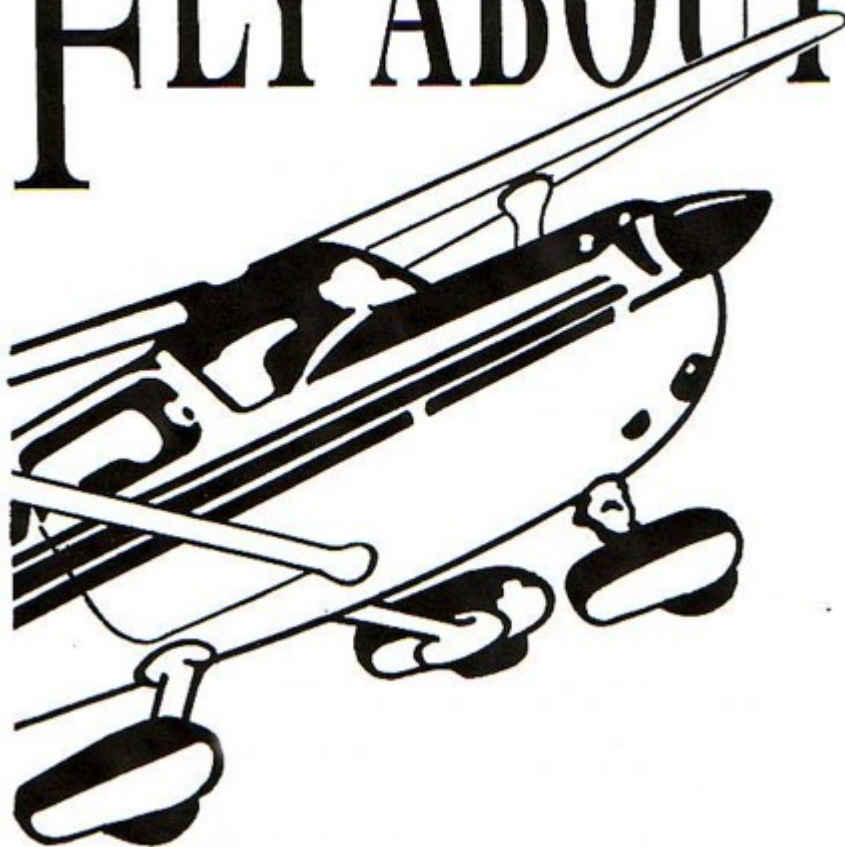


FLY ABOUT



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NORTHAM AERO CLUB (INC)

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Presidents Report

Well another year gone by with another successful Annual Dinner – Presentation Night. It was great to meet our new Shire President Mr Chris Antonio and his lovely wife Nicki and nice to catch up with Members of Northam Aero Club, Royals Aero Club and Pearce Flying Club.

Congratulations to Ashley Smith for taking out the Club Champion Award. It must have been all that night flying.

Congratulations also to the Bazley Family for being the recipient of the Adrian Clements Clubman Award. Shaun, Megan and Mikayla have been involved for over 5 years at the Northam Aero Club. From judging at the Club Competitions to baking for the special events, the Bazley family have been a huge support. We appreciate their dedication to the Club.

Congratulations to Reuben Bush for his achievement in obtaining his Commercial Pilots Licence during the year. Trevor Sangston also completed his navigation training and added the following endorsements to his Recreational Pilots Licence, Flight Radio, Controlled Airspace, Controlled Aerodrome and Recreational Navigational.

A big thank you also must go to the 16 volunteers that showed up for the Busy Bee. It is amazing what can get done with people power. Thank you to Peter Scheer for his loan of the Extended Work Platform to cut down those branches that were threatening to fall on the Clubhouse roof. I noticed the big branches did not go to waste. I would like to thank Adam Price and his family for their effort in purchasing and arranging the Book Shelves in the Club Room. They look fantastic and Adam has sourced all the display on the shelves from around the Aero Club. All Ray Howells books are now on display and we will get Ray over to view his donations on display.

The Annual General Meeting is on Friday 3rd August 2018 at 7.30pm . We will have a new Committee this year. We have achieved so much over the past 5 years and Heather is standing down after 6 years in the position. Thank you Heather for your contribution in the admin area.

I hope to see you all again.

Cheers, Errol

RAAF PEARCE AIRSPACE SAFETY BRIEFING

Thank you Flt Lt Andrew McWatters for an informative talk regarding Airspace Safety on Sunday. Twelve pilots enjoyed an information session given by Andy McWatters from the other side of the desk, he is one of the many voices you may hear when entering airspace that you probably do not want to find yourself in. Remember they are there to help you get on the right track so don't be shy, give your details and be aware of your situation. Even from a non-pilots viewpoint I found his talk to be very interesting and it makes me feel a lot safer flying around the coastal corridor knowing they are patrolled 24 hours a day.

Craig Peterson from CASA followed up with more great tips to make your flying safer and how to avoid a runway incursion, good to know. CASA has also come up with an information folder for all the pilots that were part of the day and we now have a more convenient place to store those tips rather than the wallpaper sized charts that were previously sent. Thank you CASA.

Barbeque and cheesecake followed and by all accounts a good day out, especially since the weather was no good for flying. The best part was having a clubhouse full of pilots talking about aviation.

Position Vacant

After six wonderful years of producing the Fly About for your enjoyment, the time has come to move over and let some-one else take the reigns!!!

With the new committee taking over in August the search is on for a new Fly About Editor.

If you would like one of the most rewarding jobs that our club has to offer then this is the role for you!

Step up now and show us what you can do.

Contact our President Errol and express your interest.

0428 880 149



NAC FLYING COMP WINNERS 2017/2018

FEBRUARY 2018 Equal First Adam Price Ashley Smith Second Trevor Sangston Third Peter Hill. Fourth Ian Berry.		MARCH 2018 First Peter Hill Second Trevor Sangston Third Ashley Smith. Fourth Milton Brookes.	
APRIL 2018 First Ashley Smith Second Peter Hill Third Ian Berry		MAY 2018 First Ashley Smith Second Peter Hill Third Ian Berry	
JULY 2018 Equal First Peter Hill Ashley Smith Second Adam Price Third Ian Berry		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Final Results 2017/2018 First Ashley Smith Second Peter Hill Third Ian Berry </div>	





NAC FLYING COMP WINNERS 2017/2018

JULY 2017

Equal First Ashley Smith
Peter Hill.
Second Dave McFarlane
Eq.Third Trevor Sangston
Howie Pietersie
Eq. Fourth Russell Steicke
Ian Berry.
Equal Fifth Bob Emery
Milton Brookes.
Sixth Reuben Bush.

AUGUST 2017

First Ashley Smith
Second Peter Hill
Third Russell Steicke
Fourth Ian Berry.



SEPTEMBER 2017

Equal First Peter Hill
Ashley Smith
Trevor Sangston
Second Dave McFarlane
Equal Third Russell Steicke
Paul Dundon.

OCTOBER 2017

First Ashley Smith
Second Peter Hill.
Third Dave McFarlane
Fourth Trevor Sangston
Eq. Fifth Russell Steicke
Howie Pietersie

NOVEMBER 2017

First Peter Hill.
Eq.Second Adam Price
Ashley Smith
Third Trevor Sangston
Fourth Russell Steicke
Fifth Dave McFarlane
Sixth Bob Emery
Seventh Ian Berry.

DECEMBER 2017

First Adam price
Second Peter Hill
Third Ashley Smith
Fourth Trevor Sangston
Fifth Richard Maisey
Sixth Ian Berry.

Annual Dinner Pictures



Murray Bow (our esteemed MC for the evening). Please note the bookshelves in the background. Adam Price is responsible for putting together the shelving units and collecting memorabilia from around the briefing room and



Ashley Smith receiving his Club Champion award from Chris Antonio with Peter Hill in the background



Above: Andrew Eldridge (President of Royals Aero Club), Errol Croft and Chris Antonio
(Northam Shire President)



Our Future Pilots in the making. Lachlan Price, Mackenzie Croft, Errol Croft,
Chelsea, and Jesse Price. Great to see some young faces around the club



Above: Another great Annual Dinner enjoyed by all!



Ian Berry Congratulations on 50 years of flying and taking out third place in the Club Compe-



Above: Clubman Awards to Shaun, Megan and Makayla



Errol Croft, John Masters and Claude Meunier



Above: Peter Hill Club Captain and Runner up in Club Competition, Ian Berry 3rd place in Club Competition together with Preston Smith Foundation Member and Ashley Smith Club

Aircraft for Sale

· Mooney 20E

CSU Retractable Undercarriage

Engine:

126 hours since new

Lycoming IO-360-A1A 200HP

25 Nov 2024

Propeller

126 hours since new

HARTZELL HC-C2YK-1BF

27 Nov 2018

Other: AirFrame total hours 5187.2, Annual inspection due: 22 Mar 2018

For more information please contact Milton Brooks on 0414 763 347 or
milt_brooks@hotmail.com



New Member Welcome

A big welcome to our new
members:

Geoffrey Dickson,

Brad Jones,

and

William Van Ast

We hope you enjoy the friendship,
fellowship and flying at NAC.

Northam

**Hangar Space
Available.**

On the front row.

**For more details
please Contact**

Greg

0417 940 461



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Notice is hereby given to the Members
of
Annual General Meeting
of
NORTHAM AERO CLUB**

Friday 3RD August 2018

NAC Club Rooms

7.30pm

AGENDA ITEMS

Election of Office Bearers

Notice of Motion

(Please bring a small plate of food for fellowship at the conclusion of the meeting)

The names of the candidates proposed as Officers of the Club with the names of their proposers and seconders shall be in the hands of the Secretary 21 days before the date of the Annual Meeting (13th July 2018). The names shall be posted in the Club for 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.

SKYCOM HIGH ALTITUDE GAS BALLOON PROJECT

Early contact was made with the Northam Aero Club by Skycom principal Max Michaelis, seeking help with the unmanned gas balloon high altitude communications project. The plan was to launch from Northam Airfield with a window focusing on June 2018.

Skycom is a small 'startup' company based out of Austin, Texas, which has invented a type of balloon envelope they hope will allow balloons and other lighter-than-air aircraft to stay aloft in the stratosphere for years at a time at a very low cost, by drastically reducing the leak rate of the lifting gas. Their intention is to eventually build stratospheric blimps using this envelope configuration to carry telecom equipment and bring low-cost connectivity to remote areas.

This first prototype balloon was constructed by Cameron Balloons (Bristol) with launch phase managed by Dave Cameron of that company. They recommended Northam as an ideal launch location. The southern hemisphere was chosen because if all went to plan, the balloon should stay aloft for many months, encircling the earth, and passing through the airspace of other countries whilst collecting critical engineering data needed to proceed. If launched from Texas or the UK, for example, flyover permission would be needed from countries like Russia, China, North Korea, and many others, making the regulatory process difficult. A launch from Australia minimizes the number of countries it would fly over, lowering the regulatory burden.

All equipment was delivered Northam and stored at the project operations centre Northam airfield, the hangar owned by Claude Meunier, and used for previous long distance flights. Northam Aero Club members provided a launch crew, logistics were provided by Gren Putland (and his trusted assistant, Margie!) and airfield closure and management by the NAC President in his role of manager representative. A number of launch crew were drawn from the Club's ballooning fraternity. Provision of local met advice was supplied by airfield operators.

Launch options commenced 20th June with first light launch requiring commencement of inflation at 02:00 WST. Forecast and actual widespread fog conditions caused delay, until launch preparation declared for Saturday 23rd June, for launch soon after first light ~07:00 WST. Launch procedures commenced on a very cold morning at 02:00 am, with crew comprising NAC members (Michael Clements, Griff Putland, Peter Clements, Andrew Clements, Errol Croft & new member from the WA Police, Geoff Dixon) and another Government officer, Michelle Blackhurst. Forklift services were donated by local businessman Eamon Grogan of AVC, who also remained until after the launch, assisting.

After a very long, cold night, relieved by the kind ministrations of Heather Deegan (coffee and warm club rooms) and Adam & Karen Price (more coffee, and toasted sandwiches) gas inflation was completed by Dave Cameron soon after 07:30 am, with final air inflation and preparation of payload by Max Michaelis just prior to launch at 08:30 am. Details of launch and clearances are recorded with Airservices Australia. The balloon climbed at around the predicted rate of 1000ft / minute. The balloon was tracked visually and electronically. Visual contact was lost after ~35 minutes after describing a course commensurate with the forecast winds.

At approximately 09:30 am the balloon was lost to radar. Immediate search was actioned by the NAC launch crew and others assisting. Recovery vehicles (Max, Dave & Gren, and Mick Clements & Griff Putland) proceeded to the last recorded site to commence search after applying altitude and met data. The area of search was south west of Goomalling Town site. Two aircraft were called to the search, one from Northam (Adam Price in his Maule) and one from Goomalling local (Errol Croft in his Cessna 172). Some inaccessible locations were searched on foot. Unproductive search of the expanded area also utilised a local helicopter (Claude Meunier in his Robinson R-44)). With approaching end of light the search was postponed until daylight.

09:00 am search re-commencement revealed local farmer advice of sighting of the balloon. Phone calls and contact resulted in identifying those persons, with meeting at nearby Ucarty Rd. Travel then to the site of landing. The witnesses advised seeing the balloon descending to the landing site before being consumed with fire. All effort to search the area again with the same two aircraft was made, and then by Geoff Dickson's drone. Several pieces of fabric were recovered.

The crown ring was located along with other definable items. These were packed and returned to the airfield for close inspection and bagging. Retrieve team returned to the airfield at midday 24th.

Having learned much from the launch procedures and early flight behaviour of the prototype balloon, Max is already in discussion with Dave about the next phase of the project. Watch this space!



Photography by Michelle Blackhurst





Dave Cameron watching the Skycom balloon ascending



The launch team: L-R Andrew Clements, Griff Putland, Michael Clements, Max Michaelis

FOR SALE

TECNAM P2008 LSA. 2011, 430hrs TT.
VH reg, Aerial work & Private Category.
Bolly prop, electric AH/DG, aux alternator,
GMA 240 Coms, 30 Nav/Com with CDI.
Garmin 495 GPS, Garmin GTX327 Txp/
Mode C. 118Ltrs fuel, 115kts Tas, 20ltr/hr.
LAME maintained, one owner, exc cond,
always hangared inland WA.
Fresh 100 Hourly. \$130000+Gst
0428935635.



This is a “ZAPPEM”

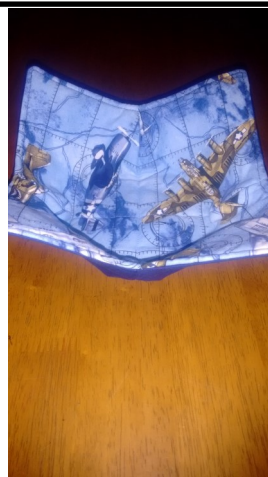
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the East Coast. Put your
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place in microwave, no more
burned fingers.

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best dressed

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BAR ROSTER—2018

JULY		
1st	-	Crofty
7th-8th	-	Howie
14th-15th	-	Matt
28th-29th	-	Peter

Bar Hours

Sat. 5pm—7 pm

IF UNABLE TO DO YOUR ROSTERED DAYS PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO SWAP WITH SOMEONE



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NEXT CLUB COMPETITION

9am Sunday 12th August 2018

The Northam Aero Club

**Committee meeting will be held at the
club rooms**

Sunday 12th August 2018 at 1pm