

NZ AEROBATIC CLUB

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022

SOUTH ISLAND AKRO FEST

DECEMBER 1ST - 4TH 2022, ASHBURTON



NORTH ISLAND AKRO FEST

DECEMBER 9TH - 11TH 2022, MERCER

NZ NATIONALS

MARCH 1ST - 4TH 2022

HOOD AERODROME, MASTERTON



STRAPPED IN TIGHT

FROM THE PRESIDENT, MORRIS TULL

Aerobatic flying and competition season has arrived, and I hope you and your aircraft are ready. We have 3 events on the schedule: being the South Island Akrofest on 1st-3rd December at Ashburton. Then the North Island Akrofest the following weekend from 9th to 11th of December at Mercer. These are fantastic regional events that are excellent practice and fine tuning for you and our judges prior to the big event, the New Zealand Aerobatic Club National Championships at Masterton from 28th of Feb to 5th of March 2023. The awesome "Wings over Wairarapa" Airshow is the weekend before the Nationals and if you can organise yourself and find accommodation, this is a great time to combine 2 great events as a few of us are already doing.



WARNING, there is also another large event in Masterton called 'The Golden Shears', an international competition for sheep shearing on during the same week as our Nationals so I urge you to find and lock in accommodation as soon as possible, motel accommodation seems to be full already. We have approval to set up a campervan village at the airfield as an option as well.

In my time with the club, I have strived to amend our rules to make our events more fun, to have more opportunity to fly more sequences, to create the opportunity to fly 2 aircraft, to assist you to re fly a sequence if you have a technical concern, to be flexible and assist you to have a successful aerobatic competition and to provide mentors to any new participants, volunteers and judges. I think we have succeeded, and we have a great culture within our club.

Our committee and event organisers have done a great job of preparing these events and we have established excellent templates for all our events to make it easier going forward. Many thanks to the team.

A big shout out to our instructors, Grant Benns and Andy Love, Lachlan Falconer and our associates at NZ Warbirds for the various training days and efforts to grow our aerobatic pilot numbers and judges. There has been a significant increase in Pitts Special rated pilots of late and we look forward to seeing them at our competitions this season.

A wise friend of mine once said; "You don't have to have all the toys, you just have to have one cool toy and be prepared to share, and in return, you gain access to many more toys".

This has become a motto of mine and I encourage it within our club by being open to share your cool plane. A massive shout out to those aircraft owners in our club who have made access to share their aircraft with others less fortunate, please let's continue expanding this sharing.

Sometimes you have to start with a syndicate or a kitset aircraft or a restoration project to slowly create an aerobatic aircraft and I encourage you to look at these opportunities too. I have just recently located and purchased a Pitts S1S restoration project that I would like to restore with a group at Rangiora or in Canterbury, so if you are interested in a very affordable fun aircraft or know someone, let me know. ZK-PEG, a 160 hp Pitts S1 is for sale as a ready to fly aircraft if you or a syndicate is interested as well and you could be up and competing at every event this season.

You and your aircraft have probably sat around over winter getting fat and unfit, so I encourage you to get out and get moving and get fit and ready for aerobatic flying. Ensure you are legal and ready well in advance of the events please. Please don't expect our instructors to do your Aerobatic competency checks 5 minutes before you compete at the events, do them now.

Many of us have been unable to attend a Low Level and Display ground course over the last 2 years as is required for your LLDA so you will have to look for available courses from NZ Warbirds or at our events and get your renewal paperwork in.

Have a good look over your aircraft if it has sat around for the winter, check for birds and mice nests, pump up your tires and do a good check of your tailwheel system, springs, chains and clips. Charge the battery before damaging it by starting with a low battery. Empty out your cold weather flying kit and remove all non-essential equipment for your aerobatic practice. Use the same discipline with your practice flying as we expect at our competitions.

Our known sequences are all on the website, so start practicing them; if possible, get critique from the ground. For those in intermediate and above, do some practice on OpenAero and design your Free Known sequence using the 5 compulsory figures published on the website. There are articles on sequence design on our website, and ask for help if you are learning or struggling with your sequence design.

For additional fun, we do an unknown sequence which is designed by one of the judges or committee and given to you to fly without practice. It is good for you to also try some alternate sequences from the past to gain experience at some different figures and flows of different sequences too.

We have had a disappointing few years due to covid restrictions but we are now more ready than ever to have a big season of events and let's get out there and enjoy, but do it safely.

Regards, Morris

SOUTH ISLAND AKRO FEST

Andy Love, Event Organiser, Club Secretary & Treasurer

The 8th edition of the SI Akro Fest will run from 1st-3rd December, at Ashburton Aerodrome.

We have seen terrific growth in this event since its inception at Omaka in 2015, where we also celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Pitts Special.

We initially started the event with Recreational and Intermediate classes, and have grown it to include all 6, plus the Vintage Class (Wayne Edwards Memorial Trophy), which is unique to SI Akro Fest.

Hosted by the Mid Canterbury Aeroclub, members can look forward to enjoying pristine new club facilities, a large immaculate hangar for preparing for flights, and beautifully kept vectors and taxiways. Ashburton plays host to the Great Plains Fly-In and is a popular enroute stop for itinerants.

The event commences Thursday with an 8am briefing, followed by the Known and Free programs, concluding with a Friday night BBQ at the Aeroclub. Unknowns are then handed out, and all the chatter disappears, as

competitors start to figure out their Unknown program, which will be flown Saturday morning.

The finale before lunch on Saturday is the Vintage Category, where the same classic program is flown twice by any aircraft that is a pre-65 taildragger with no inverted fuel/oil system. The 4-minute Freestyle is run in the afternoon to conclude the proceedings.

For the prize giving and evening dinner, The Lake House at Lake Hood is hosting us which is always a popular occasion. Registration is now closed, however bribes may be accepted for late entry by the Contest Director.

Big thanks to my co-host Lachlan Falconer, for the work he puts in behind the scenes. Lachlan has assembled a very detailed welcome letter for all competitors, if you have not got a copy of this, please drop me an email and I will forward you one.

If you have any further questions about the event please do not hesitate to get in touch. Happy practicing!



A hand-drawn style poster for the South Island Akro Fest. At the top, the text "South Island Akro Fest" is written in a large, cursive font. Below it, a biplane is depicted in flight. Under the biplane, the text "Ashburton Airfield" and "1-3 December 2022" is written in a similar cursive font. At the bottom, there is a block of text: "Aerobatic Competition & Fly-In | All welcome", "Andrew Love | 021 217 9170 | Torque_Roll@hotmail.com", and "Please contact Andrew for further information & Registration forms". Below this text are three logos: the Ashburton Aviation Museum logo (a green arch with a plane inside), the Mid Canterbury Aero Club logo (a yellow and green winged logo with "MCAC" and "MID-CANTERBURY AERO CLUB INC." text), and a circular logo for the "AKRO CLUB" with a biplane silhouette.



COMPETITION DATES

December 10th and 11th, 2022 (Practice December 9th);
Weather postponement date December 19th and 20th,
2022 (Practice December 18th)

Entries are to be done online at www.aerobatics.nz

COMPETITION FORMAT

The December 2022 North Island Akro Fest will include the six Categories of aerobatic competition: Primary, Recreational, Sports, Intermediate, Advanced, and Unlimited.

Each Category will fly three sequences in front of the judges:

1. Known
2. Free Known
3. Unknown.

Winners for each Category will be determined by the highest combined score of all completed sequences.

The NZ Aerobatic Club Rules are used as the basis for this competition and are available at www.aerobatics.nz. All Known sequences are published on www.aerobatics.nz

COMPETITION DATES

The competition is planned to take place from Tuesday 28th Feb to Sunday 5th of March 2023 at Master-ton Aerodrome. Tuesday being arrival and practice is allowed in the box.

Weather delays may require an extension of competition flying till Sunday 5^h of March, which has been allowed for in the published SUPP.

Event organizer is Grant Benns with Contest Director Morris Tull and Andy Love.

Entries will open in December and to be submitted online at www.aerobatics.nz

Book your accommodation ASAP as there is Golden Shears competition the same week!



NZ Aerobatic Club Nationals

EVENT TIMETABLE — MARCH 2023

MON 27th FEB

Arrivals / Practice. *Put box markers out. Tech inspections.*

TUE 28th FEB

1200-1300 Lunch/Briefing. 1300-1800 In Box practice allowed.

WED 1st MAR

0800: Briefing (Aeroclub briefing room).

0900: Practice

1230: Lunch

1330: Competition begins. Knowns all categories. *LLDA or Judging courses?*

1900: *Box closed. Bar opens at 1800.*

Welcome BBQ at Clubrooms.

THU 2nd MAR

0800: Briefing (Aeroclub briefing room)

0900: Once Knowns complete, Free-Knowns/Free's commence

1230: Lunch

1330: Free's / Free-Knowns until complete

1900: Box closed. Bar opens 1800

1900: AGM

2000: Free Unknown design session, Pizzas delivered to Clubrooms.

FRI 3rd MAR

0800: Briefing (Aeroclub briefing room)

0900: Unknowns commence (Sports/Inter/Adv/Unl), followed by Free Unknowns (inter/Adv/Unl)

1230: Lunch – order prior

1330: Free Unknowns until complete

1900: Box closed. Bar opens at 1800

BBQ hosted by the Wairarapa Aeroclub

SAT 4th MAR

0800: Briefing (Aeroclub briefing room)

0900: Free Unknowns until complete (Inter/Adv/Unl)

1200: Lunch – order prior

1300: Free Unknowns until complete then 4minute Freestyle

1700: (1800 if necessary) Box closed. De-brief at Aeroclub

1700: Bar opens

1830: 3 course buffet dinner location TBA

1900: Prize Giving.

SUN 5th MAR

1000 -1300 possible last competition flights if weather delays are encountered. Presentation and lunch.

Collect box markers, Tidy up Aeroclub & hangar, & Depart.

NZ AEROBATIC CLUB

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 1st - 3rd 2022: South Island Akro Fest, Ashburton

Dec 11th - 12th 2022: North Island Akro Fest, Mercer

Mar 1st - 5th 2023: 2022/23 Nationals, Masterton

ONLINE

Website: aerobatics.nz
Email: info@aerobatics.nz
Facebook: facebook.com/NZAerobatics

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Morris Tull
Vice President: Mike Slack
Secretary/Treasurer: Andy Love
Committee: Grant Benns,
Lachlan Falconer,
Mike Fowler
Media: Ian Young

