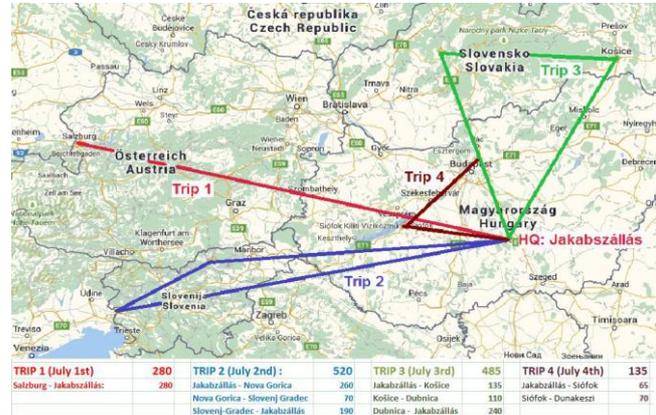




Memorial Tourist Rally Flight Hans Gutmann 2015



Every year Jean Birgen, technical advisor FAI-GAC, organizes a long-range memorial rally for Hans Gutmann. This year, from 1st to 5th July, a new formula was explored, i.e. to fly every day from a centrally located destination (Jakabszallas / Hungary) to a different airfield/airport with return every evening to the main base. Having a unique home base is an advantage. It avoids packing bags every day. Another advantage is that the airfield is well equipped with 2 runways (1 concrete and 1 grass) and a hotel on site featuring a Restaurant, a Barbecue, a Swimming pool, Wellness equipment, and the possibility to organize tours, also on horseback.

The proposed new formula appeared to be well accepted as 15 teams enlisted from all over Europe. They were due to arrive on 1st July in Jakabszallas. 3 teams came from Italy, 2 from Spain, 7 from Luxembourg, 1 from Israel, 1 from The Netherlands, and 1 from Switzerland. Unfortunately, 2 teams had to abandon the flight due to technical problems and 1 for reasons of illness.



The Rally Team in Jakabszallas



Flying into Austria



The Team at Red Bull Hangar 7 / Salzburg Airport

On **1st July**, stopping over on the way to Jakabszallas, the teams landed at Salzburg Airport to visit the famous RED BULL museum. They were met upon arrival by the Chief Pilot Raimund RIEDMANN in person who ran the hangar 7 museum tour, including the visit of the maintenance hangar 8.

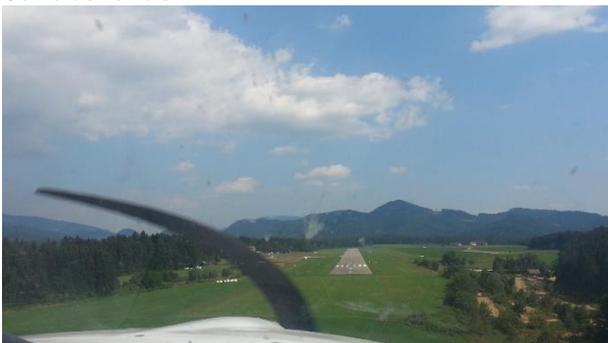


Ajdovščina airfield with Pipistrel Plant



Pipistrel Alpha Electro Airplane

On **2nd July** the destination was Slovenia where we landed after a navigation test to visit the PIPISTREL factory in Ajdovščina. Pipistrel manufactures gliders and ultralights. They also produce a new model, the PANTHERA, an advanced 4 seater aircraft. Jean Birgen could fly the new electrically powered aircraft, the ALPHA-ELECTRO as the test pilot for the group. Thereafter a precision landing test was organized in Slovenj Gradec before returning to Jakabszallas.



Approaching Slovenj Gradec for Precision Landings



Navigation Classic Style

On **3rd July** the team flew into Dubnica/Slovakia. The flight featured a precision navigation flight to validate the data entered in the flight plan, i.e. time/duration and fuel consumption of the flight. The airfield has a 1200 meters runway. It offers an aeronautical museum in which a full range of Russian aircraft could be seen. It was also possible to arrange for parachute tandem flights. Upon return to Jakabszallas, a gala closing dinner with a gypsy orchestra was organized in the local restaurant.



Approaching Dubnica Airfield



Vintage Russian Aircraft at Dubnica Airfield

On **4th July** the destination was Dunakeszy/Hungary north of Budapest with an intermediate stop at Siofok, located on the Balaton Lake. Dunakeszy is a square platform 800 x 800 meters wide. It cannot be found in a GPS data base. Hence a navigation flight was in order to check en-route reporting points.



Lower Tatra Mountains in Slovakia



Dunakeszy / Hungary

On **5th July** the team attended the famous RED BULL air race in Budapest. A crowd of a million people enjoyed the race, which took place over the Danube River.



Red Bull Air-Race Budapest 2015



Pipistrel Alpha Electro in Flight

On **6th July** the return flights took place after re-fuelling in Győr. Thank you FAI-GAC for this interesting rally and trip.

Jean Birgen
Technical advisor FAI-GAC