website.....

EFG

For the pilots amongst us - EFG have agreed that Biggin Hill Social club members will receive a significant discount on flying charges - full details to be confirmed shortly - but this should make it easier for those who are in need of a source of aircraft for their private flying to have access to several types of aircraft and at a discount as well.....

Falcon Flying Services

This time the club member's benefit is aimed at those who have aircraft of their own. Falcon have agreed that after the year end, club members who present a club photo membership card at the time of paying their maintenance bill will receive a very generous 10% discount – once again full details to follow shortly....

Both the above will hopefully help to reduce some of the costs that, in these times of recession, may prevent some from maintaining licences or keeping aircraft in the air.....

Existing club members need only send the appropriate payment (payable to Biggin Hill Airport Social Club Ltd) - to PO Box 33, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3FS - together with a stamped addressed envelope for the return of the card(s) - the currently held photo will be used unless replacements are also supplied. - if your address or email/phone/mobile has changed, please provide updated details.

New Members should download the membership form from the club website at www.bigginhillclub.co.uk and complete that, sending it to the above address, together with the appropriate fee, head and shoulder photo's for each applicant, including children, with the names on the reverse, and a stamped addressed envelope for the return of the cards.

As one member put it earlier this year - the membership fee saved his family more on the first meal than he paid in membership! The money helps to finance this newsletter, the Bugle, and the database, and also is held back to build a fund for member benefits in the future. No one receives any payment, only out of pocket expenses - Your support is always very welcome.....

That's about it for this month - except, of course, to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas, and a Prosperous and Happy New Year from JB and myself...

John Willis

Biggin Hill Airport Users Database

(And Finally: Something different (courtesy of Ralph Scott, who many will know, lives in Spain).....

Warnings to anyone going on holiday in Spain.

BAD SMELL:

You are approached by a couple. They tell you they are employed by one of the famous perfume

companies who have just produced a new perfume, and it is their job to get the opinion of the general public. They ask if you would you be good enough to take a sniff and give them your opinion.. They then squirt from their atomizer and the next thing you remember is when you wake up and your wallet, watch jewellery etc are all missing... The atomizer contains ether!

DISTRESSED WOMAN:

You are driving along in your hire car when you see a woman behind her car with the boot open and waving you down . She appears distressed and you leave you car to help. As you start to speak to her, a man appears with a gun, which he points at you and relieves you of all you possessions.. Just to make sure you know he is not kidding, he has been known to let of a round at your feet... Another man then appears and drives of in the car leaving you stranded - NO CAR, NO WALLET, NO CREDIT CARDS AND NO PASSPORT.

These scams are now taking place along the entire Spanish tourist areas. The Spanish are not making a big deal of them because it will interfere with their tourist trade but people should be aware.

So the moral is: DON'T SNIFF AND DON'T STOP.

If anyone else has good examples of - for example: -

Governmental stupidity and removal of the population's right to live a normal life, or any unusual and interesting stories or anecdotes that you feel may interest our readers

please email them to me as a possible inclusion in a monthly "and Finally"...))