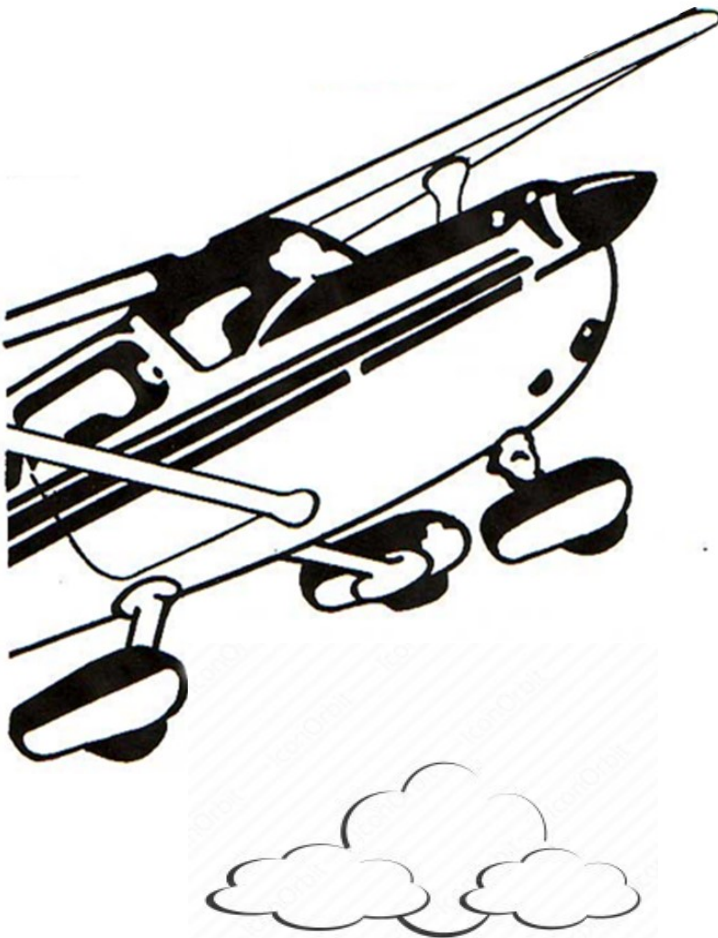


Fly About

Northam Aero club (Inc.) Newsletter

Vol. 54 Issue No.8 AUGUST 2023



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Presidents Message

President's Message

The Annual General Meeting was held on 12th August with all positions filled apart from the Treasurer. Congratulations to all who nominated and were declared elected to their positions. On Sunday, during the monthly club competition one of our competitors declared his interest and would like to take on the role, fantastic. It also looks like we may have someone to take on the Editor's role for the Fly About magazine also.

Thank you to all those who took time to attend the Annual General Meeting. Once again, it was well attended.

Unfortunately, we have had the passing of Geoff Way, another Inaugural member of our club and our deepest commiserations go to Nigel and the Way family.

Our new ablutions block is now completed but just waiting for the Shire and the Plumber to sign off on the completion.

The World Women's Ballooning Championships start on 2nd September and once again, anyone wanting to volunteer please feel free to contact me or any of the Committee, details on website at northamballooningevents.com/about and check out the events while you are there.

Once again, just a reminder we hold the Club Flying Competition every second Sunday of each month. It is lots of fun, we aim to improve our skills as pilots on the safety factor and participation. I mentioned if you are a student or non-current pilot and would like to compete let us know so we can arrange for an Instructor to fly with you. Pilots that fly in the monthly club competition keeps them current with 3 take offs and 3 landings every 90 days.

With this very cold weather make sure you use the carby heat when required plus a big thank you to Kevin for his very informative topic in the Fly About magazine.

Cheers,

Errol

Club Captain's Report

Captain's Report for Sunday 13th August 2023

As our Club Captain is on holidays at the moment and did not get the results in to our Temporary Editor we have to depend on the only entrant she has access to for an update on the results.

Errol Croft has advised that the only thing he remembers is that he came equal first with Mr Paul Blain and that Ashley Smith came last. Now I don't want to be unkind to Errol but I do believe that is called selective memory. I never knew he was so competitive.

Sorry Ashley I am sure you will redeem yourself next comp.

Of course, when I do receive the Club Captains report I will remove this rubbish page and replace with correct results.

Cheers,

Heather

Vale Geoff Way

GEOFFREY JOHN WAY

In the days many years ago; in a time prior to the consideration of an Aero Club, Geoff Way was a legend in the Northam area and in the motorsport community. I expect that others will write with more detail about the motor racing exploits of this man, but to impressionable youngsters of the time, he was both hero and gentleman.

Everyone had their favourite, but for me it was Ove Fundin for solos, Johnny Hamilton for speedway and Geoff Way for racing cars. Geoff raced in many of the early 'Around the Houses' events and although I'm told he drove lots of different sports cars, I remember him as a fierce competitor in his MG TC. Early history of the Caversham Motor Racing Circuit (previously a RAAF airfield) quotes Geoff as being a regular competitor. Those were the days when Jack Brabham won Perth's only Grand Prix.

The Northam Aero Club seems to have had some attraction for these motor racing enthusiasts of the day. Geoff and his racing compatriot Ron Posselt were both involved in the formation of the Club.

Geoff Way was a foundation member in 1968, when the NAC was formed. He took some flying lessons, but did not proceed to a licence. Through those early years of the Club, Geoff was always a contributor; both to its formation and also to the overall development.

Continued

Vale Geoffrey John Way

Cont'd

Geoff was a businessman, and I recall had offices in the old Mechanics Institute building (now the Coles & Red Rooster car parks). In later years he specialised in insurance, and developed a love of flying to match that of motor-sport.

Geoff (apart from being a founding member of NAC) was a regular at Club events, and a guiding influence on the Club's development. He was always a gentleman of the highest order and his decline over recent years was a great sorrow to us all.

Geoff is remembered as a great supporter and member of the Northam Aero Club, and our condolences go to his family. We shall remember him as "an absent friend".

GP

Wongan Hills Fly In

Save this date below for a local fly in to Wongan Hills.

Always a great weekend.

Wongan Hills Tourism Group
Reynoldson Reserve Wildflower Festival

**FRIDAY NIGHT
SUNDOWNER
3RD NOVEMBER**

Live Music by
Georgie Sadler & Ari Davis

 Grazing Boxes for two people \$25
Pre Order ONLY
Text your order to Alfreda Lyon
0418 915 517

Beef Sliders two for \$10
Available on the night

BYO
Beverages

Table Bookings Available
Contact Alfreda
0418 915 517

**FROM 6PM AT 'THE STATION'
WONGAN ROAD, WONGAN HILLS**

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 4TH**

7:30am - 8:30am
Big Breakfast at the Visitors Centre

9:30am - 2pm
Apex Market Stalls, Bus Tours to
Reynoldson Reserve, Devonshire Teas,
Vintage Cars & Tractors, Kids
Entertainment & More

Museum Twilight Drinks and Nibbles
Watch this space for more Information!



Pre-flight checks part 1

“Atomic batteries to power. Turbines to speed.” Robin’s pre-flight checks were very brief, no doubt based on the assumption that Alfred kept the Batmobile in such good nick that extensive checks were not necessary. And of course, the machine only had one driver. But if you don’t own your own aeroplane and you hire one, then unlike Batman, you don’t know what happened on the previous flight(s), and you also know the aeroplane has not been looked after daily by your own butler. So what should you look for in your pre-flight?

Mandatory checks

Schedule 5 of the CAR lists the checks that must be done in a daily inspection, meaning the inspection before the first flight of the day. Note there’s no rule saying you have to do all those checks if you’re the second or third person to fly the aeroplane that day. It’s just airmanship and survival instinct that make you do it before any flight.

Here are some tips relating to some of those checks. They may not all apply to every aeroplane, and it’s not an exhaustive list, but with any luck it’s a good start.

Inside the aeroplane

To do the external checks properly, you need:

The fuel selector on so you can do a fuel drain from the strainer,

Flaps down, and

Control lock out

To be safe before you wander around near the prop, also make sure the ignition is off, the mixture is lean and the throttle is at idle. Of course, the last pilot shut the aeroplane down properly so those things will be right, but as with many of your checks, it’s not about doing things as much as making sure things have been done.

Walking Around

It doesn’t matter where you start, as long as you’re consistent and you have a system in place to make sure you don’t miss anything. I start at the front and, other than a general lookout for anything obviously wrong such as missing bolts or rivets or cowlings not secure, my checks include:

The propeller is free of cracks and nicks, and the spinner is in good condition. If it’s a constant-speed prop, check that you can’t twist it, and that there are no oil leaks from the hub.

Check the air filter is clear.

There’s typically not a lot you can check in the engine, but you can check there are no fuel or oil leaks, and the exhaust is secure and free of cracks.

Check the nosewheel assembly, including enough extension in the oleo, and that the torque link (the steering elbow) and the shimmy damper are secure. If it’s retractable, you can check the door, and depending on how easy it is to see, the locking mechanism.

Pre-flight checks part 1 cont'd

Walking Around cont'd

Check the oil quantity, and remember if the engine is hot, the dipstick will probably overread. It may also be a bit hot to hold. Put the cap on finger-tight. If you've ever tried to undo an oil cap that feels like it's been torque-wrenched in place, you'll understand this tip.

Make sure the tyres are inflated enough and there is no canvas exposed, and roll the aeroplane forward or back to check for flat spots.

Wings

Check the lights are in good order.

Check the aileron hinges, linkage and mass balance (the little bits of lead that help to stop flutter). It's a bit harder in a low-wing aircraft than a high-wing one, but do your best. At this point some pilots like to check the controls are moving the right way when they move the ailerons. I do this check the other way round, once we're strapped in – stick left, left aileron up, right down – but neither way is right or wrong. Check the flap linkages and ensure the flaps don't move too much and too readily.

Struts – secure, with no obvious damage.

Pitot tube and static vent(s) - make sure any pitot cover is off, never blow into the pitot tube, and check for anything that may have chosen the pitot tube for a nest. This may be quite hard, hence your check that the airspeed is alive on the takeoff roll.

Fuel

Make sure the dipstick is the right one for that particular aeroplane. For instance, PGL holds 235 litres (62 US gallons), whereas a standard 172 holds 189 (50 USG), so PGL needs its own and not a standard 172 dipstick. And check you've put the tank caps back on properly.

Drain the tanks in at least one low point. If it's AVGAS LL you should see a light bluish tinge to the fuel, which is simply the dye added to help you identify it. Holding it up against a white surface helps with that. Any dirt or impurities should be obvious, and if the tanks are partly full and there's been condensation overnight, water will sit at the bottom. If there's water, simply keep draining until you get nothing but fuel.

Elevator and rudder

Check whatever linkages are accessible – most likely just the cables and split pins, or control rods. Check the trim tabs and their linkages are secure.

Remember not to yank the rudder around because it's connected to the pedals, which are connected to the nosewheel, which is connected to the ground and is not going anywhere, so pushing and pulling the rudder will only put unnecessary stress on the linkages.

Antennas – all secure.

Ensure all the surfaces are free of frost, ice and snow. Okay, that last one is not a biggie at Northam, although snow is a consideration at Jandakot because apparently that's the reason the new(ish) taxiway side lighting there is a few inches above the ground. So much for global warming.

Pre-flight checks part 1 cont'd

Walking Around cont'd

Windscreen – check it's clean, and use a non-abrasive cloth and window cleaner if need be. If the previous flight was at dawn or dusk, and the previous pilot hasn't been nice enough to clean the bugs off for you, this is a very necessary check.

Before you jump in, make sure the seats are secure and they are not going to slide back and leave you out of reach of the controls on take-off.

As for the checks inside the aeroplane – that's a topic for another article. Stay tuned. Same bat time, same bat channel next month.

Kevin

NAC Annual General Meeting 2023

On Saturday night at 7.30pm we held our Annual General Meeting and we had a few hardy members that weathered the cold to attend.

Our Returning Officer for the evening was Mr Claude Meunier who stepped in for Mr Denis Beresford as he was unable to make it. Thank you Claude.

As all positions were filled and no need for voting, the Returning Officer's job was made a lot easier and our good President Mr Errol Croft was installed for another twelve months.

The rest of the Committee consist of Sue Clements, Dave McFarlane, Dave Beech, Trevor Sangston, Liz Ellis and Heather Deegan. Good luck team for 2023/2024.

Mr Barry Bristow-Stagg, Mrs Sylvia Bristow-Stagg and Mr Michael Clements as representatives of the West Australian Balloon & Air Ship Club were in attendance with a giant cheque. As WABAC has now gone into recess all funds were donated to Northam Aero Club for use by any potential aviators to access to assist in piloting training for aviation on a scholarship basis.

Thank you to WABAC for their long affiliation to the Northam Aero Club.



Social

On Saturday night 5th August a contingent of Japanese Balloonists were in town to present Claude Meunier with a beautiful gift to say thank you for his assistance back in 2019 when they were once again in Northam to undertake a hot air balloon record.



Photos of group together on the evening.

Social

Thank you to Sue Clements for all your hard work during the National Hot Air Ballooning Championships held earlier this year in May 2023. This is the first night we finally caught up with her with her busy life at the Bar on 4th August 2023. Hopefully we don't take that long to thank you next time.



Photos

On 6th August Errol Croft took some of the Japanese visitors for a brief flight around Northam to show off the colours of the different crops. All visitors were most grateful for the flights and enjoyed a lovely day out.



Pre-flight checks with Yasumi and Errol Croft in the pilot's seat



Northam Airfield – a view from the air on 6th August 2023



Errol Croft about to take his visitors flying



From the air – our stunning Wheatbelt

Membership Renewal & Apparel

Northam Aero Club Membership & Apparel Order Form

Name: _____ ☐ Not Renewing

Address _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Type of Membership: ☐ Adult \$55.00 ☐ Junior \$10.00

Club Bank Details: BSB 036-107 Acc Number: 69-2937

Apparel: ☐ Club Polo Shirt \$35.00 – Size _____ Name on Shirt: _____

100% breathable polyester jersey knit, snag resistant. Knit collar with contrast tipping.

Mens sizes S M L XL 2XL 3XL or 5 XL (185gsm standard 3 button)

Womens sizes 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 or 24 (Ladies 215 gsm with open V with 2 press studs)

Club Cap \$25.00 plus \$8.00 postage ☐ Caps also available from the Bar

Total enclosed \$ _____

If you would like to receive an invoice please tick ☐

"Fly About" magazine Yes ☐

No ☐

Many thanks,
Northam Aero Club Committee

Northam Aero Club Cap \$25.00

Northam Aero Club Polo Shirt \$35.00 personalised



BAR ROSTER

BAR ROSTER

| AUG | |
|------|-----------|
| 19th | 1700-1900 |
| 26th | 1700-1900 |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| OCT | |
| 7th | 1700-1900 |
| 14th | 1700-1900 |
| 21st | 1700-1900 |
| 28th | 1700-1900 |

| SEP | |
|-------|--|
| 1—9th | NBE Womens International Hot Air |
| 16th | 1700-1900 |
| 23rd | 1700-1900 |
| 30th | 1700-1900 |
| | |
| NOV | |
| 4th | 1700-1900 |
| 11th | 1700-1900 |
| 18th | 1700-1900 |
| 25th | 1700-1900 |

**Next Club Committee meeting is:
Sunday 10th Sept 2023 at 13:00**

Aug/Sept 2023



| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Bar 1700-1900 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Bar 1700-1900 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 01 NBE practice 1600-2000 | 02 NBE 1600-2000 | 03 NBE 1600-2000 |
| 04 NBE 1600-2000 Dinner NAC | 05 NBE 1600-2000 | 06 NBE 1600-2000 | 07 NBE 1600-2000 | 08 NBE 1600-2000 Dinner NAC | 09 NBE Final Day | 10 NAC Comm Meeting |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Bar 1700-1900 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Bar 1700-1900 | 24 |

Wanted - Aviation Memorabilia

- Books
- Artifacts
- Photographs
- Old Aircraft Parts
- Signs

If it's old and historic—I'm interested

Adam Price—0428 611 797

NAC Club Aircraft Bookings



Enquiries— Matt Bignell

0407 873 700

Classifieds

Northam Aero Club Merchandise

Club Polo Shirts with name and club logo—\$35.00

Postage available—\$10.00 per order

Club Caps with logo—\$25.00 available at the bar

Stubbie Holders—\$7.00 available at the bar

Postage available—\$8.00



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Dual Training - \$410 per hour

TIF's - \$205 per 1/2 hour

Briefing - as required

Instructor (in owner's aircraft) - \$150 per hour

Pre-paid Discounted Block Rates Available

- 5 hours - less 5%
- 10 hours - less 10%
- 20 hours - less 15%

Student pilots may use the discounted block rate for aircraft hire only

Instructor fees remain as priced above

For all further enquiries please contact:

NAC Treasurer - nactreasurer@bigpond.com T: 0428 743 031

Aircraft Bookings: Matt Bignell - 0407 873 700

Next Club Competiton

Next Competition 09:00, Sunday 10th September 2023

Cheers, Dave McFarlane

Club Captain 0428 743 031

**President**

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Vacant position

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TO:

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