



The Old Fliers' Group

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

Coordinator: Stephen Rogers – Email: henol@bigpond.net.au

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NEXT MEETING

Friday July 31st

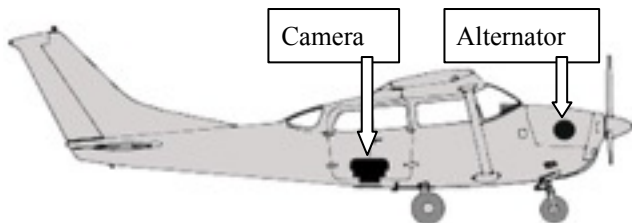
June Meeting Report

Members have been repeatedly commenting on the high quality of the presentations at meetings – and last meeting was no exception. About ninety members were entertained by our speakers at the June meeting.

Mini-speaker

The Mini-Speaker for June was Bevan Marshall. He spoke about a recurring aircraft maintenance problem after the modification of a Cessna 206 to accept a Wild RC9 aerial camera. A hole was cut in the floor of the cabin and the surrounding area strengthened. The alteration toward the rear of the aircraft induced a harmonic vibration that caused the failure of successive alternator support brackets in the engine compartment.

To give members a better understanding of the problem, Bevan manufactured a life-size model of the RC9 camera in polystyrene foam.



The location of the camera and alternator in a C.206.

Speaker of the Day

The Speaker of the Day was Rosemary Stevens who, with husband and child, was a passenger on British Airways flight BA009 in late June 1982.



The route over Indonesia.

The Boeing 747 was cruising at 37,000 ft *en route* from Heathrow when it flew into a volcanic ash cloud over Indonesia.

Rosemary gave a fascinating account of what happened on board. First, there was smoke in the cabin and a strange smell. Passengers at the front could see what appeared to be a bright light in the engine intakes while those at the back witnessed a trail of sparks from the rear of the engines. All could see the emerald green St Elmo's Fire dancing on the wings and engines. Then the cabin lights went out as passengers became fearful of what might happen next.

On the flight deck the crew made repeated attempts to re-start the engines without success as the aircraft was stabilised in a glide. However, the captain was forced into an accelerated descent when it was discovered that the co-pilot's oxygen mask had failed. That was fortuitous, as all engines were able to be re-started at the lower altitude with increased air density and the higher glide speed.

Rosemary's account of the event proved to be most interesting and informative and members showed their appreciation by personal engagement at the end of the meeting.



An illustration of St Elmo's Fire.

Next Meeting

The next OFG meeting on Friday July 31st and will feature Alex Kerr who will talk about his time as a prisoner of war after being shot down during WWII. He will also speak about his recently published book, "Shot Down".

The usual parking arrangements will apply between 10.30 and 2.30 on Friday July 31st, so hope to see you at the Royal Aero Club just before noon for lunch. Come early for a chat if you desire.

Brian Hernan