



July / August '15 Newsletter

Booming Business

Well winter is almost coming to an end and we are trying to get the Club ready for another busy summer season. What a winter we've had though, we've almost flown every day this year so far (where the weather has permitted).

Last year we really worked on building up the name of the Kaikoura Aero Club and if you listen to our online reviews and the way people are talking about us, it seems we may be succeeding. I guess this is also shown by how busy we're getting on the Whale Watching side of things.

This year, our aim is to continue to be busier again, and to invest more into the club and try to secure its long term future with some improvements around the place. Over the winter so far and in the coming few months between now and the beginning of summer, we are working on making the premises more professional looking. The new website is working great for us, we are getting calls every week from people that have found us through it and we feel that, a few improvements around the club could bring us even more flyers.

We have already:

- Purchased a new TV for the clubrooms
- Made a start on sprucing up our check-in area
- Adding, moving and painting some fences around the place

We will shortly be:

- Painting some walls (if you're keen to help with some painting – just let us know, we're more than keen for you to help us paint).
- Building a life size Sperm Whale to go on the roof, which will be seen from the highway
- Buying an Aero Club car

We will eventually be:

- Building a hangar for our expanding fleet to sleep in, to help prevent them from the harsh environment we experience here in Kaikoura (feel free to come on down to the club and make a donation to our "Hangar fund", we accept cash, EFTPOS, cheque, online payments, or anything we can sell on Trademe).



www.warbirdsoverwanaka.com

It's not until next March, but start thinking about arranging your Easter schedule around *Friday 25th - Monday 28th March*, unless you want to miss out on the biggest aviation show in New Zealand.

← more info can be found on their website

EAA AIRVENTURE OSHKOSH 2015

So one of our pilots, namely Mel has decided to skip winter altogether this year and swan off to America for a couple of months.

Not only that, but she attended the biggest aviation event in the world and she's kindly taken the time to send a few words and pictures.

Enjoy:

2015 EAA AIRVENTURE – OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN

Well folks, the 2015 EAA Airventure in Oshkosh has now been and gone, and I began writing this whilst sitting on a train heading for New Orleans, and getting buzzed by a topdressing plane along the way. But, with over 1,000 photos to sort through, it has taken a little longer to complete.

Oshkosh provided almost every plane imaginable on display. They were a little lean on British built aircraft, with only one Spitfire and not a Moth in sight, but made up for that with approximately 16 T-6 Texans (Harvards), a bunch of T-38s, and 14 or so Mustangs in the mix, as well as both the rare and bizarre popping up here and there.

There was room for 11,000 to fly in and camp out by their aircraft. By Tuesday morning they had 50 spots left, and please keep in mind, this is only the people who flew in. It doesn't include those camping out in RVs & tents, or staying somewhere offsite, or those visiting just for the day. All up there would have been well over 500K for the week, and apparently that's not the busiest they've had it. Two years ago they had to turn away aircraft because there was no space left for them to park up and camp.

As for me, my Oshkosh experience went from an excited anticipation to freakin' awesome right on the first day.

I had to take a bus from Milwaukee out to Oshkosh (about 1 ½ hrs), and ended up sitting next to a gentleman also attending AirVenture. When he found out I was camping out there he said, "Oh no, you don't want to be doing that, squashed in between all those RVs with their generators going all night. I did that one year and it was awful. There's a group of us that have flown in and we're camped out by our planes at the North40 (section zoned by the runway). How about we go see if we can get you a refund when we get there, and then come camp with us instead. It won't cost you anything, and you'll have a lot more fun I assure you. Only if you want to though, it's up to you."

Hmm... let me see... sleeping next to planes, or between campervans... yeah, it was an easy decision. And with that I ended up in amongst an eclectic and hilarious group of individuals who fly in from around America and catch up with each other once a year, at Oshkosh. And they've been doing it for 19 years straight!

The sheer size of Oshkosh is difficult to imagine, and it's not until you venture out for that first time into the Show that you really appreciate just how massive it really is.

The first day is a little overwhelming, and you struggle to decide what to do first, because you don't want to miss anything. Then you slowly realise that you have 6 days to get around it all, so you take a deep breath, formulate a plan for each day, and off you go on your mission. By the fifth day things are starting to feel a little smaller, and you think you've pretty much seen it all; then you turn a corner you haven't yet been around, and voila, something new to see again.

Outside the Show area itself there is also a Museum, Model Aircraft Base, and a Seaplane Base on the shores of Lake Winnebago.

The highlights of Oshkosh for me:

- Being welcomed into the fold of a friendly, crazy bunch of "locals" for the week
- Waking up to the sound of Mustangs and Jets taking off (perhaps not the morning with the F-35 though. That was a little loud!). They really should invite an alarm ringtone like that – it would be epic!
- Getting to see Oshkosh from the air when one of the guys had to reposition his aircraft, and had to take-off and fly a full approach rather than just taxi to the other side of the runway. We were one of about 100+ aircraft lining up to take-off at the same time. The Controller sounded more like a racing commentator, he barely had time to draw a breath – crazy!
- Finding a plane in the Museum called a "Super Solution" with my last name on its tail! Designed by a guy called Matty Laird. Apparently part of the Gee Bee racing circuit era.
- Meeting the original designer of the Dynamic and test pilot for many aircraft in Slovakia.
- The experience of being around so many like-minded individuals that don't look at you strangely when you promptly interrupt your conversation with them to run out from under the Gazebo and look up at the skies with a giant grin on your face! :D
- The sheer size of it. (and very appreciative to have a bike to use for the week to get around on)
- Getting the opportunity to upgrade my bus ticket out of Oshkosh, to flying in an Archer to Kansas City, even if it did include a full Electrics Failure along the way. On the bright side, I got to fly an Archer IFR from the right seat for about 45 miles whilst the pilot dealt with the Comms on his handheld. Once in KC, we took a look and found out the Alternator belt had come completely off whilst in flight.

I hope this gives you a little insight to what it's like there. If you are able, I would recommend going at least once in your lifetime. You won't regret it, I assure you.

Happy flying,
Mel Laird





It's so big they use buses to take people around



Not quite a full map, but we're camped by the left arrow



Camped out by Marty's Cessna



The sweet set-up I stumbled into



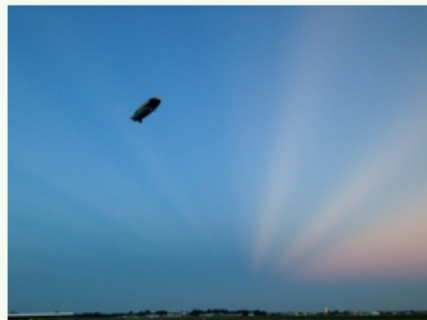
Yep, it was a good decision



Yes, that is a B-52 passing by our site



Robert admiring the view



Once the runway is closed we have beautiful skies & a zeppelin blimp for company



This is your 6am wake-up call. Waking up to Mustangs taking off, pretty sweet!

I'm sure that she'll be more than happy to show you more of her snaps and stories when she's back at the end of August if you pop down and see us.

JOKE

*What do whales eat??
Fish and ships!*



Welcome to our new club members

Vince Gardener, Joe Tripp & Baz

AGM Approaching

We've set a date for our Annual General Meeting and it will take place on 13th September, all are welcome to attend.

Reminder about annual membership fees

Don't forget you've got to pay your \$65 if you wish to remain a member of the club.