

MEDIA RELEASE

GUERNSEY AND ALDERNEY AIRPORTS TO PARTICIPATE IN CHARITY FLYING EVENT – THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2009

Guernsey and Alderney Airports will be participating in a ‘Dawn to Dusk’ flying competition aimed at raising awareness and funds for ‘Flying Scholarships for the Disabled’.

The event is planned for the early hours of Thursday 18th June 2009, when four light aircraft will set off from Jersey at dawn, with a view to visiting every runway on the British Isles before dusk the same day.

The trip will include landings at Guernsey, Alderney, Isle of Wight, Scilly Isles, Anglesey, Ronaldsway, Northern Island, Islay, Tiree, Benbecula, Stornoway, Kirkwall, Sumburgh and Inverness.

In order that these flights can be accommodated in one day’s flying, Guernsey and Alderney airports will be opening early to accommodate these flights. Around a dozen staff at both airports have volunteered to attend for work to facilitate early opening that day.

The participating flight crews will be required to comply with noise abatement procedures to minimise any disturbance, however the public is asked to note that there will be four aircraft approaching and then departing both airfields at approximately 0440hrs on Thursday 18th June 2009.

/ENDS

Notes for Editors – Please see attached background information on the event from the organisers.

PRESS RELEASE



**Sponsors are proud to be supporting formation flight:
Pilots reach for the islands to help people with disabilities
learn to fly.**

Oris watches is proud to be sponsoring a group of pilots' attempt at a formation flight, landing at some of the remotest islands in the UK and Channel Islands in a bid to win the 2009 Pooley's Dawn to Dusk flying competition. The event – called Reach for the Islands - will take place on June 18 2009. The pilots are taking part in the challenge to raise awareness and funds for the Gloucestershire-based Flying Scholarships for the Disabled which helps people with disabilities learn to fly. It was set up in 1983 and has trained around 300 people including the Falklands veteran Simon Weston and Martine Wright, who lost both her legs in the London Underground bombing in July 2005. Accompanying the pilots will be a number of disabled people who went through pilot training via the charity Flying Scholarships for the Disabled.

The group will start in Jersey before flying on to Guernsey, Alderney, Bembridge (Isle of Wight), St Mary (Scilly Isles), Valley (Anglesey), Ronaldsway (Isle of Man), Newtownards (Northern Ireland), Islay, Tiree, Benbecula, Stornoway (Isle of Lewis), Kirkwall (Orkney), Sumburgh (Shetlands) and Inverness. It's thought it will be one of the longest formation flights undertaken in Britain in a single day.

Lead pilot Edwin Brenninkmeyer said: "Flying Scholarships for the Disabled is a really worthwhile charity, it provides people with disabilities the opportunity to become trainee pilots, facing both the physical and mental challenges that come with learning to fly. We felt that we should also have a challenge to face and landing on these small islands against the clock with 1500 miles in total would stretch us as able-bodied pilots. All the money we raise will go towards the charity, helping it to continue to provide men and women with disabilities the chance to realise their full potential."

The flight has been supported by a number of aviation-related companies including Sennheiser Aerospace who have donated the headsets and Luxury Swiss watch brand Oris, the official watch sponsor of the Williams Formula One racing team and the Blue Eagles – the British army helicopter display team.

The aircraft involved are two Piper Aztecs and two Cessna 210s. The Piper Aztec has been a favourite for small inter-island operations and the Cessna 210 continues to operate in the remotest corners of the world. The pilots have set up a website where people can click on and donate to Flying Scholarships. The website is www.reachfortheislands.org.uk

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Notes to editors:

1. Flying Scholarships for the Disabled was the brainchild of the late Paul Bowen and Tim Prince, founders of the Royal International Air Tattoo. The Tattoo is the world's biggest military airshow and takes place each year at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire.
2. The current patron is Her Majesty Queen Noor of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Her Majesty took over from her late husband King Hussein.
3. Flying Scholarships for the Disabled was set up in memory of the World War Two fighter pilot Sir Douglas Bader, who continued to fly despite losing both his legs in a plane crash. His widow Lady Bader has presented scholarships to the students in the past.
4. Anyone interested in applying for a scholarship with the charity can get in touch either by calling 0870 800 1942 or through its website www.toreachforthesky.org.uk

Quotes from charity friends and scholars:

"I am delighted to lend my support to the very exciting fund-raising flight; Reach for the Islands, which will take place on 18 June. As a former pilot, I understand and appreciate the enormity of the challenge. The pilots will be flying in formation for 17 hours, landing at 14 different UK islands, beginning at Jersey and reaching their final destination; Inverness, at dusk on the same day. This is a wonderful activity, that will raise funds to provide flight scholarships for disabled people, providing them with the life-changing experience of learning to fly.

I would like to congratulate the pilots for coming up with such an imaginative scheme and wish them every success with the flight. Hopefully it will raise enough funds for Flying Scholarships for the Disabled Trust to continue their good work and transform the lives of the many disabled people it helps."



Rory Underwood

