



## Euro Migration – More Than a Fly-In

**A**s I write this, my wife Lisa and I have just completed the 24-plus-hour journey from Athens International Airport back to the shores of Lake Superior. As exhausting as the trip might seem, it was well worth the time and effort we took to join COPA members from Europe, as well as the United States and

Israel, as we gathered for the first time in Greece. This Euro Migration was something very special, as it was much more than simply a "Migration" event.

Through the very hard work of COPA member Chris Leontopoulos and his fellow Greek COPA members, along with members of the Hellenic Pilots Association, we were all able to be part of something bigger than ourselves. Our destination airport, Kalamata, Greece, actually serves primarily as one of the main flight training bases for the Hellenic Air Force. There's a small, seasonal charter flight terminal, but other than that, there's little opportunity for general aviation (GA) in the area of southwestern Greece. It was the Greek government, most notably the Defence Ministry and the regional government that have recognized the financial advantages of opening up the airport to general aviation.

Thus, COPA became the "agents of change" in this important endeavor, and the results were both interesting and spectacular! Through Chris' warm generosity, Lisa and I flew with him from the Athens area (from another joint-use airport, I might add) to Kalamata. When we touched down, we became among the very first small GA aircraft to arrive with more than 40 more Cirrus airplanes behind us! A special fueling point had been established in cooperation with the civil authorities and the Hellenic Air Force, and we proceeded to parking. Kalamata has no radar services, interestingly enough, and so we watched over the course of the rest of the day as Cirrus aircraft landed, many after being in holding patterns for up to 90 minutes. COPA had overwhelmed Athens Center! Each aircraft had to be metered into the airport, so it became an interesting exercise for your fellow COPA members, many of whom went from one holding point to another before being cleared for the approach.

The result was spectacular, as the Greek people welcomed us with a veritable festival of food, hospitality and speeches that were shown later that night on Greek television!

The next few days flew by with gracious dining, touring, a Partner-In-Command course and a Critical Decision Making seminar, to boot! Our best "you think you flew a long way" story was, hands down, San Diego-based COPA member Joey MacMillan and his nephew, who stopped in for E14 as part of their around-the-world adventure. The Greeks were so impressed with that feat that they had a special plaque for him that was presented during the welcoming celebration! Chris experienced first-hand,



*Chris Leontopoulos guides his SR22 into Kalamata as the lead ship of Euro Migration 14!*

the joys and the "what do you mean, [fill in the blank] is/ isn't happening?!" moments that every COPA volunteer before him has encountered. He handled each and every single one of those moments with grace and aplomb. He's now an experienced "COPA Volunteer Veteran," and is owed our deepest appreciation. COPA Board Member Timm Preusser truly was able to find a treasure in him!

It was very gratifying to see COPA become the "leading edge" of the campaign to open up more of Greece's many airports to general aviation. There will be many years and a great deal of work to be done, but together with the Hellenic Pilots Association, we helped them take the first steps in an effort to open the world of general aviation across the country, and more of Greece to pilots across the world.

## Migration 14 – Homeward Bound

I was flying the other day with my CSIP, and we both remarked how busy things are at the "Mothership" Cirrus factory here in Duluth. We shared airspace with one of the SF50 VisionJets, there were several SR22s in flight test and at least a couple with excited new owners receiving their initial training from the factory. All in all, Duluth and Cirrus are bustling these days. You will have a chance to share that aviation excitement, Thursday through Sunday, September 8-11, 2016 as COPA Migration returns to Duluth. Starting with some exciting pre-Migration opportunities, both educational and recreational, (Hint: Golfers, bring your clubs!) through Saturday night's Annual Banquet, with a very exciting guest speaker, COPA members will all have a chance to come and enjoy social events, education, training, and our always-packed trade show. Migration also gives the members who attend the chance to hear about their Association "straight from the horses' mouths"

at our Annual Meeting, along with the opportunity for another "Breakfast with Cirrus." Your Migration Planning Committee is working with Garmin to set up a breakfast learning session on the other day of seminars. Don't forget that this year will feature another great *Cirrus Life* event Friday night; expect a fun evening, no doubt filled with lots of great food and enjoyment!

Come join all your friends this year at Migration 14, as we all unite in "coming home" to Duluth and Cirrus! Registration should be opening about the time you receive this edition of *Cirrus Pilot*. Be sure to be a part of the largest annual COPA event anywhere in the world!

### Drones: They are Here, Get Used to It

Elsewhere in this issue (on page 49), you will find the Aviator Model Code of Conduct Initiatives for flying safely in the Drone Age program poster "Flying in the Drone Zone." No matter if you hate them, love them, fly them yourself or simply have no opinion about them, it is important that those of us who own and fly full-size aircraft recognize the "Drone Age" is upon us. The Initiative has worked hard to build up some "best practices" for us to consider when sharing airspace with these newest additions to the aviation ecosphere.

It is clear that they are not going away, and we need to uphold our end of the need to be "good neighbors" as well as knowing new chart symbology and recognizing when we might have an increased risk of encountering these new aerial denizens. Please look, read the information and above all, keep flying safe!

Be safe and have fun,

Andy Niemyer,  
COPA President

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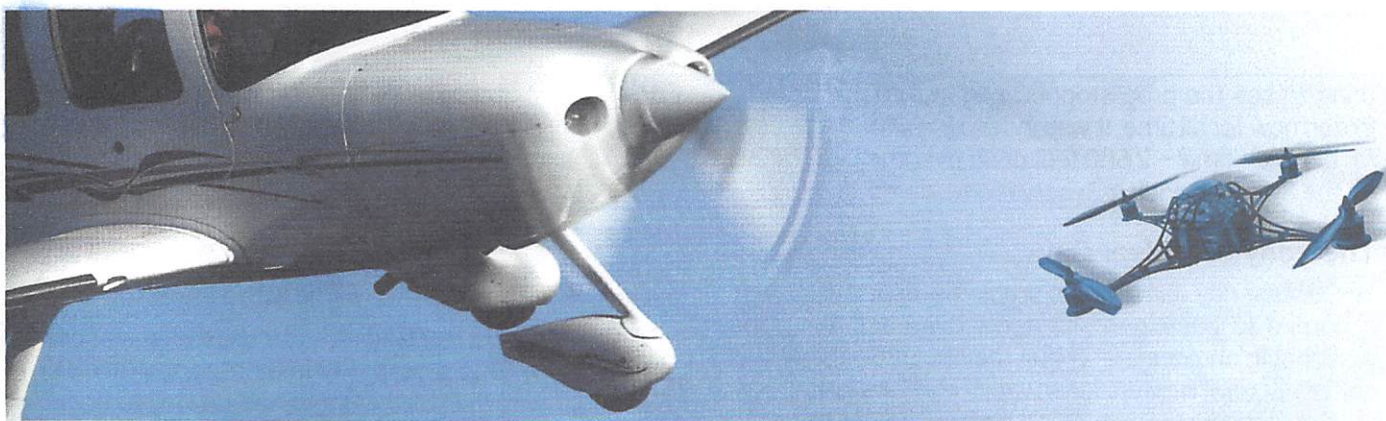
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## Flying in the **Drone Zone**

As drones proliferate, manned aircraft pilots face new safety challenges. The number of drone operators exceeds that of manned aircraft pilots, increasing potential for midair collision. What can you do to fly more safely through the Drone Zone?

### Where is the Drone Zone?

**The Drone Zone is EVERYWHERE** – in any airspace, altitude, and phase of flight.

- While most small drones operate below 400' AGL and beyond 5 SM from airports, there are many exceptions.
- Airports and ATC may know of drone operations in the airport environment without notifying pilots.

### Before you fly

- Review NOTAMS, aeronautical charts, Chart Supplements, and other resources for drone avoidance planning. Contact Flight Service for drone updates.
- Be familiar with the Unmanned Aircraft Activity symbol.
- Consider that drone operations may take place near airports, public gatherings, and newsworthy events.



### In the Drone Zone: Defensive Flying Tips

- Assume drone operators may not know or follow the rules.
- Expect erratic maneuvers and unpredictable flight paths by drones.
- Recognize the significant limitations of see-and-avoid regarding drones. Remain vigilant.
- Anticipate drone operations at fires, public gatherings and points-of-interest.
- Monitor ATC; ask for drone updates. Report drone incidents to ATC.
- Avoid complacency; be prepared for the unknown.
- Fly predictably & visibly (lights on), so drone operators can better avoid you.



For additional guidance: [www.secureav.com/drones](http://www.secureav.com/drones)

