

WATTS NEWS

A newsletter issued by the Watts Bridge Memorial Flying Field Air Chalet and Commercial Owners Group

September 2002

Welcome to our newsletter

We hope that it will be an information source for the Air Chalet and Commercial Owners Group as well as all groups associated with the Watts Bridge Airfield. A newsletter is only as good as the information it is able to gather. We are optimistic about everyone's ability to contribute as already we see heartening evidence of co-operation, goodwill and

achievement. Past difficulties are being overcome and there is a growing sense of optimism regarding our future. Indeed, the vision is to make Watts Bridge the national leader in recreational flying activities and facilities.

Mike Nelson

Air Chalet and Commercial Owners Meetings

On Sunday May 19 an introductory meeting was held at the air chalet of Janny Luijk it was pleasing to see 26 people attending. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce new members, to be informed of current developments and to discuss future plans. Also, Gus de Laat spoke of the group cohesiveness and the facility to inform members engendered by such meetings.

There was some discussion on the role of the group in assisting the Airfield Committee in advancing the interests of Watts Bridge. At this time it was suggested that, if this group were able to get a newsletter going, information could be more readily accessed by this and other groups on the airfield. As Mike Nelson had already mentioned the printing school at Morningside in regard to facilitating printed material for Watts Bridge, the meeting suggested that he co-ordinate the newsletter.

The second meeting was held on Sunday July 28 at the air chalet of Jeffrey and Gerry Underhill. At that meeting mention was made of little progress made last year due to consolidating the rapid gains made over the past three years.

The idea of tree planting to soften the appearance of the air chalet area was raised by Gus and Ross. Previous attempts have been made in the past. It seems the issue is keeping small plants alive in dry weather. Should the group obtain the seedlings, watering in dry weather needs to be done by someone. Any volunteers?

Ross spoke of the advantage of having the sub-leases formally registered. While the cost to each owner is in the vicinity of \$600, the advantages, including streamlining insurance claims, seem considerable. There was agreement that most owners would seek formal registration.

Concerns were raised about such registration incurring rates. While the general advice was that such a practice would in effect be 'double-dipping' it was suggested that this and other issues be raised with council so that a clear picture is gained before any owner proceeds.



Ross and pet Tiger

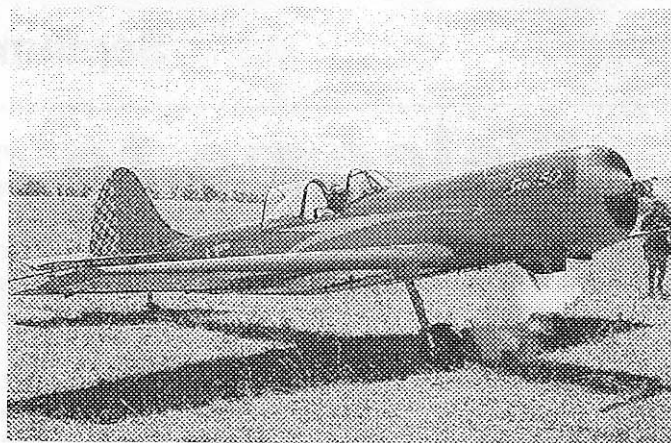
The meeting was cautioned in regard to lengthy processes associated with obtaining approval to build an air chalet. The advice was to work on a six month timeframe. So if you are thinking of building, consider this timeframe.

The matter of obtaining signs for avenues and taxiways was also canvassed. Some folk have, in the past, used taxiways for vehicles, to the detriment of the taxiway. This discussion was inconclusive as the cost of signage needs to be determined. It needs to be noted that signage in the approved dispersion area is mandatory under airfield regulations. Also the matter of airfield fencing for security reasons was raised.

As these items incur some cost, discussion led to financial issues. The air chalet owners felt that protection of their on-site investment was not seen as an issue by other groups on the airfield. The feeling of the meeting was that the air chalet owners' voice on security issues should be heard and responded to by the Airfield Committee. There was a general feeling that all the airfield groups should make an economically realistic contribution to Watts Bridge operations.

Outcomes from the AGM

The Watts Bridge Committee held the AGM on Sunday August 11. This meeting was well attended. Reports were given on some difficulties associated with Water Corporation processes but the good news was a presentation by Bob Abnett who is the chosen consultant for aviation development and marketing strategies, Watts Bridge. It became apparent that Bob brings to the task a wealth of experience in airfield developments both large and small.



Ignition !!!

Aviation group workshop

The Aviation group workshop conducted by Bob Abnett on September 1 was well supported by our groups. Areas of agreement were:

1. Poor internal communication between all groups is hampering the ability to formulate goals for Watts Bridge – first priority.
2. Control by external groups is impacting on Watts Bridge's destiny. Management and procedures upgrades should enable Watts Bridge to better manage these constraints.
3. Personal liability issues need to be addressed.
4. The unique advantages of Watts Bridge airfield need to be promoted internally and marketed externally.

Office-bearers following the AGM

For your interest the office-bearers of the committee are given below:

President, Ian Perkins

Secretary, Janice Nelson

Treasurer, John Sharman

Delegate WBMA, Gus de Laat, (future development)

Delegate QUA, Tanys Mc Carron, (constitution and communications)

Delegate Caboolture Gliding, Bill Finlen, (works)

Delegate QUVAG, Brian Pettigrew, (membership)

Delegate Commercial Owners, Barry Hempel, (promotions and tourism) Janny Luijk pro-tem

Delegate AAA, Liz Cook

Delegate SAAA, To be advised

Delegate Gyros, To be advised

And Finally

The next meeting of this home-base group will be held at Rodney and Noelene Mill's air chalet (number eight) at 1pm on Sunday October 13. We have tentatively set these dates to coincide with every alternate committee meeting so that the committee will have sufficient notice to address any issues in this newsletter which will appear in future when we meet (we all have a head start on this one!)

Until then happy and safe flying