

TAKE OFF

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SINGAPORE YOUTH FLYING CLUB



SINGAPORE YOUTH
FLYING CLUB

Takes You To Greater Heights

SINCE 1971

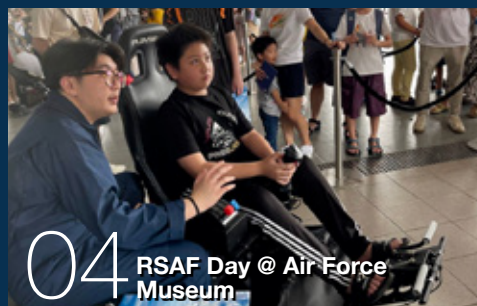
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GM's Foreword

In the second half of 2024, we participated in several outreach events hosted by the RSAF, such as the RSAF Day 2024 @Air Force Museum and the Tengah Airbase Community Outreach Programme (COP) held at the Tengah Airbase, both of which provided engagement opportunities for SYFC. Selected students were also privileged to visit the RSAF 142 Squadron, understanding the mission and roles of the F-15SG 'Gryphons'.

The 2024 Private Pilot Licence (PPL) Wings & Aviation Awards Ceremony was graced by Mr Zaqy Mohamad, Senior Minister of State for Defence and Manpower. Congratulations to our 25 newly minted pilots, and wishing you blue skies on your progression to an aviation career.

Another highlight this year was our participation in the National Camp 2024 at Maju Camp, which allowed our CCA students to interact with other uniformed groups, enhancing their understanding of the unique roles and heritage of each uniformed group, while developing their leadership skills, discipline and community service awareness.

It was a fulfilling year, kudos to every staff member of SYFC for making these happen!

Warmest regards

COL (RET) Foo Yang Ge
General Manager
Singapore Youth Flying Club

PPL WINGS AND AVIATION AWARDS CEREMONY 2024 [5 Oct 2024]

SYFC held its annual SYFC PPL Wings and Aviation Awards Ceremony on 5 Oct 24 at the Air Force Training Command (AFTC) auditorium. The event was graced by Mr Zaqy Mohamad, Senior Minister of State for Defence and Manpower, as the Guest-of-Honour. A total of 25 graduates were presented with the Private Pilot Licence (PPL) Wings. The Best-in-Flying trophy was awarded to Malcolm Lai from Temasek Polytechnic and the Best-in-Ground-School trophy was awarded to Goh Yun Xuan Cherie from Raffles Institution (Junior College).



NATIONAL DAY OBSERVANCE

[8 Aug 2024]

SYFC held its National Day Observance Ceremony on 8 August 2024 at the SYFC Theatrette to mark Singapore's 59th birthday. As part of the observance, SYFC presented National Day goodie bags to the general workers who supported it, including those involved in the SYFC roof repairs and the upkeep of the premises.



RSAF DAY @ AIR FORCE MUSEUM

[1 Sep 2024]



SYFC was invited to set up a recruitment booth at the Singapore Air Force Museum (AFM) for RSAF Day on 1 September 2024. The event drew youths and families with a range of activities, including flight simulators and military dogs bomb sniffing demonstrations.

At the booth, the team shared how SYFC's flying course can help Singaporean youths take a first step towards their dream of flight, and explore aviation pathways that may lead to a career in the RSAF.



NATIONAL CAMP 2024 @ MAJU CAMP [21-24 Aug 2024]



National Camp brought together students from nine uniformed groups and SYFC to interact and strengthen camaraderie. The theme, “United in Diversity”, underscored the importance of working together across different backgrounds.

My first impression of the camp was positive. I enjoyed experiencing the regimental and orderly culture of the uniformed groups, while still sharing laughs and having fun as we tackled challenges together. Along the way, I gained a better appreciation of each uniformed group’s unique role and heritage.

Highlights included engaging discussions, hands-on activities and a memorable campfire night. By the end of the camp, I had made new friends and felt a stronger sense of shared commitment to Singapore’s safety and security.

By Tan Kai Hang, School of Science and Technology, Singapore



SYFC INTER-SCHOOL AEROMODELLING COMPETITION

[Jul to Oct 2024]



The SYFC Inter-School Aeromodelling Competition (SIAC) was held from July to September 2024, bringing together 17 schools alongside the SYFC Open Unit (SOU). The competition comprised five segments: Launch Glider, Flight Simulation, First-Person View (FPV) Drone, Fixed-Wing RC Pylon Race, and Electric Control-Line Race. Students put their designs, flying skills and teamwork to the test across the season.

The competition concluded on 26 October 2024 at Northbrooks Secondary School. The finale began with a Teacher-Student Launch Glider challenge, before the top teams were recognised at the prize presentation ceremony.

Congratulations to the top three overall winners:

- Champion: Hwa Chong Institution
- 1st Runner-Up: Bedok Green Secondary School
- 2nd Runner-Up: Evergreen Secondary School

SYFC congratulates the winners and thanks all participants, schools and teachers for their support.

TENGAH AIRBASE COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME @ TENGAH HANGAR [16 Nov 2024]

SYFC participated in the Tengah Air Base Community Outreach Programme at Tengah Hangar on 16 November 2024. With an estimated turnout of about 4,000 members of the public, the event provided a platform for SYFC to connect with the western community in Singapore and engage youths and families who were curious about flying.



142 SQN VISIT @ PLAB [28 Nov 2024]

SYFC had the opportunity to visit the Republic of Singapore Air Force RSAF 142 SQN on 28 November 2024. During the visit, a group of selected Polytechnic and Junior College students had an up-close look at the F-15SG and interacted with RSAF pilots and aircrew.

Students learnt more about the aircraft's role and capabilities, and gained insight into the squadron's operational environment and daily work. The visit gave them a better sense of the standards, teamwork and commitment required in the RSAF.



WOMEN IN AVIATION @ SYFC

[14 Dec 2024]

SYFC hosted members of Women in Aviation (Singapore Chapter), together with the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF), for a learning visit on pathways into aviation. Students met CPT Hannah Teo, a Weapon Systems Officer (Fighter), who shared her training journey and day-to-day role, offering participants a closer look at life in the Air Force.

Participants also tried SYFC's flight simulator, which helped to connect classroom learning with real-time decision-making in the cockpit. The session highlighted how SYFC's training builds foundational skills and how these can support youths as they explore future pathways in aviation. The visit reinforced SYFC's mission to inspire students' interest in aviation.



GIRLS IN AVIATION @ TP [19 Oct 2024]

SYFC participated in the annual Girls in Aviation event at Temasek Polytechnic on 19 October 2024. The session provided an opportunity for SYFC to engage female youths who are interested in aviation, and to share about the flying programmes offered by SYFC.



FIRST SOLO



Everything felt different on the day of my first solo. After take-off, I turned to my right to confirm my checks with my instructor, and realised the right-hand seat was empty. As the aircraft climbed, the ground fell away and the vehicles and people below grew smaller by the second. That was when it hit me. I was flying solo.

Training had not been easy. The hours were long, and there were days when the workload felt like climbing against the wind. Yet every lesson mattered. Managing multiple tasks at once, keeping up with radio calls, and recognising familiar places from 5,000 feet are moments I will always remember. More than anything, the experience strengthened my love for flying and helped me grow in confidence.

Even now, the words “Skylark 98, cleared to land” still ring in my head from time to time. Sometimes, there is a lingering sadness when the main wheels touch down after a flight. But life is like a series of touch-and-goes. Tough moments pass, and good ones return. If you asked me whether I would do it all over again, my answer would be yes.

I am deeply grateful to Mr Teo MT for the humour in the air, Mr Cheang MJ for the detailed lessons, and Ms Rilvia Lim for tirelessly arranging my flight plans. I also thank the other flying instructors and operational staff for supporting me throughout this journey. Their encouragement, especially during challenging conditions, brought me to where I am today. I look forward to the adventures ahead.

Liu BR, BFC 291 [5 Sep 2024]

Completing my first solo flight was an exhilarating experience. As my instructor stepped out of the aircraft, I felt a mixture of excitement and responsibility, knowing it was going to be just me alone up there. Without my instructor by my side, each decision felt more significant, and I realised how important everything he had taught me was. The view from the cockpit seemed even more spectacular, as if it was rewarding me for reaching this milestone. Landing on my own was nerve-wracking and incredibly fulfilling. It was a defining moment that strengthened my confidence as a pilot.

Zaqeerul Iman, BFC 295 [15 Nov 2024]



On my first solo, as I took to the air, I realised I had left more than just the ground behind me. My self-doubt and uncertainty fell away as I embraced the sensation of soaring through the skies alone. It felt wonderful to know that my instructors and the team on the ground trusted me to fly the aircraft and operate it safely. As I came in to land, I promised myself that I would cherish this opportunity. SYFC has given me a rare chance to pursue my passion for flying, and I will work hard to make the most of it.

Cai HW, BFC 296 [30 Nov 2024]

FINAL HANDLING TEST

On 26 June 2024, I took my Private Pilot Licence (PPL) Final Handling Test (FHT). I woke up excited, but also nervous, knowing that my training would culminate in this final sortie. Before leaving, I revised the aircraft systems and went through my briefing slides.

On the ground, I was still slightly anxious as I briefed my tester. After that, we walked out for the external checks. As I completed the routine checks and taxied out, I remembered what my instructor, Mr Hong MH, had told me: "Steady pom pi pi." I reminded myself to keep my composure and treat it like a general handling sortie that I had prepared for many times.

The climb to the training area was cloudy, but I kept calm and eventually reached 7,000 ft. I could not help but marvel at the view from above, with cars reduced to specks and buildings to tiny squares. The air exercises were routine and, soon after, we returned for circuits. We were unable to complete all the circuits within the time given, so we returned about an hour later to finish the remaining two. The winds were strong, but I drew on what my instructors had taught me to land the aircraft safely.

After a short break, I returned for the oral quiz with my examiner, Mr Toh BH. When we wrapped up, Mr Toh gave me a fist bump and told me I had passed the FHT. I was overjoyed and could not stop smiling the entire day.

Obtaining my PPL with SYFC is one of my proudest achievements, and I would not have done it any other way. I am grateful to all the instructors who guided me through this journey, especially my BFC instructor, Mr Lee SL, and my PPL instructor, Mr Hong MH. Their guidance, advice and encouragement helped me grow not only as a pilot, but also as a person. I would also like to thank the engineers, Ops and Recruitment teams for their support throughout my training. Through SYFC, I did not just learn how to fly an aircraft. I also developed my leadership skills and became a more confident and resilient person.



Chng KN, BFC 283 [26 Jun 2024]



Achieving my Private Pilot Licence (PPL) with SYFC has been an unforgettable journey. From ground school to flying solo, each challenge taught me resilience and dedication. I am grateful to my parents, instructors and coursemates for their guidance and support throughout this journey.

Danial Hadif, BFC 284 [14 Aug 2024]

RAILWAY CORRIDOR WALK

[30 Aug 2024]

SYFC and ST Engineering Defence Aviation Services (STEDAS) staff took part in a healthy lifestyle walk along the Rail Corridor on 30 August 2024. The walk started at King Albert Park MRT and concluded at Ghim Moh Market, covering about 3 to 4km.

The Rail Corridor provided a scenic setting for staff from both organisations to spend time together and promote healthy living. The activity also strengthened camaraderie and supported well-being across the teams.



SYFC 53RD ANNIVERSARY AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

[18 Dec 2024]

SYFC marked its 53rd anniversary together with a Christmas celebration on 18 December 2024 at 72 Prinsep Street. With a retro theme setting the tone for the afternoon, staff came together to reflect on SYFC's journey and celebrate the people who keep SYFC going.

The event opened with an address by SYFC General Manager, COL (RET) Calvin Foo, followed by a token of appreciation presentation. Staff then enjoyed a line-up of light-hearted activities and games, including bingo with prizes, as well as a Christmas gift exchange that added to the festive spirit. The celebration concluded with karaoke, rounding off the year on a warm note. It was a fantastic way to celebrate SYFC's 53rd anniversary and the Christmas season.

