



AERO expo packs them in

The AERO expo at High Wycombe in June was a much more successful show than on its first outing in 2006, with many more people turning up and many more exhibits for them to size up and buy.

The show will be held again at Booker next year, from June 13th to 15th, and organiser Paddy Casey expects more fly-ins, more visitors, and more exhibitors. Many of this year's exhibitors sent letters of appreciation to Paddy after the show – including AOPA, which is fully behind the event. Chief executive Martin Robinson says: "General aviation needs Expo and we're pleased to see Paddy making a success of it. We regret the loss of the Fly! show in London, and with North Weald out of

the picture we would be in difficulties if it were not for AERO. We'll do everything we can to help it succeed."

The show was better in every respect than in 2006. Marketing was better, and there was more and better publicity. There were some 11,500 visitors over the three days of the 2007 show, despite occasionally awful weather. The number of aircraft flying in was down on expectations – 603 had booked slots, but only 270 flew in because of the bad weather. Partly as a result there were ground traffic handling difficulties at time, with queues at the gate – more than 4,000 cars visited the aerodrome during the show.

The 140 exhibitors, including more than 40

from abroad, almost unanimously reported good trade, and almost all signed up on the spot for 2008. In addition, many more companies that did not exhibit in 2007 have expressed an interest in coming next year.

The ever-ebullient Paddy Casey says: "Positive feedback has been overwhelming, and we're certain that AERO has a great long-term future." ■

Left: that's what we like to see - a big crowd spending money at a general aviation show
Below: VAT reclaim experts Lasse Rungholm and Frank Hansen with their 'sales assistants' - was it coincidence that they were parked next to the Customs stand?



AOPA salutes the high achievers

AOPA's achievement awards for 2007 were presented on the AOPA stand at AERO, with our chairman Prof George Done doing the honours. The winners are nominated by AOPA members for the special contribution they make to general aviation. Six of the nine recipients came to pick up their trophies – two others, Farnborough Air Traffic Control and the British Business and General Aviation Association (BBGA) were given their awards at individual ceremonies where everyone involved could attend. The ninth, Barry Dyke, had passed away after his award was announced, and AOPA sends its condolences to his family. Barry's 'Individual Merit' award recognised an extraordinary life. An instructor with an engineering background, Barry had 18,000 hours in his log book, all flown on GA machines, and he built up a rare wealth of experience which he passed on to his students at Thruxton. He will be sorely missed by all of general aviation. Plans are being made to present the award to Barry's widow at Thruxton, in the presence of his many friends.

An AOPA Special Award was made to Irv Lee, an instructor and examiner based at Popham. The award is given to 'a pilot, controller, engineer or other person who has made a special contribution to safety, or other areas of general aviation.' Handing Irv his award, George mentioned his many and varied

contributions improving pilot safety, including his one-day Masterclass (now a qualifying achievement for AOPA's Wings award), his DVD 'Rust Remover for Pilots', his enormous



contribution to the www.flyontrack.co.uk website and 200 or more magazine articles aimed at helping pilots improve their flying, navigation and airmanship.

Best Aerodrome award went to Lands End, nominated for the special 'comfort blanket' it gives to pilots flying over 28 miles of water to the Scilly Isles. Although it's not part of their official function (and therefore not a 'briefing') the local flying club, who man the operations desk, provide valuable advice to all such pilots, and invest considerable time and effort on anyone who is unsure about using the Lands End transit corridor. The award was picked up on behalf of the aerodrome by Pete Cosgrove and Andrew Howard.

The Customer Care award, for the flying school, club or individual that has provided outstanding customer care, as recommended by students or private pilots, went to the CAA's David Cockburn for his safety work. David is editor of the quarterly General Aviation Safety Information Leaflet (Gasil) and presents the CAA safety evenings, travelling the length and breadth of Britain preaching the safety message. Accepting the award, David remarked that it was an honour not just for him, but for the entire CAA team that makes

Left: instructor and examiner Irv Lee works tirelessly to improve safety



his work possible. (Again, attendance at a Safety Evening counts towards a Wings award qualification).

Howard Clayton, deputy CFI and examiner at Exeter Flying Club, won AOPA's Contribution to the Community award, which goes to 'a person or organisation who has made an outstanding contribution to the aviation community'. The trophy is a cup donated in 1997 by *Flyer* magazine. Howard, a glider pilot and ATPL, instructs full-time at Exeter, but gave over hundreds of hours, without recompense, to produce three entirely new question papers for the revamped AOPA



Ground Instructors Course. George commented: "This major task he undertook gladly and, with great diligence and perseverance, produced the new question papers, earning the respect and gratitude of the AOPA Instructor Committee and enabling



Above: David Cockburn travels the country delivering CAA Safety Evenings
Below: the AOPA Ground Instructors Course has been revamped thanks to Howard Clayton



Above: Pete Cosgrove and Andrew Howard accept the Best Aerodrome award for Lands End from AOPA's Chairman
Below: Carol Cooper is described as 'a one-woman centre of excellence'
Right: David Tang helped raise the profile of IAOPA in China



the course to be re-launched in 2006." Carol Cooper, described as 'a one-woman centre of excellence', won the Instructor of the Year award. Carol, who is CFI at Andrewsfield, is a career instructor with over 12,000 hours of teaching. An FIC examiner on both single and multi-engined aircraft, she undertakes flight instruction at all levels. George quoted from her testimonial, which said: "She has an encyclopaedic knowledge of her trade and has the gift of making any test a learning



experience... she will always go that extra mile in helping others to achieve their goals." Finally, David Tang received the 'Friend of AOPA' award, which goes to someone who has made a special contribution to AOPA's work. David is a fixed-wing and helicopter pilot who has worked hard to promote flying careers among London's ethnic communities, in recognition of which he has been given flights with the Red Arrows and with the Royal Navy. As an ardent supporter of AOPA, he organised the Association's stand at the first general aviation Expo to be held in China in 2006 which enabled not only the promotion of GA but of IAOPA as well, thus establishing a presence for GA and AOPA in an important and rapidly developing part of the world. ■