

Supporters' Group Newsletter 20/10/03

Introduction

A detailed newsletter will be issued before Christmas, which will include all the latest achievements on XS422's restoration following the UK team's forthcoming visit to Stennis in November. In the meantime we thought you'd appreciate a little current news to keep you going.

AALO October/November UK Team Visit 2003

Eminently newsworthy is the fact that in a little over 2 weeks Phil Wallis will be leading a team of UK based technicians over to Stennis to join our American colleagues working on XS422.

Work has continued this year on various aspects of the restoration at Stennis by the US team. Other key areas will be tackled during an intensive UK team visit. The forthcoming trip, it would be fair to say, will be notable in that it will host the greatest number of attendees in one visit to date.

Phil has assembled an impressive group of Civilian & RAF technicians who have all volunteered their annual leave to spend time on XS422's restoration. In terms of numbers we are eleven, but then there's a limit to how many people can work in the cockpit at any one time! The spread of the team is good: with airframes, electrical and propulsion trades well represented. While the main team visit takes place at the beginning of November, as I'm writing this our lead propulsion specialist, Geoff Cummins, is at Stennis working on '422's propulsion systems.

The aim of the trip is to accelerate the restoration in several key areas, as well as continuing to develop the support & infrastructure of the project. The key areas the team will be focusing on are as follows:

- 1 To significantly move forward the restoration of the cockpit, including, as far as practicably possible, restoring the wiring.
- 2 To complete the reconnection of the electrical wiring disturbed during the original dismantling.
- 3 To complete the sealing / painting of the number 2 engine bay floor.
- 4 To complete the number 1 engine bay rebuild.
- 5 To establish the integrity of the fuel and air systems

Considering the enormous success and progress achieved last November we will be able to report that further milestones have been reached in the Christmas newsletter.

We will also include some photographs from the up-coming visit in the next newsletter.

Web Site News

The AALO website has recently been updated and can be found at

www.lightningusa.org

Additionally we are in the final stages of planning for a second website dedicated to the Supporters Group. Once the second website is up and running the two sites will complement each other with the existing site providing background and history, while the Supporter's Group site will carry more current news reports and information.

Other Interest

In our first year of existence the Supporter's Group has enjoyed growing success and growing memberships, both trends we hope will continue into the coming year and beyond.

The XS422 print which I know many of you now own has been well received and we are grateful to those of you who have chosen to support us further by buying the print. Perhaps with Christmas on the horizon you might want to consider it as a gift to a fellow Lightning aficionado.

On the merchandising front we are in the process of getting the AALO logo that many of you have commented on turned into a 3 ½ " embrioded patch. We will keep you updated on prices and availability. An opportunity perhaps to exercise your member's discount. Additionally we hope to soon be offering for sale AALO polo shirts. These are currently being tested by the AALO execs and when we're happy with the design and quality we will make them available generally.

Nic, Clive and I have enjoyed meeting you all at the various UK Lightning events this year, along with the various attending restoration team members. It's important to point out that we are at these events by invitation of the hosting parties, be it Richard and the LPG or Charles Ross' Lightning Association. Many thanks to them for supporting us in this way. These events have, without exception, been great days out and a must for all Lightning enthusiasts.

For those of you who couldn't make the Bruntingthorpe Cold War Jets open day earlier this month, I've included below a great shot of '728, via the LPG.

Here's looking forward to a photograph of XS422 at Stennis in a similar configuration...



Upcoming Events

We hope to field a couple of the Supporter's Group execs for the Gatwick Airport Museum (GAM) open day on Saturday 1st November. We look forward to catching up with as many of you as can make it down.

Phil Kingsbury

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