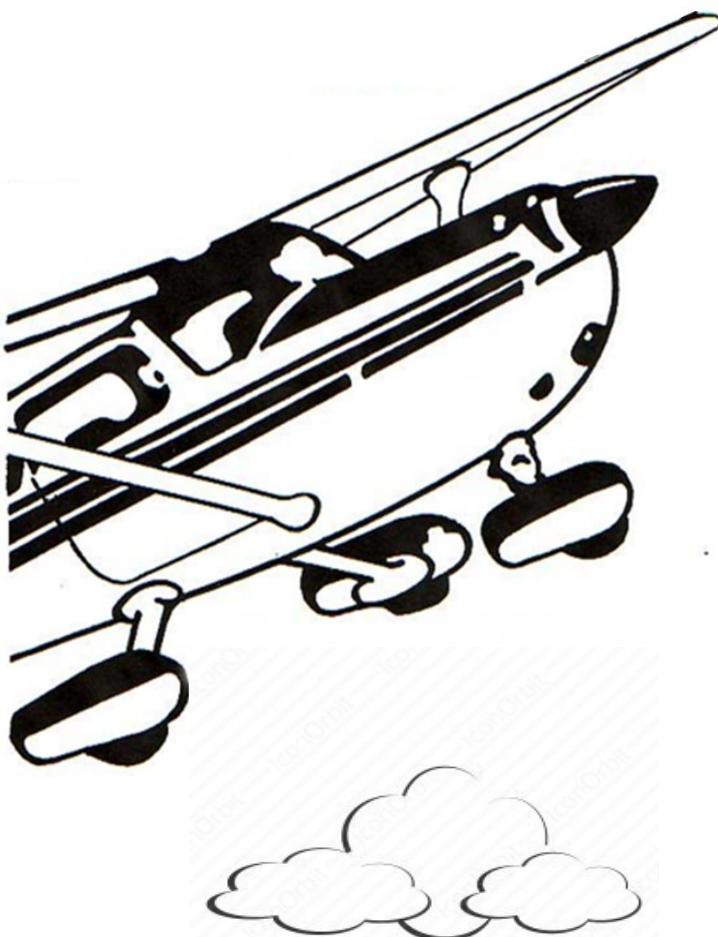


Fly About

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

Table Bookings Available
Contact: Alfreda
0418 915 517

**BYO
Beverages**

**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:

Pre-flight checks part 1 cont'd

As I think most of us know, as a country aero club NAC doesn't have a big burden when it comes to compliance with CASA's rules. As long as the aeroplane is properly maintained, and as long as pilots follow the rules, CASA doesn't take much interest in us. If we were a commercial operator, we'd have an Air Operator's Certificate, and that would mean a whole new level of compliance.

But flight training is a commercial operation. (Sure, the average punter would be surprised to read that because most people think that when it comes to aviation, "commercial" and "airline" are synonyms.) To conduct our flight training we need an AOC, and until now we've operated under the AOC of the Royal Aero Club. That's why I teach using the RACWA syllabus, use the RACWA electronic student records system, hand out the RACWA questionnaire for Flight Reviews, and do my annual standardisation with RACWA.

In its wisdom, CASA is tightening up on organisations like NAC using someone else's AOC to conduct commercial operations. So for the purpose of flight training, we'll need to become a training base of RACWA, in the same way Murrayfield is.

For most members doing private flying, which has nothing to do with an AOC, nothing will change. But for NAC to be a training base of RACWA, I'll now be employed by RACWA rather than NAC. The difference you'll notice if you fly with me is that RACWA will charge me out at the standard Grade 2 instructor rate, which has a higher mark-up because unlike the hard-working Rachel who pays me monthly, the RACWA staff are not volunteers. So my time will now cost you more.

Pre-flight checks part 1 cont'd

If you fly with Ray or me, you'll still get a NAC invoice, with a higher rate for my time, which will be \$148 per hour for flying and briefings. You'll pay the club, and when I put my timesheet in to RACWA, they'll add up my hours and send NAC an invoice to recoup that cost.

Bear in mind of course, without RACWA's overheads our aircraft is cheaper to hire, there are no landing charges, you don't wait behind two at the holding point and three on final before taking off, and for students, you don't have 10 minutes transit time to the training area, so it's still quite a bit cheaper than flying in the city.

Cheers,

Kevin Lathbury

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 1600-2000
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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Instructor (in owner's aircraft) - \$150 per hour

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- *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

NAC Club Contact List

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Vacant position

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