



SSAC NEWSLETTER

Many Hands Make Light Work of Hangar Door



An excellent turn-up to a working bee held on Sunday 17th August made short work of modifying two troublesome doors on the Club's No 1 Hangar. Reducing the height of the door panels slightly and fitting new carriage wheels did the trick. That's Peter Guest in full protective head-gear on the left directing proceedings. Below: "Cut it about there I reckon". The experts at work. Many thanks to all who turned out to help.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi Members and Friends,

Following your AGM last month, I was elected as your President and I thank those at the meeting who voted for me. I look forward to working with Karen, Brian and Dougal along with the committee members Rod, Scott, John, Mick and Dale, and over the coming months I hope to meet you all.

I will be available to any member, be it with a gripe, suggestion or just a chat, the latter I'm pretty good at. But please remember that if you have a suggestion then one would hope it also comes with a solution.

This year your events committee (yes we now have an Events Committee - see details elsewhere in this edition) we will be looking at greater membership participation in fly aways and local get togethers. So get behind them as they foster the social side of our activities.

The week following our AGM we had a working bee and many thanks to the 17 or 18 that came along. We had a great result and fixed the two troublesome hangar doors that had been giving us grief for some time. It is great to see that we are now in dire need of more hangar space, such is the popularity of our airfield and airpark, and your committee will be investigating the possibility for additions to a hangar and the possibility of an open air aircraft cover.

As both Brian and Dale have previously mentioned, yearly membership is now due and along with hangarage can be paid online.

Rod Taylor and his Events Committee are organizing a 20th anniversary function in conjunction with a Christmas get together as this December will mark 20 years since No 1 hangar was built. If you know of anyone that was involved with the erection of our first hangar and is not around our club anymore, please let Rod know as we would like to invite as many of those originally involved as possible. If you have a contact number, all the better.

And finally, Pat and I are settling into life in Wentworth and have organized, after a few hiccups, a house to be built on our block. This should be completed by the end of January and would present yet another opportunity for a Club function.

Hope to see you around the club soon.

Regards

Jeff Woodroffe President SSAC

Phone 0407 616 627.

Next General Club meeting: Sunday Sept 14 @ 10am

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You can't keep a good man down or in this case out of an aeroplane.

Peter Guest, again (or should I say still) in full head-gear tries to make himself comfortable in Tim Middleton's Xair before a flight recently.

Thanks to Brad Pike for photo

COMING EVENTS

As mentioned elsewhere, the club now has an "Events Committee". The committee consists of Rod Taylor as Coordinator, Mick Watson, Peter Guest, Brad Pike, Karen Luckraft and Dale Castle. It will be the job of this group to organize and coordinate Club social events and flyaways etc.

If any member wishes to organize a flyaway or knows of an event (flyins etc) being held by another flying club that would be worthwhile joining in, please let Rod or another member of the events committee know and they will get the message out there with the intention of increasing participation.

The following events have been brought to the attention of the committee or have been suggested for consideration:

- Sept 28th: Broken Hill Aero Club Fly-in to Trentham Cliffs for Lunch at the Trentham Winery.
We can join in. Drive or fly to Trentham Cliffs. Enquiries to Jeff Woodroffe.
- Sept 29th: Possible trip to Bundaberg to visit Jabiru Factory, 6 days. Details Peter Guest
- Oct 19th: Possible date for Club flight to Mungo for morning tea and then Pooncarie for lunch. To be advised.
- Nov ?? Possible date for flight to Renmark for breakfast and then on to Loxton for lunch. To be advised.
- Dec 13th: Club Christmas Party combined with 20th anniversary of building Hangar One. More details later.
- 2015 Many possible trips to consider in the new year including:
Goolwa & Kangaroo Island. Details to be advised.
The Murray Bridge Group are keen to have us visit. Details to be advised.
Possible Flyaway to Painted Desert, William Creek & Oodnadatta. TBA.
Possible Flyaway to Broken Hill, Stephens Creek & Pack Saddle. TBA.
Model Aircraft Club to be invited to be part of our June Fly-in. More details later.

DAVID CLARKE: OzRocketMan

Nothing can quite prepare you for the noise. It is a screaming shriek (or is that a shrieking scream?) like no other. Either way the sight of David lifting seemingly effortlessly into the air and accelerating away is, like the noise, something you won't quickly forget.

The Editor was recently privileged to witness a test flight by SSAC club member and Mildura's own OzRocketman, David Clarke. David was at home in Mildura recently preparing for flights at the Royal Adelaide Show. David, who works in Brisbane as an avionics maintenance engineer with Qantaslink, has done more than a hundred flights but is yet to do a public display in his hometown. However he is working on changing that.

The Rocketbelt, as his device known, is the result of David's own design and many years of building and development. Many of the parts he manufactured himself while a number of engineering firms in Mildura helped in the manufacture of other parts to David's design. Development and refinement is ongoing. Only fourteen people world-wide have managed to successfully fly a rocketbelt. As David points out, more people have walked on the moon. It's all about control. Building a 'basic' rocketbelt is not that difficult, once you understand the basics that is. But this time it IS rocket science. The hard part is keeping all that power under control and a large part of David's R & D has gone into perfecting that part of the design. David's experiences while learning to fly his creation are a whole story in themselves. However seeing David smoothly lift off, accelerate away, turn and come back to the same spot for a tippy-toe landing, proved very convincingly that David has got the control and technique down to a fine art.

Graeme O'Neill from the Sunraysia Daily also witnessed the flight and his story appeared on Saturday September 6th. For some interesting viewing, have a look at David's website: www.ozrocketman.com.au

I'm sure we will hear a lot more of the Ozrocketman. No pun intended.

Dale Castle

NEW CLUB MEMBER

A warm welcome to new club member Jim Girdler. Jim and his wife Kerry have recently moved to Wentworth from Orange NSW. Jim brings with him his Piper Challenger, a model of the Cherokee 180 line. (Nice to see the Wentworth GA fleet continuing to grow) Jim has already taken part in a club working bee being part of the group who modified the hangar one doors. (See front page).

Welcome to Wentworth Jim and Kerry.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

A reminder that Club membership for the current financial year is now due. Possibly the easiest way to pay these days is by direct transfer to the club's account at the Bendigo Bank Wentworth Branch BSB 633000 A/c No 119566610. Please make sure you include your name in the "description on recipient's statement" part of the transfer page. If that doesn't suit, cheques are still welcome of course.

ON THE INTERNET

For what is believed will be the largest gathering of Spitfires and Hurricanes since the "50s have a look at:

<http://www.getwestlondon.co.uk/news/local-news/exclusive-biggest-gathering-spitfires-hurricanes-7724852>

The Avro Lancaster belonging to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum was recently flown across the Atlantic to join the Lancaster from the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight for flights commemorating the Battle of Britain. These are the only two airworthy Lancasters in the world.

Have a look at: <http://youtu.be/IEc0bX91XUw>

SHORT FINAL

So you think that since you have lived to be 80 plus you know who you are, then along comes someone and blows it all to hell!

An old Marine Pilot sat down in Starbucks, still wearing his old USMC flight jacket and ordered a cup of coffee. As he sat sipping his coffee, a young woman sat down next to him. She turned to the pilot and asked, Are you a real pilot?

He replied, 'Well, I've spent my whole life flying planes, first Stearmans, then the early Grummans... flew Wildcats and Corsairs in WWII, and later in the Korean conflict, Banshees and Cougars. I've taught more than 260 people to fly and given rides to hundreds, so I guess I am a pilot, and you, what are you?

She said, 'I'm a lesbian. I spend my whole day thinking about naked women. As soon as I get up in the morning, I think about naked women. When I shower, I think about naked women. When I watch TV, I think about naked women. It seems everything makes me think of naked women.'

The two sat sipping in silence. A little while later, a young man sat down on the other side of the old pilot and asked: "Are you a real pilot?"

He replied, 'I always thought I was, but I just found out I'm a lesbian.'

