

Waikato Whispers



Waikato Hot Air Balloon Club: www.waikatoballoonclub.co.nz Tel:07 856 0060

CLUB NIGHT Wednesday 3rd March 7:30pm Woodworks Guild Hall Storey Ave.

CLUB DAY Sunday 7th March 6:30 am. Out at The Base Te Rapa opposite Placemakers. Will incorporate crew training for BOW – only two people for training.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Club Night: Club nights will be held every two months. Club Day will continue to be held monthly.

Club Day: Fly out from The Base Te Rapa. Meeting on the grass area opposite Placemakers 6:30am

We do potentially have some new members who we hope will be able to come along and join in. Breakfast after flying at the Farmers Market at the Te Rapa racecourse. If you enter from the Fairview Motors gate you can stop and get cash out at the ANZ Bank. Plenty of shade under the trees. With members travelling down from the Auckland region this makes meeting up a lot easier after flying.

AGM: Your new committee is:

President Nicholas Norris

Secretary

Treasurer

Social Organiser Merlyn Strong

Committee Mark Brown, Gail Dryland, Liam McGirr, Dave Norris, Linda Norris

Yes, we are looking for members who would like to help out with the secretary and treasurer roles with mentoring from Linda and Dave. Committee meeting will be held every two months.

Occurrence Reporting: Following on from last month, CAA have issued a draft revision of AC 12-2 for comment. What is of significant interest is reference to non-commercial organisations and individuals in respect of compliance with their Standard Operating Procedures, CAA Rules, airworthy directives, advisory circulars and policies/procedures etc.

There is a strong emphasis on sharing information – and the Club is an ideal environment in which we can share knowledge, experience and encourage safe practices to be followed.

IT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME

70-80% of aviation accidents have an element of human factor involvement. Clearly, it can happen to ME. Questions asked in relation to any accident or incident (Occurrence) in respect of Human Factors are:

(a) Were there any physiological factors such as fatigue, vision, or hearing issues that may have been involved?

i) Some specific questions to be considered regarding fatigue are:

- What time of day did the occurrence happen?
- How long has the person(s) involved been awake?
- How long did the person(s) involved sleep for last?
- What was the quality of sleep?
- Were there any sleep/medical disorders affecting the person(s) involved?

- (b) How experienced and well trained were the individuals involved in the occurrence with:
 - (i) the aircraft type
 - (ii) the manoeuvre or type of flying being conducted at the time
 - (iii) the area/location.
- (c) Were any of these common human factors themes involved:
 - (i) situational awareness
 - (ii) decision making
 - (iii) communication.

WHABC and the new Health & Safety Legislation: You may be aware that as of 4th April the new Health & Safety legislation comes into effect.

Volunteer organisations are exempt from prosecution as they are not classified as a PCUB **providing** that they do not employ anybody.

However, the Club and Members do still have a Duty of Care to ensure that when we are out as the Club or representing the Club that we take all practical steps to ensure everyone – including the public – are safe.

The CAA Rules pertaining to issues of safety as they apply to private individuals and Clubs must also be followed.

As Roger Cruickshank stated last year, *“if you think safety costs, try having an accident.”*

Health and Safety at Work (Adventure Activities) Regulations 2016 – the Club is exempt

An **adventure activity** does not include an activity provided by a sports club or recreation club to—

- (a) a member of the club; or
- (c) a person who is not a member of the club, if the activity—
 - (i) is provided only to encourage membership of the club or interest in the club’s activities, or only for the purposes of a competition; and

Top 5 things to drop out of a hot air balloon

13 February 2016

Ever thought about dropping a penny out of a sky scraper window? Well that is totally not legal. However, dropping things out of a hot air balloon is. Balloonists drop items out of the balloon basket to see what the winds are doing beneath them. Obviously, pennies are too heavy, and could potentially be dangerous. The FAA’s rule is you can actually drop anything out of a hot air balloon as long as it does not damage any person or property.

You can actually drop anything out of a hot air balloon as long as it does not damage any person or property.

Most pilots don’t drop random objects for fun. They drop specific objects that are light enough be easily carried by the wind. Many pilots use the age old technique of spitting over the side of the balloon basket, and watching it intently as the wind shifts it from side to side. This works great, except sometimes becomes difficult as you run out of saliva about half way through the flight. The classier way is to use shaving cream. Shaving cream is light in weight, and when sprayed over the side of the basket can be easily seen for a few thousand feet. Every hot air balloon pilot has their favorite wind discovery device. Here’s our top 5 list items to safely drop out of a hot air balloon.

1. Shaving Cream
2. Popcorn
3. Rose Petals
4. Cheesy Poofs
5. Parachute equipped army men toys- Make sure to remove the rubber band from parachute before launching!

So, if one morning, you're on your porch drinking a warm cup of coffee, and a cheesy poof lands in your cup, it's not the neighbor kids trying to pull a prank, it's just a hot air balloon pilot trying to find his way while eating a delicious snack.

[Eliav Cohen](#) – Seattle Ballooning.

WBC: Just an update for you all, the WBC basket has new fuel hoses and over the next week or so will have an annual inspection done on it. It will then be leased out to BOW. During BOW we will have Martyn Stacey check it out and give us a nominal value of the basket and burners. We will then offer the bottom end for sale by tender as fit for flying.

RYB: Scheduled for its annual inspection the week of 22 February.

History of Ballooning in NZ: BAANZ members and in particular Martyn Stacey is working on collecting up information about early ballooning in NZ. Old photos, newspaper articles – anything you know of or people you know of who might have information please let Linda know and we will give you Martyn's contact details.

Wairarapa Fiesta: All the best to those heading down to Wairarapa for the balloon festivities. We look forward to hearing your stories on Club Night.



President	Nicholas Norris	027 757 0528	nnorris@ihug.co.nz
Chief Pilot	Dave Norris Mark Brown	021 351 957 021 912 679	nenya@ihug.co.nz
Secretary			
Treasurer			
Whispers			