



The Old Fliers' Group

Attached to the Royal Aero Club of WA (Inc).

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Bulletin No 129 November 2015

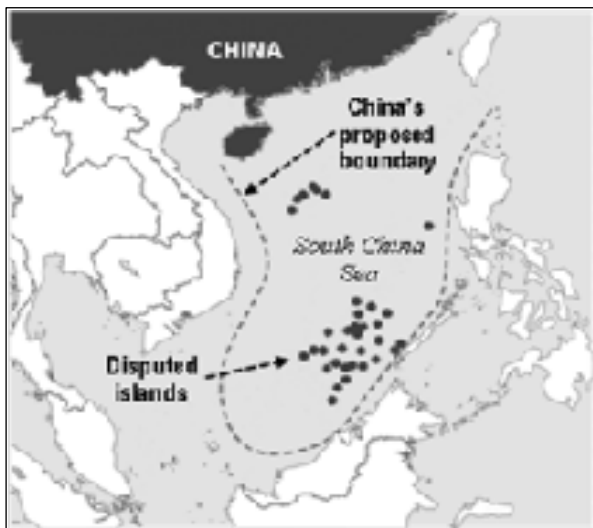
NEXT MEETING Friday November 27th

October Meeting Report

Mini-speaker

Our *Mini-Speaker* for October was Hilly Rostovsky who spoke about the current and historical problems in the South China Sea. It appears that there was friction in the area as early as 1958 when Hilly was serving as a jet fighter pilot on the HMS *Albion*. At that time, an RAF Shackleton and a luxury yacht went missing in the area.

Hilly was in a ground party dropped from a chopper onto an island where a suspicious objects had been observed. To their surprise they noted several pieces of heavy artillery around the circumference of the island and in a clearing they came across about twenty men armed with automatic weapons. While communication was difficult due to language differences, it appeared that they were Chinese and were trying to enforce a 'no fly, no go zone' over the Spratly Islands and the associated archipelago.



China's proposals for the South China Sea.

So what's new? Today, as well as China, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam have all made territorial claims in the disputed area. There is a legal difference between a 'rock, a reef' and an 'island', and China is 'building' islands which have a 200 nautical mile exclusion zone. This could give them control of the area indicated on the above map.

Speaker of the Day

Wayne Parsons was our *Speaker of the Day* with an informative session on the problems of flying heavy

passenger aircraft in Africa and the Middle East. Wayne was recruited into Air Atlanta Icelandic in April 1989. The company was expanding with the inclusion of its first B747 and had contracts to deliver passengers to the Hajj in Mecca.

Over 2,000,000 people arrive each year for the single event. It puts extreme pressure on all aspects of transport and communications.



The Mecca terminal handles 80,000 people at one time.

Wayne spoke of sub-standard facilities, sand storms, blistering temperatures, language difficulties and load factors of 100% (that's 483 pax on a B747 – Phew!)

Special thanks to both speakers for their informative contributions.

Parking

The new parking arrangement has not worked well for OFG members. We are hoping for an improvement in procedures very soon – or at least by next year.

Next Meeting

The next OFG meeting on Friday November 27th will be a family affair. It will feature Mal Yeo as *Mini Speaker* – he will talk about his engine failure in a Cessna 206 – and his daughter, Robyn, will be *Speaker of the Day* and will take us back to Rwanda for the second part of her story. I'm sure you will remember her dynamic delivery last June.

Hope you can make it to the Royal Aero Club just before noon for lunch and to hear our speakers, plus the traditional "Christmas Pud".

End of Year

If you are planning ahead you should note that there will be no OFG meeting in December, so the November meeting will be the last for this year. The first meeting in the New Year will take place on Friday January 29th.

Brian Hernan