

Guernsey hosts AOPA France fly-in



A fly-in at the end of October is a risk, but in the end it turned out to have been well worth taking. Guernsey Aero Club and its AOPA UK membership got together with AOPA France, enticing 17 aircraft and 50 French aviators to Guernsey from all over France. Luckily, the weather turned out just right.

Enthusiastic participants came from Paris, the Belgian and German borders and as far afield as Marseilles, and among them was the

editor of the major French magazine 'Aviation et Pilote' arriving in his Mooney. (Emmanuel Davidson is also executive vice president of AOPA France). Aircraft ranged from a Cessna 425 flown from Marseilles at FL260 – the trip took about two hours – to a simple Jodel that had flown strictly VFR from Toussus le Noble. And there were a good mix of types between these extremes, including Beech 58 Baron, V-tail Bonanza, Beech 36, various Mooneys including the sophisticated Ovation, Piper PA28 Warrior and PA46 Malibu, Commander 114, Socata TB20, 172RG and 182s.

Most arrived on the Saturday in time to enjoy an excellent Guernsey Aero Club lunch. After lunch the participants enjoyed (*in French*) lectures from Garmin and Jeppesens followed by coffee with traditional Guernsey Gauche. The evening that followed was a Tennerfest meal at the Fermain Valley Hotel, which was enjoyed by all.

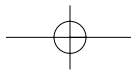
All departed during Sunday morning, first enjoying coffee and bacon sandwiches at the Aero Club before saying their goodbyes and leaving with Guernsey flowers.

Guernsey Aero Club regularly invites French aviation groups to the island, and is to be congratulated on trying to overcome some of the difficulties faced by French pilots considering flying across the Channel. ■



Top: some impressive and speedy tin in the French visitors' parking area
Above: AOPA France executive vice president Emmanuel Davidson's FAA-registered Mooney Ovation
Left: VFR-only Jodel tops off at Guernsey, where AOPA members get a five percent discount on fuel
Below left: Cessna 425, which flew to Guernsey from Marseilles in around two hours
Below: Rockwell Commander 114, Dutch registered but French owned





**Top: V-tail Bonanza
Above: Piper PA46
Malibu,
pressurised and
good for almost
200 kts
Right: lectures
were delivered in
French
Left: French
through and
through, the
Socata TB20
Trinidad GT
Below: Beech
Baron six-seat
piston twin**

