

Technical Officers Report 2013

From a technical perspective, our discipline of recreational and sport flying has become a lot more expensive recently.

We should therefore all be most grateful for the great work done by our IAs.

It is very important to us all that we do not expose ourselves or our organisation to unnecessary risk that could jeopardise the way we operate. It is imperative that we all understand our responsibilities as pilots and aircraft owners as well as our legal requirements.

The task of flight permit validation could be enhanced by ensuring that you have complied with your responsibilities. Your IA would really appreciate it if your 24 month avionic requirement was current as well as your CO monitor just to mention two of the many requirements. The IA is merely auditing what you yourself are doing and should not have to pick up on these oversights.

Your IA is trying to look after you and certainly has no personal gain by highlighting deficiencies. Your aim should be to have all the boxes initialled resulting in an efficient and cost effective inspection.

I wish to also acknowledge the efforts of our IAs.

There is often a lack of understanding of processes that are clearly laid out in our manuals. This can result in lengthy conversations as to how to process some technical challenges. You can hardly expect a modification to be approved if all the supporting documentation is not presented.

Another technical dilemma is which transponder to install. Mode C or Mode S.

As things currently stand, Paul Fallow from Airways NZ believes that it is unlikely that Mode S will be fully utilised before 2018. Thereafter, a run in period phasing out Mode C could be as long as 2022. A lot of this is crystal-ball gazing so is difficult to predict. A large part of this responsibility is controlled by the Civil Aviation Authority. There is a large financial difference between Mode C and Mode S and the decision is difficult.

Please don't forget, those people who purchased Emergency PLBs when they were first required, will possibly find that the batteries are due to expire. There are some exchange possibilities so please don't hesitate to ask.

I wish to publicly acknowledge the tremendous efforts of my colleagues on the executive. We are indeed fortunate to have these guys in place to help our sport. I thank them for their support.

All the very best for the festive season and fair weather!

Colin Alexander