



LFC Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Limerick Flying Club

www.limerickflyingclub.com

Jun 2012

Can we volunteer...

Foncy Hobbins Reports

On Saturday 19th May a total of 13 members of the club assembled at Coonagh and drove to the Irish Coast Guard Search & Rescue hangar at Shannon. The visit was made easy by our member, Derek Nequest who is a retired pilot with the service, which is operated on behalf of the Irish taxpayer by CHC Ltd who have been operating the rescue services services now for quite some time. We were introduced to Rob Goodbody, pilot at Shannon and treated to an excellent explanation of how the helicopters operate in Irish airspace and watched a TV monitor of all ships and trawlers on the coast around Ireland. We also heard some fascinating tales of rescue on the high seas and other locations and then we were given a full walk through of the new Sikorsky S92 which is a superb machine, only costing €28 million each! Four of these are due to enter service soon at Shannon, Sligo, Dublin and Waterford.



The mighty and reliable S61 had departed Shannon on a training detail but we were delighted to be



given such a thorough briefing and tour of the S92, registered EI-ICG, and the Shannon base. Many questions were asked and plenty of photos taken also!

CHC is a Canadian company based throughout the world with a major spare parts base at Amsterdam. The Irish operation is considered 'a jewel in their crown' and generates tremendous goodwill wherever these red & white machines appear in our skies. It usually means someone is about to be rescued from danger. They do a superb job, often in atrocious weather and other challenging

conditions. Long may they continue to operate.

An offer has been extended to have us visit again so if you missed this one watch out for another day at Shannon. I would like to thank Derek and Rob for a most interesting visit.

This event followed the 6th May visit, which was also organised by Foncy, to the Ballygirreen high level and shortwave communication facility. The participants found the trip very interesting although the numbers were severely restricted due to operational reasons at the station.



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The Hangar 'Rescue'...

It seems very little expense has been spared to keep the armada of African flying visitors out of the Hangar this year. Together with proposed electronic deterrents there has been a large amount of netting installed both inside the roof and above the front doors. But the netting has not come cheap, there are reports of €1,500 been spent, which includes the supply and installation of the materials. There is also a new instruction to keep the doors closed whenever possible to further frustrate entries. We will soon see how successful the efforts have been and hopefully there will not be very large deposits either on the floor or on any of the aircraft. The operation has been a little expensive but hopefully it will be worth the effort. One wonders if it would have been more cost effective to give someone a few quid to clean up the aircraft and the floor a couple of times a week. I am sure that with the amount of people without work, even some of our own members, the offer would be welcome. Shhh...

Best wishes Barry...

Barry O'Donnell got married to Siobhan on 2nd June and the large reception was held at the Oakwood Arms Hotel in Shannon. We all wish Barry success and happiness in his marriage.

Grounded yet again...

The Tecnams are grounded as an AD demands a change of fuel lines from plastic to aluminium. Hopefully this job will not take long to complete.

Badge of honour...



Thanks to Don Wallace our ex Chairman for his presentation of those nice badges. We hope people will wear them unlike the wings that so many have got

but we don't see any more. Don also presented a couple of club flags which to date have not been rolled out, perhaps we will see them soon.

Letters to the Editor...

3 May, (Aran Islands Airfields tender).
The amount of the tender is a matter of public record and is published on the government tenders web site here

http://www.etenders.gov.ie/search/show/search_view.aspx?ID=MAR318896

I just searched for "aerodrome" and included the archive in the search. Section II. 2.1 lists the value of the tender as 540,585 Euro

Mark

7 May,
Your club members are a credit. I was ferried to the University on Saturday morning and shown great hospitality on Saturday and Sunday evening. Please pass on my thanks to Mike and Mike and if you ever venture to Donegal call into Carrickbrack. Just give us a ring. We're in Kevin Glynn's book.

Thanks again

Adam (bigadam@eircom.net)

Very good news at last...

By Derek Doyle

Mutual Recognition of IAA and CAA Permits

After much work by ILAS, NMAI, IAA, CAA and the UK organisations a new agreement for the mutual recognition of permits comes into force as and from April 27th. This will greatly ease travel between the two countries for anybody who is flying in a permit aircraft. Further details of this very welcome agreement can be found on the IAA website.



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EASA flying time...

Following a query posted by Bob Martin which expressed some concerns about changes in the qualifying time required for the maintenance of a PPL under the EASA rules, Jacek Rosik has replied with the following comments.

There is no change. The requirements are exactly the same for EASA licence. 12 flying hours together with 12 takeoffs and landings and 1 hour with an instructor, within the twelve months before the licence expiry. Alternatively a proficiency check will have to be undertaken with an examiner.

The August fly-in...

Most of the arrangements are in place for the annual fly-in which is scheduled to take place on the weekend 18th and 19th August. The good news about this event is that most of it can take place regardless of the weather, which is a big change from many of our other arrangements. A case in point is the planned very interesting fly-out to Haverfordwest due to take place on Saturday 30th June and Sunday 1st July. Hopefully the weather and/or the lack of operational aircraft will not limit the arrangements. Foncy has put a lot of work into organising this event so we all hope that it will be a success and enjoyable.

Only Orchestra leader fiddle please...

By Tony Khan

EI-JPK returned from Waterford on Friday after it's annual. The issue with regard to the un-commanded roll to the right has not yet been totally rectified but the rate of roll has been greatly reduced even at cruise speed.

An engineer will come to Coonagh in a weeks time to re-tweak the rigging and try to eliminate the roll problem altogether. In the meantime could I ask all those who fly it to accept the

un-commanded roll and please **do NOT adjust** the tab on the aileron in any way. This has been set by the engineers in Waterford and they have asked that **no one interfere with it** as it is integral to their plans to eventually eliminate the roll problem.

Thanks for your patience, hopefully it will soon be fixed, but the machine is grounded anyway!

The teacup is calm...

By S N Walsh

Many of you will recall the expressions of outrage at the new measures implemented by the licence holders of the Aran Islands airfields. However in the ensuing month the storm seems to have died down completely.

One must ask if this means that the general aviation community has decided to comply with the new arrangements and end the protest, if indeed there ever had been a proper protest. This calm is probably why so many aviation practices around here are so restrictive even if some of them are not actually enshrined in the law of the land. I'm quite sure the IAA and many more besides are not trembling in their shoes at the mere mention of AOPA Ireland. If we tolerate over-regulation, it will continue and it even seems to be getting worse if anything.

Articles

The LFC Newsletter is published monthly, in the first week of the month. All articles, letters, etc. must reach the Editor at least two days before distribution. All club members, and non-members who are interested in our club, or flying, are invited to publish articles. Please submit your article by email to newscoonagh@gmail.com or in person or by post. They may on any subject you wish, information, gossip, fun, logistics, or anything else.

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