

## SIG Aviation Meteorology Newsletter 1 2014, May 2014

In this newsletter James Morrison writes about recent GASCo meets and latest/current activities. The SKYbrary project is currently underway as well. Some aviation photos are also attached. Thanks for your interest, and feedback is always welcome, apologies for such a lengthy delay in getting this newsletter out. Next SIG meet is forecasted to be planned for autumn.

### **GASCo**

By James Morrison

*[The below is a summary and some interesting points from three reports James sent to the Society regarding GASCo activities. James, as GASCo rep, reports directly to the Chief Executive of the Society, and the SIG acts as support and observer in the process. The below information is received with thanks.]*

The main activities of GASCo during the year 2013 have been the introduction of a newly designed magazine "flight safety" and an electronic monthly update called "flight safety extra" in order to allow maximum exposure of safety related information to general aviation pilots. These media are expected to be expanded into the coming year in order to pass as much information to the readership as possible with content welcomed on meteorological topics effecting the general aviation pilot....

... Weather continues to play a role in general aviation accidents although there is no notable upward or downward trend in weather as a factor above others during 2013. Continued education on using and interpreting weather forecasting information sources can help in preventing general aviation pilots from taking off when the weather is not suitable. Accidents have generally been due to the factor of making the wrong choice to fly in weather that was not suitable for flying.

There have also been a number of seminars arranged by GASCo over the year and the most recent

one was on "Weather Decision Making in General Aviation", held at the Met Office in September, which was a success. They would like to hold more weather related seminars over the course of the years ahead....

... the GASCo chief executive discussed the activities GASCo has been engaged in over the last number of months which include a new magazine (Flight Safety) which they are hoping to expand readership too over the coming year. They expressed an interest in having some weather related articles in the magazine which currently has a readership of over 2000 so perhaps this is a topic for discussion within the SIG and society at some point if anyone has anything which they feel would be of useful knowledge for the general aviation population....

... One interesting report ... came from a loss of control inflight from wake turbulence associated with wind turbines. The member organisation concerned operates at low levels and has become worried at the increase in wind turbines as a source of wake turbulence and they have not been able to find any research available to help with planning flights close to or around wind turbines. They enquired as to whether any work is going on and how changing winds can effect the surrounding area of a wind turbine farm. Another organisation discussed a number of events where private pilots had used purely METAR reports for airfields and noted them as satisfactory and then taken off but become trapped in weather between the two airports. The incident discussed was specifically flying over the Pennines area of the UK with some high ground and valleys and of course weather can be very different in a valley compared to the surrounding area....

... i had discussions with several members and the one specifically requested if anyone from the society would be willing to come along to their organisation to give a talk at some point on weather so i recommended they contact the society directly with regards to this....

... expressed an interest in having more weather related information in some of the events. A discussion with the chief executive during the break brought up the fact he would like to see more connection between the council and the society and would welcome some inputs on organizing a weather related training event. This is currently being looked into within the society to see if they can offer anyone with some form of teaching or presenting experience. Once this has been sough then topics for presentation can be considered. One that a number of members have requested is the Go-No-Go decision with regards to weather. This comes from the fact that a majority of preventable incidents and accidents have come from pilots flying into weather they should not have been flying in....

**If any of you wish to take part or feel you know of anyone who could help out GASCo in these endeavours, particularly the teaching parts and presentations, please let either the Society, SIG (through Jake), or James know. For SIG members you may ask for James' address, non-members reading this through Facebook or other media, please contact [jacob.kollegger@hotmail.com](mailto:jacob.kollegger@hotmail.com) or via the Society.**

## **SKYbrary**

by Jacob Kollegger

<http://skybrary.aero/index.php/Portal:Weather>

The SIG is involved in editing and revising, or simply affirming, articles in SKYbrary's weather section. SKYbrary is an open source information outlet specifically designed for people in the aviation community, with contributors from ICAO to the UK Flight Safety Committee to Eurocontrol and many more. With the goal of contributing information on weather, and also for increased exposure to the aviation community, the Society has expressed interest in collaborating with SKYbrary and has tasked the SIG in this project.

We are currently in the third month of a six-month trial period, and revise 3 articles per month, with 6 revised and/or reviewed articles submitted as of this writing. We systematically go through the list of articles as seen in the SKYbrary page, and have started with the icing section, working our way then to turbulence, then volcanic ash, and so on. The articles we submit are reviewed as well by SKYbrary and other collaborators depending on subject matter, and then posted on the website. We have been informed that our revisions have been published for at least the first three articles in the Meteo link. It must be remembered that the editing and revising group are all people who either are working full-time and take their time off to review these articles. Special thanks go to them for the effort!

At the end of the six month period, it is hoped that the Society will be a full collaborator, and the SIG tasked with updating and reviewing all the articles and the ones already reviewed, to make sure the content stays updated and valid. We welcome any help, and is on a volunteer basis. If you have a specific area of expertise and wish to contribute, please let Jake know.

## **FACEBOOK**

by Jacob Kollegger

For those of you not Facebook-inclined, a few articles which were posted on the SIG page for a general audience:

<http://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/2014/03/24/biloxi-hurricane-hunters-get-new-equipment-for-season-beginning-june-1/6822277/>

<http://documents.irevues.inist.fr/handle/2042/53185>

<http://www.gasco.org.uk/news/rmets-special-interest-group/news.aspx?p=1036878>

**PHOTOS** James Morrison Jacob Kollegger



*Illustration 1: Cloud layers over Liverpool. James Morrison*



*Illustration 2: Fair weather cumulus over Ireland, James Morrison*



*Illustration 3: Fog over Limoges region, James Morrison*



*Illustration 4: Morning fog to the east of Liverpool, James Morrison*



*Illustration 5: Northern lights from the flight deck, James Morrison*



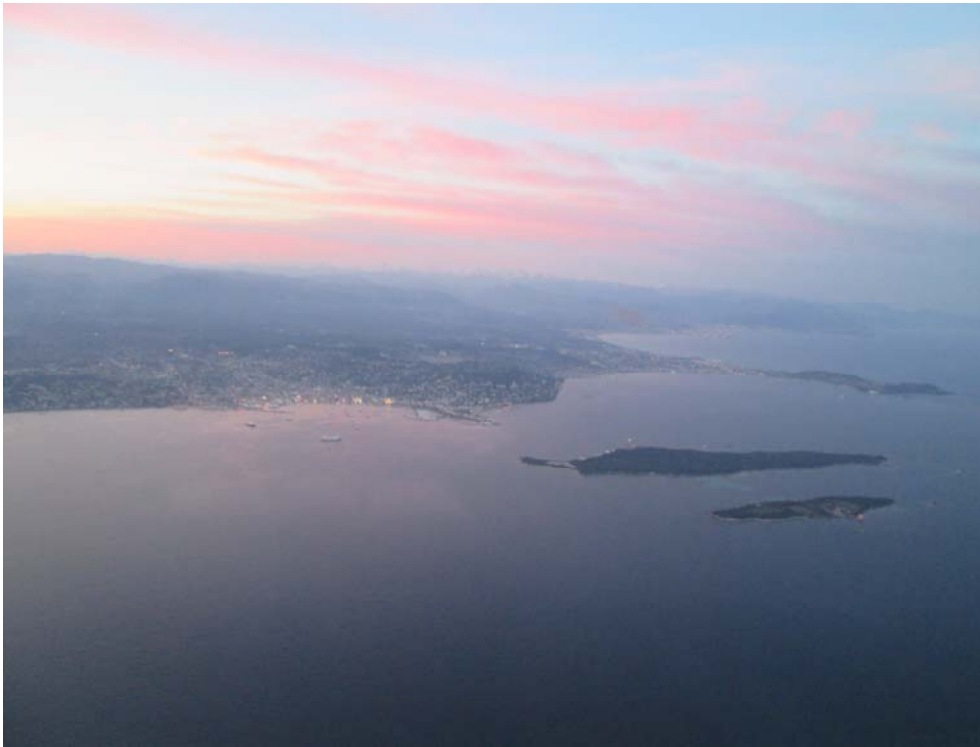
*Illustration 6: Rain shower over east Coast of Ireland, James Morrison*



*Illustration 7: Near sunset, and cloud over Gibraltar's Rock, Jacob Kollegger*



*Illustration 8: Sunset over the northern Toulon region on approach into Cannes airport, Jacob Kollegger*



*Illustration 9: Cannes in the foreground and Nice in the background, during sunset, Jacob Kollegger*



*Illustration 10: Over the western extremes of the Swedish Archipelago, west of Stockholm, Jacob Kollegger*





*Illustration 11: Over the Alps, Jacob Kollegger*



*Illustration 12: Over the Thames, in the centre Parliament buildings, on approach into London City, Jacob Kollegger*



*Illustration 13: We end the way we began: between cloud layers, over northern Spain , Jacob Kollegger*