



# 4 Chairman's Column Recession? What recession? asks George Done

# **5 AOPA Working For You**Four more for Strasser Scheme; ATSOCAS up and running; policing

ATSOCAS up and running; policing and GA; moves on mentoring; Part M and the CAA; joining the partisans

# **16** Flat spin

**Neil Spooner** gets locked into a flat spin but survives to tell the tale

# **18** A pilot in Europe

Timothy Kirkhope, PPL and MEP, speaks up for general aviation in the European Parliament. By **Pat Malone** 

# **21** Letters to the editor

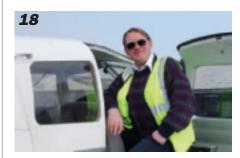
## **22** Long way round

From Sturgate to Poland via Greece – **David Plange** tells the story of an epic flight that ends in a sale



# Contents

# **APRIL 2009**



# **26 Optica rises**

John Edgley's star-crossed loiterer makes another comeback – test flight by **Greg Dolph** 

# **30** Flight sim test

More than just engaging games, many PC simulators can help you hone your flying skills, says **Steve Copeland** 

# **32** Briefings

Duxford Safety Bonus Day; take the controls of Concorde; Top Nav 2009; Prague Aero Expo; scholarships for all

# **36** RAF's first jet

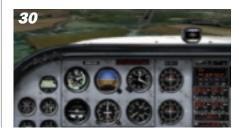
**David Ogilvy** continues his fascinating series on flying vintage aircraft by running the rule over the Gloster Meteor

# **41** Where to Fly

Our annual yearbook listing of AOPA's corporate members

## **48** Swedish torture

Mooney pilot **James McDiarmid** tackles his mid-life crisis by flying to Scandinavia with his bicycle











**General Aviation** April 2009