



Owner James Black at the controls of his Antonov AN-2.

(Picture by Peter Frankland, 0837043)

The AN-2 flies in - distinctively

by Jess Stevenson

GUERNSEY'S 38th Air Rally saw microlights, home-builts and the world's biggest single engine biplane - the Antonov AN-2 - arrive in the island.

Thirty-six planes landed from places including Denmark, Luxembourg, France and Ireland to take part in the Guernsey Aero Club social event.

People were given the chance to fly in the Antonov, a plane that was designed in 1947 and manufactured up until 2001.

AN-2 Club director Bill Leary said: 'It's a unique experience and anyone who has a standard aircraft licence could fly it.'

Steve Copeland flew in in his Hawk XP 172.

'I come every year,' he said. Two sought-after touring planes, the Cirrus SR22 - which has a whole-aircraft parachute - and the Aquila A2-10 - a two-seater tourer with

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a clear cockpit - were also on display.

The rally took place over three days and on Saturday, pilots took part in a navigation competition to France.

Air Rally director Colin Ferbrache said everyone at the club had the chance to get involved with the event. 'It's the highlight of our year and it's the meeting of old and new friends.

'I get a lot of enjoyment out of it - mixing with different aviators,' he said.

'We are lucky that we are able to sustain the air rally and we get good support from the airport.'

On Saturday evening guests were invited to a Pink, Punk and Posh-themed hangar dinner ball.



Left: The world's largest single-engine biplane. the Antonov AN-2.

(0837041)