



International Bücker Meeting

31/08/2018 until 02/09/2018

Airfield Thun, Switzerland

Thun, March, 27th, 2018

MEDIA BULLETIN 03

The Airfield Thun: A Real Melting Pot

The airfield Thun is a real melting pot of different aviatic and non-aviatic users. At the edge of the Bernese Alps, there are many different groupings who live in a peaceful coexistence using the same airfield – with a lot of enthusiasm and volunteering work.

Occasionally, on a beautiful Sunday, it is quite busy on the airfield of Thun: There are gliders, aeroplanes and model aeroplanes climbing into the air, there are dog owners walking their dears and hobby sports people on the same place, the Allmend and the tank road, all searching for recreation. In addition, dads with their children run around in a hangar or around the airfield pub looking for the craziest aviation stories or simply to catch the best sight of the winged beauties coming from nearby or far away.

The owner of this area, Allmend and tank road, is called Armasuisse. This is the centre of competence for property, which is part of the VBS, in English The Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport DDPS. However, since the 1950ies, the army does not use the airfield of Thun any more. On the other hand, already since the 1930ies, there was built a first shed for civil sports aeroplanes on that airfield. Today, the Association of The Airfield Thun runs the area and coordinates all activity on the airfield. This association unites a lot of members such as the powered aircraft group, the glider group, the model aeroplanes group, the group of historic and self-made aeroplanes and the Bücker fan club – all groups reside in Thun. The Association of The Airfield Thun itself is a member of the Aeroclub of the Bernese Oberland as well as a member of the Aeroclub Switzerland.

Many different users

On the homepage of airfield-thun.ch you may find a whole list of activities that the association is offering: “The association provides the infrastructure for a safe aviation operation to the different aviation groups in town.” The infrastructure includes the following parts: There is a grass runway of a length of 800m for motorized aeroplanes and gliders, a hangar for aeroplanes including a workshop (Airmatec), a C-Office, a hangar for gliders with a parking space nearby for their trailers, a workshop area for model aeroplanes, an office for the flying school, a room for meetings (B-Office) and a small restaurant for the culinary part. As already mentioned above, the airfield Thun is a real melting pot of many different interests, that all have the aviation in common. The Association of The Airfield Thun is therefore the amalgamation of all those users. It aims to organize regular events on this airfield.

Within one year, there are around 4000 starts and landings taking place on the airfield of Thun. Though, only when the weather is nice, there are flying-ins and outs, especially to keep the grass runway in a solid condition. Especially during the winter months, when it thaws, the soil gets easily damaged, and this you may observe on the aeroplanes. If a pilot is landing on a soft runway, he has



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to expect to use more time to clean his aeroplane than the time he used in the air. Therefore, the airfield is closed from mid-December till mid-March for pilots who do not reside Thun.

Beautiful – but challenging

For those of you who think if this rather small airfield of Thun is attractive, I would like to mention two facts: Once, there are those two brothers who fly regularly from Speck-Fehraltorf (Kanton of Zürich) to Thun, where they enjoy a large swim in the lake of Thun and then fly refreshed home again. Well, yes, they do so only during the summer months. Second: Especially flying instructors love the airfield of Thun for practicing the flying: The approach is rather easy if you watch the topographic surrounding and in front of the Alp panorama the flying is just wonderful. However, due to the mountains closed by, certain wind constellations must be taken care of, which sometimes can be a challenge for the flying scholars. In addition, the airspace of the airport of Bern has to be flown around correctly.

Visit by the BBC

The airfield of Thun is the home base for numerous aeroplanes and gliders. More than half a dozen aeroplanes are based in Thun. Among them, there is one Bücker which belongs to the fan club. For this plane even, a film team of the BBC already arrived in order to present the yellow beauty and its owners in the sending “Great Continental Railway Journeys”. And, of course, this aeroplane HB-UUD will be present as well on the International Bücker-Meeting 2018 taking place this summer from 31 August to the 2 September on the airfield of Thun.

Box: # Wanted: aviation stories

The managers of the International Bücker-Meeting 2018, which takes place from the 31 August to the 2 September, are looking for aviation stories which people know. People who live in the area of Thun / Berner Oberland who know some interesting occurrences which happened with an aeroplane are kindly invited to send these stories to info@air-thun. The best stories will be published in the guide book of the Bücker-Meeting.

picture captions:

Media bulletin_03_Bild01 und _Bild02:

On a beautiful Sunday morning there is a lot of activity at the airfield Thun

Media bulletin _03_Bild03_BBC01 bis _Bild07_BBC05:

The BBC team „Great Continental Railway Journeys“ with moderator Michael Portillo (in red pants) during filming at the airfield Thun.

Media bulletin _03_Bild10_HB-UUD und Bild11_HB-UUD:

The „domestic“ Bücker: HB UUD at the home airfield Thun.