



AUCKLAND REGIONAL MICROLIGHT AIRCRAFT CLUB

www.armac.info

MAY 2008

CLUB NIGHT: **1930 hours TUESDAY 13th MAY 2008**

Preceded by Committee meeting 1830 hours

Visitors are most welcome – dinner & refreshments available at the venue

VENUE: **Commercial Traveller's Club, 27-33 Ohinerau Street, Remuera**

President / Editor:	Steve Williamson	steve.dale@clear.net.nz	(09) 2590774 / (027) 6619395
Vice President:	Kevin Potter	kppotter@xtra.co.nz	(09) 2664149 / (027) 4404325
Secretary / Treasurer:	Iain Blyth	oregan@wave.co.nz	(021) 854994

PREZ SEZ:

Hi All,

After a year of excellent work, Kevin Potter has stepped down as President due to work commitments and I have pinned the President's badge on. He's left big shoes to fill, but Kevin has agreed to stay on as Vice-President, so hopefully we'll be able to maintain and build on his momentum.

I see this role as being a facilitator to get things happening for the club, and to do that I need to know what people want – so if you're not happy with something, or you can see something that could be done better (or if you like something and want it to continue), please let me know.

It is important that we remain inclusive. Our business is a shared interest in sport/recreational aviation. Whether someone is a member of RAANZ or SAC, ARMAC or another club, I believe that the more everyone collaborates and socialises together the more enjoyable our flying will be.

To keep Club Nights interesting and enjoyable, we'll be trying to arrange a short presentation on a relevant topic, with perhaps an aviation related video to follow and finish up with a few social drinks and a get-together. Because there is such a breadth of flying experience in the club, from novices like me to extremely experienced pilots, many of these sessions will deliberately be aimed as refreshers to keep everyone's skills and knowledge sharp.

So, let me know what you want and we'll try to make it happen; if we don't know, we can't sort it out.

*Happy flying,
Steve Williamson*

CLUB NIGHT

Unfortunately, work commitments mean that I will be in Wellington and unable to attend this month's club night, but Kevin has kindly agreed to travel back to Auckland for the evening.

This month's club night will include a flying presentation & discussion by Rim Malskaitis, to be followed by a short DVD from Martyn on the North Shore Aero Club's 2005 airshow featuring the Dragon AXI.

Don't forget that dinner is available from the cafeteria at the venue; a good feed can be had for \$5 - \$8.

PARAKAI – ARMAC NORTHERN BASE

ARMAC now has two bases: Mercer in the south and Parakai in the north.

Parakai is a public air field and home to a number of operations and clubs, including the Northern Microlight Club. Depending on the speed of your aircraft Mercer and Parakai are from 40 to 80 minutes apart.

The airfield is operated by Harvey, Simon & Bryn Lockie and has excellent facilities including tea, coffee, snack and soft drink facilities, avgas & mogas and a courtesy car!

There is a \$10 landing fee, which covers unlimited movements for that aircraft during the day (reduced to \$5 for organised events such as fly ins), alternatively pilots can pay a set annual landing fee.

Although not in an MBZ, there is a skydiving operation at the field and it is a local requirement that aircraft either have a radio or are accompanied by another aircraft with a radio that can make calls on their behalf.

Having the Northern Microlight Club based at Parakai will enable us to co-operate and hopefully double the number of flying events, such as the upcoming combined Nav Ex.

The Parakai Airfield website contains detailed instructions for aircraft movements in, out and around the airfield.

FLIGHT INSTRUCTION

After many years of service as the CFI (and in the last couple of years, the only active instructor at Mercer) Chris Todd is finally stepping back from instructing.

He has spent almost all his weekends for the last couple of years instructing student pilots and countless hours maintaining FVG, the club Bantam.

Chris will no longer be taking on any new students.

A number of us have learned to fly from Chris (I'm sure I have caused him more than a couple of grey hairs) and his contribution to the club has been greatly appreciated.

We'll be publishing the contact details for other instructors shortly.

VIDEO / DVD CATALOGUE

Have you got any DVD's that might be of interest at Club nights? I'd like to build a list of these that we can ask people to bring in on certain nights.

The following details would be helpful:

- ✓ *Name of DVD*
- ✓ *Synopsis (i.e. – CAA video about Human Factors and Decision Making)*
- ✓ *Duration*
- ✓ *Whether it has been played at a Club Night before. If so, roughly how long ago.*

Please either e-mail me, ring me or let me know at a Club night.

PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS

Just a reminder that 1st July is rapidly approaching. From this date all microlights travelling more than 10 Nm from their base must carry a 406MHz Personal Locator beacon or EPIRB.

These come with the optional addition of a GPS function that also transmits your co-ordinates to rescuers, so that they don't have to rely on DF'ing your radio signal.

The beacons are available from a number of sources and both SAC & RAANZ had a discounted offer for their respective members.

My PLB arrived the other week and being a bit of a gadget freak I was really looking forward to getting out and using it, until I thought through the implications of that and decided that maybe I'd prefer to just carry it around instead!

FRTO EXAM NOW AVAILABLE FROM RAANZ

RAANZ has finally been able to get the FRTO exam approved by CAA. The manual is on the website at <http://raanz.org.nz/wiki/pmwiki.php?n=TM.Radio> .

The exam consists of 40 multi-choice questions and the pool that these questions is drawn from is on the website at <http://raanz.org.nz/wiki/pmwiki.php?n=TM.FRTO> (yes, they've got all the possible questions on the web so there'll be no surprises)

The test is free to RAANZ members and SAC also has an FRTO paper for their members.

Given that there are less and less places you can fly without either being required to have a radio or being strongly advised to have one (such as Common Frequency Zones), and both Mercer and Parakai require aircraft to be radio equipped, it is worth the investment of a couple of hours to learn the material and sit the exam.

"Flying the airplane is more important than radioing your plight to a person on the ground incapable of understanding or doing anything about it."

ANZAC WEEKEND BARBECUE / FLY IN

On Sunday 27th April ARMAC hosted a barbecue and fly in at Parakai. Unfortunately the weather was not suitable for flying and everyone that attended end up driving in (with my previous history I could contract myself out to drought-stricken developing nations – all I'd have to do is plan a fly in at Khartoum and the whole of the Sudan would be deluged by torrential rain!)

Nevertheless there was a good turn out with more people coming than expected and was a great opportunity to meet and chat with the Northern Microlight Club's contingent and with the Lockies. Harvey gave us a tour of the airfield and facilities and outlined the plans for further development.

We also inspected the Parakai training aircraft; the Zenair was pretty cool, the Tecnam was even better and as for the Dynaero; woo-hoo! I want one!!

UPCOMING EVENT – NAVIGATION EXERCISE (NAVEX)

Sunday 1st June 2008, starts and ends at Parakai Airfield.

This is a joint event with the Northern Microlight Club (NMC) coordinating the NavEx and ARMAC coordinating the barbie.

The course will cover approximately 34 Nm with waypoints to be observed and cumulative leg times to be recorded. A shortened course of 21.5 Nm may be available for those who would prefer to spend less time in the air.

A fun event for anyone who wishes to participate. A reduced landing fee of only \$5 applies for the event. BBQ lunch available.

Further details will be circulated as the event draws nearer. Mark it in your diaries!

Two thoughts re navigation and flight planning:

"You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3." - Paul F. Crickmore (test pilot)

"The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire."

REGULAR EVENTS

*Coromandel Airfield Every second Sunday
Club Day & BBQ lunch from 1230 hours
Contact Lisa: (07) 8662055,
Clubrooms (07) 8668638,
Email: aviatrix@wave.co.nz*

A robber rushes into a bank with a sawn-off shotgun, charges up to the teller, brandishes the shotgun at her and yells, "Give me the money! Give me the money!"

The terrified teller does as she's told and the robber turns to leave the bank.

He stops in front of a customer who had been in the bank and asks, "Did you just see me rob this bank?"

"Yes! Yes, I did!" answers the customer.

BLAM! *The robber shoots the customer dead and moves on to a couple who are cowering by the door.*

"And did YOU just see me rob this bank?" the robber asks the male of the couple.

"Nope", replies the man quickly, "but my wife did!"