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OCTOBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

THE WIND UNDER OUR WINGS.

1. 9 October 2016.

Ruawai "Fly-out."

This month's fly out was to Ruawai to take part in their monthly fish and chip lunch.

The forecast was for cloud at about 2500' with 40% probability of showers and the possibility of thunderstorms developing late afternoon. We considered the situation and decided that we would be able to see the showers and if heavy would be able to use KK, KO, DA as diversions and decided to go. As it happened the flight was uneventful but there were a couple of showers whilst we were feeding.

The field was a bit rough with a narrow limestone strip. Usually the grass is available too but it had not been cut due to the wet weather. We were advised to accelerate slowly on the take off run to reduce the chance of stone damage to the prop. Willie did a prop inspection on our return and we were relieved that no damage was found.

Ruawai club members worked extremely hard to make the event a success. As the summer progresses this would be a suitable place for another visit. The round trip took 1.7 hours in MBN.

In November we are flying to the RAANZ AGM at Stratford. At present we have 3 aircraft going but there is still a crew required for NOL. Flight time will be about 2.1/2 hours each way but navigation is fairly straightforward following the coast to just north of New Plymouth before bobbing around controlled airspace. It should all fit into Saturday November 26th but some of us might go on the Friday and stay over in New Plymouth or Stratford to make an adventure of it. The AGM is just an excuse for a BBQ lunch and ooh aah at other people's aircraft so do come if you can. For those with and advanced local certificate the flight can be authorised by an instructor after a suitable briefing.

Photos of the trip are below.



2. Russell Simister

The sophisticated twin engine Duchess greased a smooth landing into Kerikeri on Saturday the 8th October, piloted by our very own Russell Simister.

He was seen quietly going about his pre-flight inspection in preparation for the second part of his NDB instrument approach into North Shore.



Russell, a competent commercial pilot is very active on the Bay Of Islands Aero Club committee and is also a search and rescue pilot and training officer in the Northland Coastguard Air Patrol which is based at Kerikeri Airport.

4. Pilot's Tip of the Week.

Alan Murgatroyd has forwarded this "Pilot's Tip of the Week" from Pilot workshops.com. He comments: The article refers to USA airspace of course, but still relevant, especially the one where the jumpers had exited their aeroplane, and therefore made the "Jumpers Away" call before the pilot had switched on his radio. Perfectly possible at Kerikeri. If the jump aircraft is not parked outside their hangar – beware, it might not be tucked away inside.

The full article is as follows:

Pilot's Tip of the Week

Parachute Jumping Areas

Featuring Bob Martens –

Subscriber question:

"What precautions should I take when flying near airports where parachute jumping is in progress? How can I find out where these operations are taking place?" – Nick C.

Bob:

"Prepare, look and listen!"

The sectional charts will depict parachute jumping areas. Familiarize yourself with the appropriate symbol on the legend of the sectional chart so you know how they are depicted.

If possible plan your flights to avoid airports with high parachute jumping activity, especially on weekends or other days when activity is highest. Operating in these areas can be a huge source of distraction for pilots.

Let me share a tragic story. Several years ago while flying through a parachute jump area, a cross-country aircraft stuck a parachutist. The parachutist lived sustaining only a broken ankle while all those on the aircraft perished due to damage to the aircraft. Damage to the elevator rendered the aircraft unflyable and it crashed.

If flying near an area of jump activity, monitor the Common Traffic Advisory Frequency (of the jump airport) to be aware of upcoming jumps and the Jumpers Away call. Most pilots of jump aircraft will also provide notice prior to jumpers away, so be listening for these radio



calls as well. If you are getting advisories from ATC, they can also advise you of jump activity if the jump aircraft is in communication with them.

Always remember that the jump aircraft is often in a hurry to get back to the airport rapidly for their next stick, so be aware of its position after the jumpers have left the aircraft."

Spare a thought for the pilot who write this response:

"KHWV has a high volume jumping operation. It has literally taken over the airport. On one runway there are 4 jump planes coming and going. There are glider operations and banner towing on the same runway. Saying it is dangerous is an understatement. The FAA can not do anything but wait for the accident(s) that will happen. Brookhaven management is oblivious to these dangers and are subjecting the town and it's taxpayers to large lawsuits."

Kerikeri is is relatively safe in comparison but this is timely reminder to be very alert to parachute operations.

5. Games Evening.

It would appear that "Games Evenings" are not yet dead. There has been a request to resuscitate the idea so let's have a try for Friday, November 11th at 7pm. Snooker, pool and billiards are all on offer. Check in with CFI, John Nicholls if planning to attend.