



The Old Fliers' Group

Attached to the Royal Aero Club of WA (Inc).

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September Meeting

At the September meeting Richard Ewing gave us an in-depth look at parachuting in Western Australia – from a pilot's point of view. During a period of over twenty years Richard has volunteered his services to take skydivers into the air. His talk was supported with a range of photos and videos that displayed the typical aircraft, singles and twins, and the typical people who take pleasure in leaping out of "a perfectly good aeroplane". We had a chance to look at the modifications that make an aircraft more suited to the task. Usually it was to take the door off and remove the seats and "jaggy" bits.

To ensure that the operation goes smoothly the pilot requires a new set of skills that are different to normal flying. Safety is paramount as the aircraft is flown to the correct height and to the correct location for the drop. Of course a safe descent is also important.



A tandem jump.

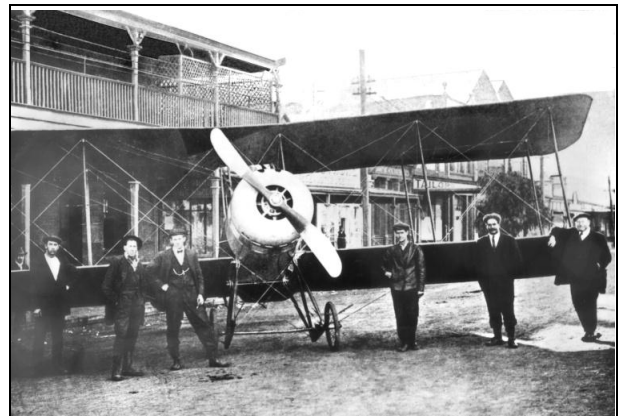
The video clips showed a variety of jumps, consisting of: static line, tandem and free-fall. One clip from the USA showed novelty descents where pranksters got pleasure from leaping out of a larger aircraft on a push bike, in an open car, or on a lounge chair. Madness?

All in all, it was a very informative talk that took us into the serious side of skydiving and finished with some of the more humorous aspect of the sport.

The "Kalgoorlie Biplane" propeller

On display at the last meeting was ninety-five year old propeller of the Kalgoorlie Biplane. It was made in Kalgoorlie in 1915 by Frank Oldfield who was part of the syndicate that built the aircraft. The "Biplane" was

the first successful aeroplane to be built and fly in Western Australia. After its last flight in Perth in 1916 the propeller was given to Mr M de Pedro. He was the last passenger to fly in famous machine. De Pedro gave the prop to the club in 1938.



The Kalgoorlie Biplane at Coolgardie in 1915.

The suggestion that the OFG members contribute to an appropriate and protective display case was keenly accepted. Members were asked to donate small change, a "gold" coin, or even a small banknote, as they left the meeting. Happily we can report that \$210 was raised and moves have been made to have the display case built.

Next Meeting

The attraction at our next meeting will be a talk by management of the local high-tech company, Cyber Technology. Among other things, "Cybertech" produces unmanned vehicles (UAVs) which are radio controlled aircraft, with a wingspan of a few metres that carry surveillance equipment.

As well as the conventional designs, Cybertech produces a small UAV that has four electrically driven ducted fans which allow it to be flown in a similar manner to a helicopter. If all goes well, we may have a demonstration flight during the meeting.

So make the effort to attend what looks like being a unique meeting. The date, time and location – Friday 29th October, noon, at the Royal Aero Club. Hope to see you there.

Brian Hernan