

FLY ABOUT



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

Print Post Approval No: 639955/00013

Volume 39 Issue No.8

AUGUST 2008



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President Report August 2008

Annual General Meeting :

We just had our fortieth AGM. Incidentally I have had the honour of chairing 10 out of those 40 AGMs. Last year's team is still here. I would like to thank one and all for their work last year and I would like to thank them for still being with us this year. I also would like to thank Robyn, our returning officer for conducting the election of the new Committee.

But I particularly would like to thank our Hon. Sec. Gren for his involvement in the negotiations with the Shire as without his knowledge of the past of the Club and his ability to deal with administrative bureaucracy, we may have found ourselves in a different position.

Negotiations with the Shire: The negotiations with the new Shire are getting close to a happy conclusion. We started a long time ago when the Shire and the Town were still two different bodies and we finally have a happy ending in sight. Within a few days, the original lease between the old Shire and the Town and the Aero Club will be surrendered and new individual leases between the new Shire and the tenants will be drawn.

The contribution of the Club through the years in purchasing the land and in carving the airfield out of the wildness will be recognised in a proper way.

Work on the back taxiway: As all can see, the power line is now underground and connected. The poles will be removed very soon and nothing can stop using the taxiway. Levelling and sealing should be finalised by the end of the year as this has to fit into the Shire work program. The new triphase transformer will also come one day, but this is dependant of the SEC.

International Flying School: The International Flying School has not seen much action lately. At the last news, they expect to start toward the end of the year.

Memorial Club House: The memorial Club House, aka, "ol'briefing hut" has finally reached its final resting place within the Club's compound. After a coat of paint and a few improvements, it should be a repository for memorabilia as most of us have a soft feeling for it as it is there that we did our training in the good ol'days.

Dawn Raid: We shall be raided by the Royals in September 7th. We can expect a big crowd as several other activities will also take place on that day, including Tiger Moth rides.

Fly-outs: We hope our valiant Club Captain will organise several Fly-out this year. It has been suggested that the first could be a short fly to Rotto.

FlyAbout: As usual, our Editor is crying for articles, photos or anything worth of interest to our members. So, why not put pen to paper and write that big scoopy article...

Fax machine in the Briefing room: Please note that after using the fax machine, the answering machine is to be put back on line. This is the only way we have to receive calls when the Briefing Room is unattended. Or else!!

Happy flying
Claude Meunier
0417 816 168
96 225 574

Election of Committee members 8th August 2008
Northam Aero Club Annual General Meeting

President – Claude Meunier
Vice President – Errol Croft
Hon Secretary – Gren Putland
Hon Treasurer – Joy Flegeltaub
Committee Member 2 years
Matt Bignell, Steve Vette, Simon Cooper
Denis Beresford, Les Ballantyne

Club Captain's Report

I decided we would have something a little different for the August competition, held on Sunday 10th. A mini-navigation exercise from Northam to Cunderdin to Dowerin and then back to Northam, with each competitor flying one leg of the trip.

Ray was first cab off the rank and with our young passenger in tow; we all set off for Cunderdin. Area winds were 35 knots from 045 at 3000' so 'twas a fair headwind on the nose and a little bumpy on the way up. Having dialled up the very handy YCUN NDB meant it would be difficult to become 'uncertain of our position' and having passed Meckering, there loomed Cunderdin in the distance.

A fabulous airfield in anyone's book with cross runways; one of which looking like it could handle a 767! Not a soul (or plane) in sight, the place was deserted so we parked up and Ray swapped seats with Ian for the next leg. Having taken off on 05 we set course for Dowerin. A rather odd, unidentified transmission then came over the Multicom frequency so we decided to swap to Melbourne Centre. If you ever find yourself flying from Cunderdin to Dowerin beware of this 'prankster', who is quite obviously some ignorant hillbilly with too much time on his hands (but with enough money to buy and misuse a portable or ground transceiver).

A very picturesque hop over green paddocks, punctuated with brilliant yellow canola crops, was then made to Dowerin. Ian, being very familiar with the area, pointed out some interesting places of interest on the way. Then, after an absolute greaser of a landing on 07, we swapped seats again for the final leg back to Northam.

Whilst mine was the longest leg from a distance perspective, a cracking tailwind and a resultant ground-speed of around 130 knots had us back to Northam right sharpish for a crosswind landing on 14.

Points in the competition were awarded for radio calls, quality of landing, navigation and time, (each of us nominated a time in which we would complete each leg). Ian won on the day, gaining valuable points for his perfect landing at Dowerin.

Next comp will be at the Dawn Raid on Sunday September 07th. Northam will be attempting to win back that most coveted of prizes 'The President's Trophy'. Hope to see you there!

Cheers,

Simon Cooper.

HAPPENINGS AT NORTHAM AIRFIELD.

The way I see it.

In the last 12 months a number of subtle and some not so subtle changes have occurred at the airfield. Both windsocks have been replaced as the old ones were no longer serviceable. The runway is in very good shape but the taxiway leaves a lot to be desired. There are still cars using the taxiway as a shortcut. Propellers are still copping stone damage. The council has taken over or nearly so, and hopefully the running and maintenance of the airfield will improve, including the taxiway.

The building of new hangars has taken a step forward with the addition of new hangars in the back row. The power has at long last been buried and the new taxiway can now be constructed. There has also been an increase in traffic using the new runway with A/C flying in from all over. There has been an increase of A/C based at Northam including the new Indian flying school.

The way I would like to see the next 12 months.

The planning of the infrastructure and implementation thereof is taking place slowly and with a bit of luck (hopefully) within the next 12 months or so some of the projects will be completed. The hardstand in front of the hangars at the northern end of the front row attended to. Completion of the taxiway and roadway on the back row, for easy access to the rest of the airfield. Signs erected to indicate the various services available, including 'phone numbers for contacting those services.

I would like to thank the past committee members for their services in the last 12 months on a job well done and congratulate the incoming committee members on being elected to administer the NAC for the next 12 months.

Steve Vette.

FROM THE EDITOR

During the year we managed to publish 10 editions of our beloved Fly About. With a little prompting of the membership we have averaged approximately 12 pages per edition. I would like to thank the faithful and encourage all members to put pen to paper and submit articles for the enjoyment of all.

BAR REPORT NORTHAM AERO CLUB

AUGUST 8th 2008

The bar has continued to run smoothly thru the last year.

Due to general inflation we needed to increase some of our prices but still keep it reasonable.

Attendance fluctuates up and down, although we've had quite a few good nights. I would like to thank members and guests for their patronage and also those members who help run the bar, I hope that I can count on their continued support for the future.

HOUSE&GROUND NORTHAM AERO CLUB

This year's main projects were a bit of a challenge but we got to them. The old briething hut or shed as it was some time known as now is renamed as the "HERITAGE BRIETHING BUILDING" and I hope it's recognised for what it stands for.

Anyway enough of the nostalgia, the building with a little bit of luck and good management it should be in its final resting place by tonight.

A new soak well was installed for the kitchen and bar sinks which solved the blockage problems we've been having over the years.

Busy B's are notified by email now to help with memories and seems to be quite successful, thanks for members who have help in that area. The last of the old systems in the toilets had failed and was replaced with a brand new one.

The old stump that was located to the south side of club rooms was finally removed, not by machine (because they could not shift it) but by man! With a hearty fire under it. It brought back old times with almost every body standing around it with a beer or two eagerly finding wood to stoke it.

Future works around the club will consist of repairs to the briething room, painting of the heritage building & hangar if possible, relocation of retic, & properly many more projects through out the next year.

Thankyou, Matt Bignell Bar Manager and House & Grounds

Club Captain's Report for AGM

There were 10 flying competitions held throughout the 2007/2008 financial year at Northam Aero Club. The winner of each competition was as follows –

July – S Cooper
August – I Berry
September – R Stewart
October – E Croft
November – E Croft
December – E Croft
February – I Berry
April – E Croft
May – S Cooper
June – S Cooper

The winner overall for the year, and therefore club champion, was S Cooper (134 points). Second place was awarded to E Croft (124 points). Third place (110 points) was awarded to I Berry. Winners were presented with trophies at the Northam Aero Club Annual Dinner.

The 2008/2009 year is shaping up to be an exciting one. A 'Dawn Raid' is planned for the 7th September and Northam Aero Club members will attempt to win back the President's Trophy from RACWA. 40 members of the Junior Hawks will also be in attendance where school students will be introduced various aspects of flying.

A 'fly-out' is also planned for later this calendar year with possible destinations being Jurien Bay or perhaps Wongan Hills. Further details will be provided to the Club's monthly newsletter 'Flyabout'.

Regards,

S Cooper
Club Captain
Northam Aero Club.

2008 Annual General Meeting

President Report.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the fortieth AGM. Incidentally I have had the honour to chair 10 out of those 40 AGMs. Time for the dinosaurs to go...

This has been a very interesting, frustrating but somewhat rewarding year.

It seems that the negotiations with the new Shire are getting close to a happy conclusion. We started a long time ago when the Shire and the Town were still two different bodies and we finally have a happy ending in sight. Within a few days, the original lease between the old Shire and the Town and the Aero Club will be surrendered and new individual leases between the new Shire and the tenants will be drawn.

Some rents will be affected, some will not, as the Shire will be using a different way of measuring the blocks of land. That is no longer on frontage as we did but on area.

The contribution of the Club through the years in purchasing the land and in carving the airfield out of the wildness will be recognised in a proper way.

The power line at the back of the front row of hangars is now underground, the aerial line will soon be removed and nothing then should stop the Council from grading and sealing the second taxiway. Even if this not done immediately, once the poles are removed, access to the second row of hangars is possible. On that second row, two hangars have already been built and a third is ready to go. More will follow soon.

There is still not enough power on the field as the existing transformer is working to capacity and beyond. A new, more powerful triphase transformer is coming, solving the power problems.

The International Instructor School is almost ready to operate. Two of their aircraft are already here, with two more waiting in Jandakot. They expect to be fully operational before the end of the year. We can hope that with several flying instructors based locally, we should be able to use some of their time and give a boost to our own flying school.

Our Memorial Club Room where our activities started some 35 years ago will soon be relocated inside our compound and Fesa will be able to reposition their water tanks.

We had a very pleasant (and noisy) Presentation Dinner with not less than Adrian Clements as our MC. He was part of that group of enthusiastic lunatics who had a vision for an airfield here. Apart from the usual Competition mugs and trophies, two major presentations were made: Matt Brignell was presented by Adrian Clements the founder of this award with the Clubman Award and Joy Flegeltaub was presented with a Life Membership. Congratulations to both. Well deserved.

I would like to thank the Committee and the Members who during the year have worked hard at making all this possible, and I would like to particularly thank our Secretary for his assistance with the negotiations with the Shire. I should not use the word assistance, as he did most of the leg work, thanks to his knowledge of the history of the Club and on how to deal with administrative bureaucracy. Thank you Gren.

I wish you all a very pleasant evening and a great Club Year. As usual, drinks and food are on the Club.

Club Calendar

Dawn RAID 7'th September @ early
Club Meeting 8'th September @1900

Circuits and Bumps August 2008

Another AGM (the fortieth, would you believe?)
Same old wrinkled faces...out the dinosaurs!!
Breathing Hut relocated...needs a coat of paint...and some
memorabilia...to fill the ol'shelves...
Matt booked with Tony for schpelling lesssons...
Power line buried... and forgotten...
International School to start last week...or next week...
Heard Graeme is back... haven't seen him yet...
Robin's shack almost sold...
Flying to Rotto... when, Captain??

Bar Roster

Opening hours

Saturday 5pm –7pm

Sunday 5pm—7pm

August

30'th - 31'st– Sven & Matt

September

6'th – 7'th – Les

13'th – 14'th - Matt

20'th -21'st – Simon

27'th – 28'th – Gren

October

4'th -5'th - Crofty

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

FOR INFORMATION

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