

UK ALL-PARTY GROUP VISITS AOPA US AND IAOPA HQ

As in diplomatic, military, and economic interests, Brits and Americans have much in common when it comes to aviation and collaboration is key to making general aviation a success on both sides of the pond. To that end, AOPA hosted members of the U.K. Parliament at its Frederick, Maryland, headquarters to share experiences and strategies.



Members of the United Kingdom All-party Parliamentary group for general aviation advocacy visit AOPA headquarters in Frederick, Maryland, July 30, 2018. Photo by David Tulis.

The leaders from the United Kingdom, better known as the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), visited with a simple mission to improve and keep GA thriving and vibrant in their homeland. Similar to the GA Caucuses in Washington, D.C., the APPG has set up working groups to tackle different aspects of GA policy, including airfields, airspace, taxes, and regulations, and to preserve history.

Research by Great Britain's **York Aviation** air transport consultants notes that GA contributes nearly \$4 billion (3 billion pounds) to the U.K.'s national economy, employs nearly 38,000 people, and is a critical path for pilots, engineers, air traffic controllers, and others.

For some time, GA in the United Kingdom and across most of Europe has seen a decline in operations because of burdensome regulations and high operating costs. Those issues relegated GA operations to a backseat behind commercial airlines, but the APPG is working to turn things around. And it's looking much brighter in the United Kingdom, as the group was recently able to convince the government to appoint a GA champion to the Department of Transport.

APPG hopes to learn from AOPA's recent accomplishments and long-term goals to get more people flying, and to keep them flying.

AOPA's You Can Fly initiatives are making a huge impact on the industry and the United Kingdom has taken notice. The Rusty Pilots Program has helped more than 5,000 pilots return to active status and continues to grow. The AOPA High School Aviation STEM Curriculum tested ninth grade courses last school year and will introduce three different pathways to aviation to more than 2,000 students across the country, in grades nine and 10 this fall.

In 2017, AOPA's Flight Training initiative acknowledged 89 schools and 71 flight instructors for their exceptional work in flight training, and You Can Fly's Flying Club initiative has also helped start 90 new flying clubs since inception, and 25 just this year.

One of the visiting leaders pilot Grant Shapps, chair of the APPG on General Aviation, and Member of Parliament for Welwyn Hatfield, shared his enthusiasm about working with AOPA amidst growing interest from lawmakers to improve aviation and to promote STEM education in classrooms.

"Without general aviation, you can't train your pilots," the Piper Saratoga owner said. "We're working on that on both sides of the Atlantic and I just feel like it's going to make a real difference when it comes to lawmaking."

"AOPA is thrilled to have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from our British counterparts," AOPA President Mark Baker. "We look forward to working together to advance priorities globally that will help protect and grow the pilot population, including third class medical reform and STEM education."

During their visit, the APPG also met with the AOPA Air Safety Institute staff and other association leaders.

(Courtesy AOPA US Communications Team). [Originally published 1 Aug, 2018](#)

AOPA AUSTRALIA BRIEFS SENATE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL AVIATION INDUSTRY DECLINE AND THE NEED FOR REFORM

AOPA Australia briefed the Rural and Regional Affairs Transport Committee on Monday 27th August 2018 in Sydney, in furtherance of discussions regarding the decline of general aviation, the General Aviation Summit 2018 Resolutions and the need for immediate reform.



Items that were discussed at the meeting included;

1. Change to the Civil Aviation Act
2. Self-Certification Private Driver's License Medicals for GA
3. Independent Flight Instructors for GA
4. Adoption of US FAA regulations for GA flight operations

AOPA Australia continues to push for regulatory relief for general aviation following a highly

successful general aviation summit that was held last month. Full details of the meeting and the progress being made in Australia are available on the AOPA Australia [Facebook page](#).

AOPA DENMARK: HOW COOPERATION AND INCREASED AWARENESS HELPED SAVE AN AIRFIELD



Airports and airstrips are a threatened species all over the world. Governments and municipalities are looking for savings in their budgets, but most are not aware of the benefits that a local airfield brings to the community.

Recently, AOPA Denmark helped save the small countryside airfield of Sydfyn/Taasinge, (EKTS). A VFR day/night grass strip serving the public, local businesses, the local flying club, and home

of Denmark's smallest commercial airline, Starling Air, operating single engine Cessna's and the twin-engine Partenavia. The local municipality saw an opportunity to save approx. EUR 70.000 annually by closing the airfield.

A joint effort between users of the airfield, the local community, and AOPA Denmark convinced the politicians that it was vital to continue the support and that the loss for the community by closing the airfield would be many times higher than the potential cost saving. The local airline would need to close or relocate, local businesses would lose quick access to their export markets, fewer flying tourists would visit the area and generate less activity for hotels, restaurants, car rental companies etc.

The massive response to the proposed airport closure coming not only from Denmark but from several countries around Europe made the significance of the airport very clear. So much in fact, that the local politicians agreed to provide a 20-year lease of the facilities instead of the current 6-month lease period which for many years has hampered investments in the airfield. The increased awareness of the importance of the airfield will now hopefully lead to increased investments and maybe paving the runway to make it usable year-round.

(Courtesy IAOPA Europe).

AOPA CHINA HOSTS FLY-IN

From August 18 to 20, the 7th Shenyang Faku AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of China) International Flight Convention was held in Shenyang General Aviation Industrial Base and Shenyang Caihu Holiday Resort. The event was hosted by the Shenyang Municipal Government. Nearly 100 aircraft participated in the performance, including power parachutes, autogyro, fixed-wing airplanes and helicopters, attracting more than 100,000 people from home and abroad.

As one of the supporters of this year's convention, AOPA-China was the organizer and host of the First Shenyang Faku AOPA International Flight Convention. A nation-known LSA, SA60L performed its flight during the convention, which is designed and manufactured by Chinese private-owned company, Sunward.

UAS has become the hot topic in the recent decade. A new sector of exhibition of UAS as well as unmanned systems were introduced last week. Hot topics such as UAS management and integrated system with the ATC were discussed, making it an opportunity for people to know about GA and the development of this industry. For more information visit the AOPA China website.

(Courtesy AOPA China).

MEMORIAL HANS GUTMANN TOURIST RALLY FLIGHT 2018

16 international crews, a total of 40 pilots from Luxembourg, Germany, Poland, Belgium, Finland, UK, USA, Turkey, Holland, Estonia, Ukraine, and even Israel completed the challenge of 3,600 km in 10 days. The route took the group via Moldova (Chişinău), Ukraine (Kiev), Romania (Constanta), Bulgaria, Serbia (Nys), Croatia (Rijeka) to the terminus Venice.



Of course, this time the cultural and culinary experience was enhanced as city and sightseeing tours were offered at almost every destination.

All of this would not have been possible without the help of local aeroclubs, the local AOPAs, and the bonds that have been forged over time between them. The group did face some challenges along the way including a lack of special and overflight permits, parking spaces, and AVGAS availability at a few locations. Participants arriving in Chişinău had to land at the International Airport in Chişinău and reposition to a separate field 25 km away for parking. The group had a similar experience in Constanta (Romania). Upon arrival in Kiev, there was plenty of aircraft parking available, the only problem was that it is not available for general aviation aircraft. Thanks to our AOPA friends in Kiev when the group arrived they were able to park in an area at the adjoining airport museum which is located just outside of the airport.

All in all, a very interesting rally, lots of new experiences, a good team and - depending on the plane - a 25 to 35 hours unforgettable flight experience!

(Submitted by AOPA Luxembourg)



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LINK TO IAOPA EUROPE NEWSLETTER

Read the latest information on what IAOPA affiliates are doing in Europe. AOPA's in every part of the globe are making a positive difference for general aviation and there is simply not enough room to publish all that is being done to keep you flying. For the latest updates on what is going on at IAOPA Europe check their website at <http://www.iaopa.eu/>.



SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH YOUR MEMBERS

Nothing can keep existing members, and attract new members, like reminding them of the great work that IAOPA affiliates, and IAOPA, are doing on national, regional, and international levels to keep them flying. Great work is being done in all parts of the globe to advance the interests of general aviation, and the best way to share that message is to make sure that this newsletter gets to as many members, and non-members alike. So, I encourage you to publish this on your website, send on via email to your members, and do what you can to help spread the word.

Our focus with the e-News is to let the world know what IAOPA Affiliate around the globe are doing to keep general aviation flying. Each affiliate of IAOPA is encouraged to submit stories that we can post in e-News to share your successes so that others can benefit. Stories should be directed to the Secretary General, contact [IAOPA HQ](#) if you need additional information or have any questions.