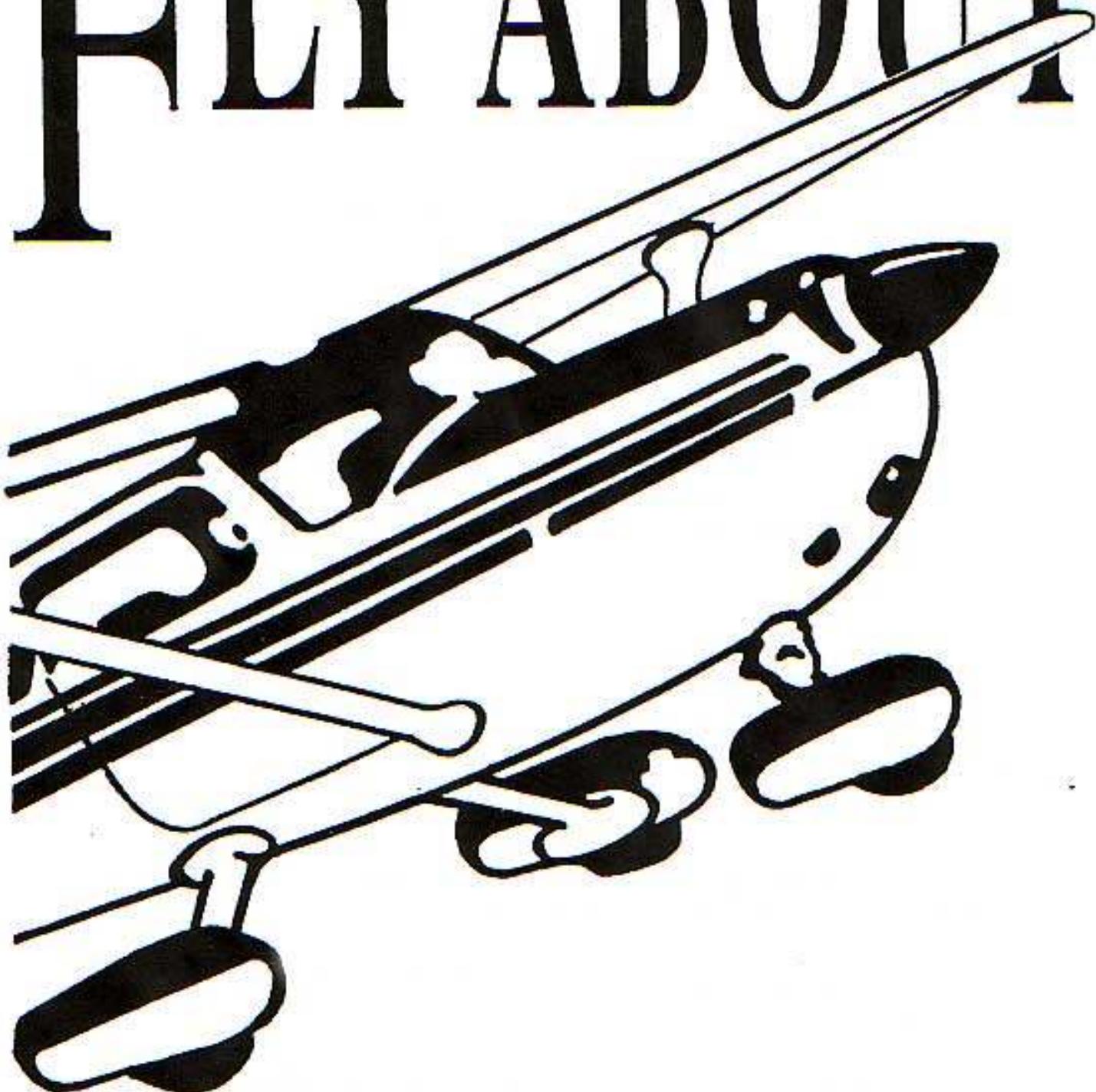


FLY ABOU^IT



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NORTHAM AERO CLUB (INC)
POST OFFICE BOX 247 NORTHAM WA 6401

Print Post Approval No: 639955/00013

Volume 41 Issue No.6

June 2010



PO BOX 247 NORTHAM WA 6401

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

PRESIDENT	Simon Cooper simon.sj.cooper@centrelink.gov.au	0429 202 597
IPP	Claude Meunier claudemeunier@bigpond.com	08 9622 5574 0417 816 168
VICE PRESIDENT	Errol Croft dowref@bigpond.net.au	0428 880 149
SECRETARY	Les Ballantyne les@aquasport.com.au	08 9622 5303
TREASURER		
CLUB CAPTAIN	Errol Croft dowref@bigpond.net.au	0428 880 149
• AIRCRAFT BOOKINGS • AIRFIELD OFFICER • BAR MANAGER • HOUSE & GROUNDS	Matt Bignell big.matty@hotmail.com	0428 962 001 08 9622 3001
• AIRCRAFT • FLIGHT TRAINING • AIRSIDE & SAFETY	Denis Beresford	08 96225 222 0408 747 182
FLYING INSTRUCTORS	Phil Butcherway Kevin Lathbury	0427 967 363 0434 000 217
SOCIAL	Nigel Posselt oracleblue@iinet.net.au	0429 206 806 08 9621 2953
BALLOONING LIASON	Ryan Bristow-Stagg bristow82@bigpond.com	0404 081 786
FLY ABOUT EDITOR	Debra Donovan nac.editor@yahoo.com	0429 207 502
WEBSITE E-MAIL CLUB ROOM	www.northamaeroclub.com northamaeroclub@westnet.com.au	08 9622 3248

From the President
June 2010

Once again, I begin my report with a note of thanks. A Busy Bee was held on the 12th June and it was great to see a good turn out by members willing to help. Thanks to all involved, the Club Rooms and surrounds looked schmicko in preparation for the Dawn Raid. Basil the rat provided some laughs when it was discovered he had been keeping one of the fluoros going. Upon removal of his charred remains, the light no longer worked!

The Dawn Raid proved to be an awesome day, with a large contingent of pilots (from Royal Aero Club, NAC and Curtin Flying Club) lining up for the challenge. Thanks to some last minute number crunching by Ray Howell, Northam managed to retain the President's Trophy. It was looking a bit touch-and-go there for a bit, but thankfully one of Royal's competitors realised he was flying for them and not for us! Thanks to everyone involved in organising and running the event, in particular Les Ballantyne and Errol Croft. And thanks also to the RACWA members and their executive for being such good sports. Mention must also be made of the instructors who helped out on the day with the judging; Phil Butcherway, Kevin Lathbury and Harold Bankien.

Trevor Jones was kind enough to bring the Tiger Moth up (braving the cool conditions and the tiger country over the scarp). I decided to bite the bullet and go for a spin with him. It was a beautiful day for a fly, and it certainly is a different perspective to have the wind in your hair as you sail along at 80 miles an hour. My joy flight was topped off with some wicked aerobatics, (loops, rolls, stall turns etc.), before TJ finished off with a three-pointer back at the field.

Committee Meeting – the refurbishment of the lights has now been completed. The new carpet is now down and the windows have been re-tinted in preparation for the Annual Dinner, Saturday 26th June. Anyone who dares to spill red wine on our new carpet will be tied to the flag-pole and flogged! The Shire has been contacted regarding the cracks in the runway (thanks to Graeme King for alerting us to this). I have also asked them to have a look at resealing the taxiway closest to the Club Rooms.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for their efforts over the last year. It has certainly been a challenging one given the tragic loss of our Life Member and Treasurer, Joy Flegeltaub. The AGM will be held in July, with more information included later in this Fly About. I encourage all members wanting to contribute to the success of our Club, to consider nominating for a position. Our Club has enjoyed a great deal of success over the years, but it is only through the continued volunteer efforts of members that this can be sustained.



Trevor Jones making sure I won't fall out at the top of a loop

Thanks,

Simon Cooper
Northam Aero Club

Club Captains Report

June 13th was the long awaited Dawn Raid where the NAC country flying take on the Royals City club from Jandakot. This year the weather was perfect as we had ordered it for the Royals, Ha Ha!! I believe 15 aircraft turned up for the barbie breakfast which was then followed by the comp. Seven Royals pilots plus 6 of ours took part. The comp was another instrument-less competition with orbit on downwind. The end result was so close that the Royals were presented with the Presidents Trophy only to find that they had not won because of the haste in adding up the results. Our last pilot being Ashley Smith won it for us, although the Royals held the trophy for about 10 seconds until Simon Cooper reclaimed it. So sorry about that Royals!

Thanks must go out to the judges and the helpers for the morning, and a special mention to the Balloonists who tethered their balloons in front of the club rooms as many photo's were taken. It was great to see Barry Bristow-Stagg helping with the cooking and in fact there were four generations of Bristow-Stagg's there on Sunday, well done guys. The winner of the monthly comp was once again Ashley Smith, 2nd Simon & 3rd myself. Well done to all organisers and to the Royals for making the day so enjoyable.

Please try to come to next months comp on 11/07/10 as we hope to hold a post comp seminar on the use of the new radios in PGL. If you don't want to fly then come down for the barbie and the seminar.

Cheers,
Errol

AND THE WINNER IS . . . ?

With a liberal dash of poetic licence, Tony Rees throws the switch to vaudeville in this report on the antics at the annual blood sport contest known as the Dawn Raid

Northam Aero Club staged its first Comedy Festival on Sunday, June 13, in conjunction with the annual contest for the President's Trophy.

A dozen or so aircraft, mostly from our mortal enemies RACWA, flew in for the traditional Dawn Raid, arriving before most of their NAC hosts, who had varying conceptions of "dawn". It was peerless weather, though bloody cold, and our balloon colleagues had tethered two of their colourful behemoths to provide a spectacular backdrop. Northam Air Services LAME Ian Bristow-Stagg entertained onlookers with his radio-controlled balloon, which gave everyone something to talk about before the comedy began.

Act One commenced when our esteemed President, Simon Cooper, strolled in, nonchalant as ever, and confided that the Royals wouldn't be taking the trophy back to Jandakot.

"Too right," said Club Captain Errol Croft, "those bastards couldn't win a flying comp if you pinned wings on their backs."

"Noble sentiments, Crofty," said the Pres, "but that's not what I mean."

Blank looks all round.

Then Simon 'fessed up: "We've lost the bloody thing."

The consensus was that we'd worry about it later, after we'd won the comp and retained the trophy, which we would say we'd sent away for cleaning or something. Everyone then forgot about it and tucked into sausages, bacon, baked beans, eggs and toast, all coated with about five millimetres of pure carbon. Ah, there's nothing like a country breakfast! Well done Les, Barry and all.

Briefing was at 9 am. With due pomp and solemnity RACWA Club Captain Mick Harcourt or Crofty (I can't remember) announced that contestants would fly a circuit with the ASI and altimeter blanked off in such a way that only the judge in the right-hand seat could see the height and speed indications. There was also a requirement for an orbit on the downwind leg. If the judge bailed out, the competitor was to assume that he was flying too slowly. If he went a strange shade of grey, the altimeter was about to go negative.

Mick, encouraged disgracefully by RACWA President Jack Gregor, boasted that they'd already arranged a place for the trophy at Jandakot and the Northam mob might as well go home now. No one from our side said anything; we were wondering how the Royals would take the melancholy news about the missing trophy. Again, the consensus was that we'd worry about it later, after we'd thrashed them, and invent some story about not bringing the shield out because we didn't want to embarrass the Royals by rubbing their noses in it.

So far, so good. I must point out at this stage that I was barred from taking part because of an incident a few years ago when some low-level manoeuvres effected by my good self in an attempt to lose height resulted in a near seizure on the part of Mick Harcourt, who was judging in the right-hand seat. We lost the trophy that year, and they've never let me forget it. One wag had the temerity to suggest that I volunteer to fly for the Royals! People can be so unkind . . .

Back to the battle. Pilots and aeroplanes buzzed around the Northam circuit in greater profusion than we've seen for some time – it was delightful to see so much life around the place and brilliant to drink in the camaraderie of the aviation fraternity.

Act Two: Meanwhile, in the circuit, some reputations were being made, others destroyed. Some pilots gained as much as 500 ft in their "level" orbit. Others hugged the ground, while a couple must have thought they were flying jets, they went so high and wide. I swear our venerable Poppy exceeded Vne on final under the direction of one of the club's more senior citizens and disappeared towards the end of 32. Someone suggested we contact him by radio and advise him to turn right at the Goomalling road and taxi in via the back gate.

Onlookers had their share of laughs as competitors struggled to find the correct speed and altitude. But more humour was on the way.

Act Three: the judges retired to consider their verdict . . . and declared the Royals victorious! There was pandemonium in the Briefing Room as Jack Gregor grabbed the trophy, which someone had found in a cupboard, and waved it aloft triumphantly. More pandemonium followed as the judges went into a huddle and consulted our resident accountant, Ray Howell, who had brought along his abacus for the occasion.

Confusion reined. Then Crofty wrestled the trophy from Jack and handed it to Simon, causing even greater confusion because nobody knew what was going on. Someone eventually announced that Northam had actually won because the judges had mistakenly allocated one of the pilot's scores to the wrong team. At least I think that's what happened. That wiped the smiles off RACWA's faces and allowed the trophy to be returned to its perpetual home beneath the bar. Or in some other dark corner.

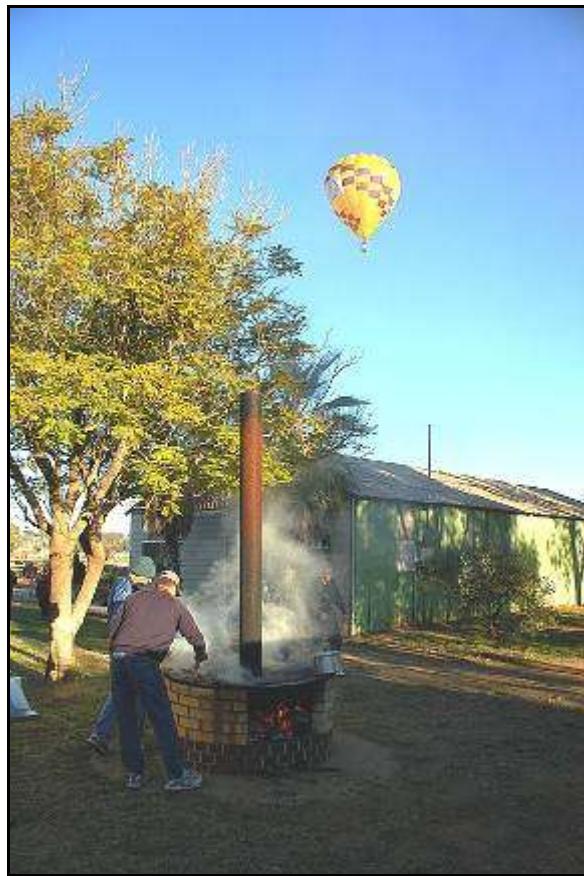
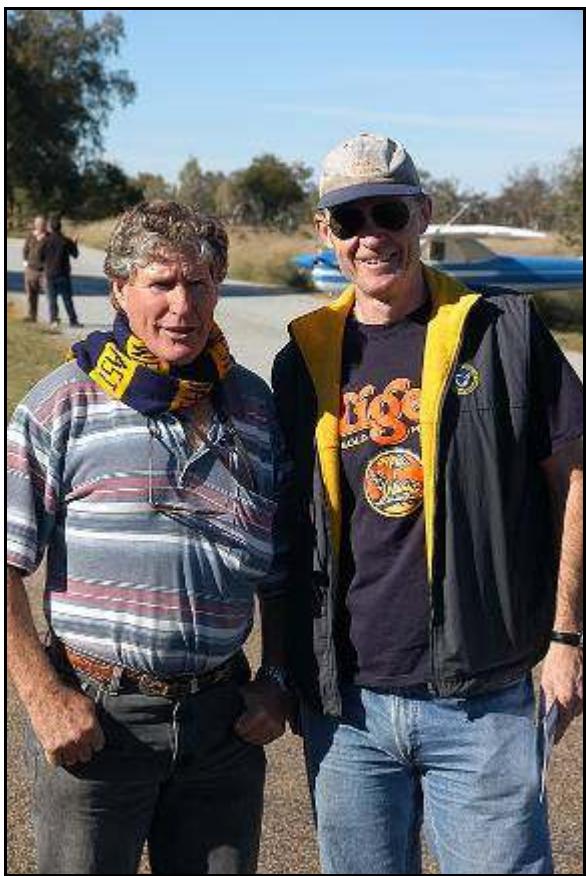
"Told you they wouldn't take it home," said Simon, who rewarded himself by taking an aerobatic flight in the RACWA Tiger Moth piloted expertly by Trevor Jones.

"Too right," said Crofty, "if it had been left to those bastards to invent flying we'd still be riding bikes."

So that's it until next year's Comedy Festival. Well done the Royals, but no cigar! And congratulations to our championship team, led by Simon. Maybe they'll let me back in again next year . . . that, at least, will guarantee a few laughs.



DAWN RAID-JUNE 13, 2010



Following further investigation from last month's article on the first flights in Western Australia, some photographs of those involved in the 1891 ballooning demonstrations in Western Australia have come to light.



MISS ESSIE AND MISS MILLIE VIOLA, BALLOONISTS.



Professor Price's Balloon ready to ascend, 10 May 1899.

[Above left] Miss Millie Viola was the first woman ever to fly in Western Australia on the 25th April 1891, and also the first woman to fly in Northam in the Avon Valley on the 27th August 1891. She was also the second person ever to do both of these after "Professor" James W Price. This photograph of her and her sister Essie was taken in 1895 on a return visit to Australia. [Above right] This photograph is of one of "Professor" James W Price's balloons, which was taken while on a tour of South Africa in 1899. [Below left] Park van Tassel was the man responsible for the touring American balloonists in Australia of the early 1890's, "Professor" Price and Miss Millie Viola worked with him before coming to WA. This photograph was taken in India, which he toured after Australia. [Below right] Jenny van Tassel one of the van Tassel balloonists of India, showing the full performing costumes worn by the lady balloonists.



Prepared by Léon Wachowski

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Notice is hereby given to the
members that the**

**Annual General Meeting
of the**

NORTHAM AERO CLUB

**will be held on
Friday 16th July 2010
at the NAC Club Rooms
at 7.00pm**

AGENDA ITEMS

**•ELECTION OF OFFICE
BEARERS**

**[Please bring a small
plate of food for fellowship at
the conclusion of the meeting]**

Nomination Form

Nomination is hereby made for the position of:

*President *Vice President *Secretary *Treasurer
*3 x Committee Persons (2 years)

Nominee: _____

Signature: _____

Position: _____

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

•**To be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary by Friday 24/06/2010**

[PO Box 247 Northam WA 6401]

Nomination Form

Nomination is hereby made for the position of:

*President *Vice President *Secretary *Treasurer
*3 x Committee Persons (2 years)

Nominee: _____

Signature: _____

Position: _____

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

•**To be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary by Friday 24/06/2010**

[PO Box 247 Northam WA 6401]

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Ballooning Club Competition, Sunday 20th June

Followed by BBQ breakfast

If you require any more information contact Ryan Bristow-Stagg

NAC Annual Awards Night, Saturday June 26th

Bar open at 7 p.m. for pre-dinner drinks. Dinner starts at 7:30-three courses, cost \$40 per head-choice of two mains.

**R.S.V.P by 19th June to Simon Cooper
President 0429 202 597 or email**

northamaeroclub@westnet.com.au

- **HANGAR FOR RENT:** The Northam Aero Club has a hangar for rent, it's on the front line, it is a powered building & has a part concrete floor. \$90 a week, \$4680 a year. It has a 12meter frontage by 9 meters. Contact Simon on the above number, or myself on 0428962001 Matt.
- Two green headsets belonging to Northam Aero Club are missing from the plane/briefing room. Could everyone please check their bags/cars to ensure they haven't picked these up by mistake.
- Thanks to Trevor Pipe, Dave Beech, John Collins and Matt Bignell for their valued help at the busy bee on Saturday June 12 th.

FUEL DOCKETS:

Would all pilots please make sure that all fuel dockets are filled in for both oil and fuel and store them in the maintenance release folder in PGL. This is important to allow for an accurate check to be made on fuel purchases.

Happy Flying, Denis

Northam Aero Club

HIRE RATES FOR C172 AIRCRAFT

As from the 1/12/2009

- Dual Hire ----- \$240 hour
- Private Hire ----- \$190 hour
- TIFs ----- \$100 each
- Instructor only
 - *Pilot provides own aircraft ---- \$80 hour
- Landing Fees & Air Services Charges:
 - *Where applicable -These are to be paid by the Pilot or Student Pilot
- Hire of Life Jackets ---- \$10 per jacket



NORTHAMAERO CLUB PILOTS CHALLENGE 2009/10

Entries on the proforma in Flyabout to Denis Beresford.
48 Burgoyne St Northam 6401.
0408747182

RULES

1. Only one challenge can be claimed per flight
2. Must be completed between Club Presentation dinners.
Final claims to be in one week prior to dinner.
3. A proforma must be submitted to claim a challenge. Claims are based on an honor system but may be supported by a witness
4. Pilots may 'pick the brains' of experienced pilots during planning, but it is essentially a personal challenge.
5. Highest score wins, 'the judges decision is final'
6. A flight is defined as a take off to a landing, therefore a return leg may be considered to be another flight for challenge purposes.

1. Make a flight to Jandacott, with a full stop landing.	10 pts
2. Make a cross country flight, of two hours or more..non stop	15 pts
3. Climb to a minimum of 8500 ft and maintain for at least 1 hour	10 pts
4. Make a legal flight into Class C controlled airspace.	15 pts
5. Gain any new endorsement or rating	20 pts
6. Pass a right hand seat check flight with one of our insructors	15 pts
7. Make an outlanding at a safe unlicenced airstrip at least 100 nm from Northam.	10 pts
8. Fly coastal Lancelin to Rockingham	15 pts
9. Fly to Rottnest. Or do the return leg	15 pts

X

CLUB PILOTS CHALLENGE CLAIM FORM

NAME	ARN
CHALLENGE	
DATE COMPLETED	
REMARKS	
I CERTIFY THIS CLAIM TO BE CORRECT	
	SIGNED
WITNESS (OPTIONAL)	
	SIGNED

Errol's Club Calendar 2010

	May	June	July	August
1	Bar - LESLIE			Bar-SIMON
2	NAC COMP 9am Bar - LESLIE			
3			Bar-LESLIE	
4			Bar-LESLIE	
5		Bar-SIMON		
6		Bar-SIMON		
7				Bar - NIGEL
8	Bar - MATT			NAC COMP 9am Bar - NIGEL
9	Bar - MATT			NAC Meeting 7pm
10	NAC Meeting 7pm		Bar - CLAUDE	
11			NAC COMP 9am Bar - CLAUDE	
12		Bar-ERROL	NAC Meeting 7pm	
13		NAC COMP/Dawn Raid Bar-ERROL		
14		NAC Meeting 7pm		Bar-ERROL
15	Bar - CLAUDE			Bar-ERROL
16	Bar - CLAUDE			
17			Bar - MATT	
18			Bar - MATT	
19		Bar-RYAN		
20		Bar-RYAN		
21				Bar-RYAN
22	Bar - TBA			Bar-RYAN
23	Bar - TBA			
24			Bar-TBA	
25			Bar-TBA	
26		Bar-STEVE Annual Dinner		
27		Bar-STEVE		
28				Bar-STEVE
29	Bar - NIGEL			Bar-STEVE
30	Bar - NIGEL			
31			Bar-SIMON	

NEXT CLUB COMPETITION

11th July at 9am

NEXT CLUB MEETING

12th July at 7pm

BAR ROSTER

Opening hours
Saturday 5pm – 7pm
Sunday 5pm – 7pm

July		
3rd-4th	-	Les
10th-11th	-	Claude
17th-18th	-	Matt
24th-25th	-	TBA
31st-1st		Simon

Well! Sometimes one just has to do it!!

**Please make arrangements to swap
with someone if you are not available
on your rostered day(s)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION
THE AERO CLUB CONTACTS ARE;

08 9622 3248
0429 202 597

PO BOX 247
NORTHAM WA 6401

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NORTHAM AERO CLUB (Inc.)
PO Box 247 NORTHAM WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6401

SURFACE MAIL
POSTAGE PAID
AUSTRALIA

' FLYABOUT '

PRINT POST APPROVED PPN: 639955/00013