

Australian Ballooning Federation

PILOTS CIRCULAR

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Pilots Circular is produced by the Australian Ballooning Federation Inc., and contains operational and safety information for all Australian balloonists. All ABF members – from the newest student to the most experienced pilot – are invited to contribute to PC on issues you feel other pilots may wish to know about, or to raise questions that you would like information about. Thanks to all members who contributed to this issue.

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Registrations at risk of suspension or cancellation

Over twenty balloons are still not registered under the new Part 47 arrangements. There is a real risk of these aircraft being flown illegally if the transition paperwork is not submitted. The transition is NOT an automatic process. Some are no longer owned by their listed operators/registration holders. Many will in fact be unairworthy, and if you are in this position it would be simplest to let CASA know that you want to deregister the balloon. Others have changed hands without CASA being told – if CASA does not get a reply from the last known registration holder, they may deregister the balloon. You can check your registration on the CASA website www.casa.gov.au/casadata/register/trans47.asp. If you have submitted paperwork but this has not been acknowledged, check with CASA.

CASA cost recovery

From 1 January 2006 CASA is charging \$130 per hour to issue approvals, which may include approval for a local balloon event, flight in controlled airspace or an individual night flight. It is proposed that in future under the new Part 103 regulations for sport aviation the ABF will issue many approvals instead of CASA. The ABF will discuss with CASA a more equitable arrangement for the interim period.

Training Manual and Exams

The first part of the ABF Pilot Training Manual is now finalised. Part 9 (study notes for the ABF Radio Operator Certificate) will be available to download from the ABF website around the time you read this. Other parts will be listed and will become available progressively as they are completed and checked.

Revision of the ABF theory exams is completed. As this issue goes to print, updated kits are being posted out to all ABF Examiners. All Examiners are now approved to supervise the theory exam and practical test for the Radio Operator Certificate.

Current Examiners

ACT – Simon Fisher, Danny Galbraith, Alan Shore, Ruth Wilson

NSW – Peter Vizzard, Chris Dewhirst

NT – John Wallington

Qld – Shaun Darby, Steve Griffin, Aavo Henderson, Will Paul

SA – Ian Hogben

Vic – Alan Cameron, Gary Pask, Ian Robinson, Kiff Saunders, James Skene, Ray Smith

WA – Gren Putland

Congratulations to Chris Dewhirst on his recent appointment as an Examiner. Chris lives in Mullumbimby on the northern NSW coast near Byron Bay. Aden Wickes, Bob Ross, John Stein, Jenny Houghton and Adrian Clements have now officially retired as Examiners, and we thank them for their good service over the years.

Proposed ABF rule changes

On 1 July 2006 the ABF committee proposes to introduce the following additional requirements for ABF Student Pilot and Private Pilot Certificates:

1. Effective from 1 July 2006 the holder of an ABF Student Pilot Certificate will be required to:

- a) hold an ABF Radio Operator Certificate or a current CASA Flight Radiotelephone Operator Licence* *before undertaking any further solo training flight, and*
- b) have a current pass in all ABF theory exams *before undertaking any flight test (solo or dual) for the issue of a Private Pilot Certificate.*

2. Effective from 1 July 2008 an ABF Private Pilot Certificate will not remain valid unless the holder is also the holder of an ABF Radio Operator Certificate or a current CASA Flight Radiotelephone Operator Licence*.

These requirements are in addition to the current requirements in each case.

*Information on the ROC and FROL is included on the following page.

Background

Carriage and use of VHF airband radio is increasingly required for balloon flights. Even when one pilot makes radio calls for a group of balloons, all balloons are normally required to remain on listening watch and each pilot must be competent to use radio individually if the need arises. Radio is now mandatory within 10 NM of many aerodromes where balloons fly (information elsewhere in this issue). Radio competence is considered a basic aviation skill which should be achieved before solo flight training is undertaken, and maintained throughout a pilot's career. Existing PPC holders will have 2 years until 1 July 2008 to obtain a radio qualification.

Flight theory training should be undertaken concurrently with practical flight training, so that each acts as a learning springboard for the other. Ideally theory training should be completed and exams passed well before the final check flight for the PPC. The student pilot should not present him/herself for a check flight with inadequate theoretical knowledge due to not having completed theory studies and exams.

Comments or questions

Please contact the ABF Operations Manager Ian Hogben before 30 May 2006.

ROC or FROL?

As outlined above, the ABF will soon require all private balloon pilots to hold a radio qualification. This can be either an ROC or FROL (see below). Adequate time will be allowed for all pilots to obtain the qualification.

CASA Flight Radiotelephone Operator Licence (FROL) requires a current Class 2 aviation medical every two years. Commercial balloon pilots must have a FROL. Tests for the FROL may be taken at various flying schools.

The ABF Radio Operator Certificate (ROC) is limited to private balloon flights, but needs no medical and may be issued to an ABF Student Pilot or Private Pilot Certificate holder. The ROC is equivalent to the FROL, and is written specifically for balloons. Study notes and exams are available, as mentioned above. It is not difficult; BAV recently organised a one night radio course in Victoria and all 10 participants qualified that night.

Radio requirements

VHF radio is required for balloon flights at night, above 5000ft, close to cloud in VMC, and within 10NM of any aerodrome shown as CTAF (R) or any aerodrome with an instrument approach procedure (IAP). It is also required in controlled airspace.

More aerodromes are now CTAF (R) or IAP. How do you know which ones?

CTAF (R) aerodromes are indicated on charts and in ERSA.

IAP aerodromes are listed in the Airservices document 'Departure and Approach Procedures' (DAP for short), which can be viewed on www.airservicesaustralia.com/publications. On the next page is the current IAP aerodrome list. Check your local aerodromes to see where radio is required.

IAP Aerodromes list as at 16 March 2006

ADELAIDE	COFFS HBR	INNISFAIL	MOSSMAN	SHEPPARTON
ALBANY	CONDOBOLIN	INVERELL	HOSPITAL	SMITHTON
ALBURY	COOBER PEDY		MT GAMBIER	SNAKE BAY
ALICE SPRINGS	COOKTOWN	JABIRU	MT HOTHAM	SOUTHERN CROSS
AMBERLEY	COOMA	JANDAKOT	MOUNT ISA	ST GEORGE
ANDAMOOKA	COONABARA-BRAN	JERVOIS	MOUNT KEITH	ST HELENS
ARCHERFIELD	COONAMBLE	JULIA CREEK	MT MAGNET	STANTHORPE
ARGYLE	COOTAMUN-DRA	JUNDEE	MUDGEES	STRAHAN
ARMIDALE	COROWA		MURRAY FIELD	SWAN HILL
ATHERTON	CORRYONG	KALGOORLIE/	MURRIN-MURRIN	SYDNEY
AURUKUN	COWRA	BOULDER		
AVALON	CUMMINS	KARRATHA	NARACOORTE	TAMWORTH
AYERS ROCK	CUNDERDIN	KATANNING	NARRABRI	TAREE
	CUNNAMULLA	KEMPSEY	NARRANDERA	TAROOM
BAIRNSDALE	CURTIN	KIDSTON	NARROMINE	TELFER
BALGO HILL		KING IS	NEWCASTLE	TEMORA
BALLARAT	DARWIN	KINGARROY	WESTPAC BASE	TENNANT CREEK
BALLERA	DENILIQUIN	KINGSCOTE	NEWMAN	THANGOOL
BALLINA/BY-RON	DERBY	KOWANYAMA	NGUKURR	THARGOMIN-DAH
GATEWAY	DEVONPORT	KUNUNURRA	NHILL	THE MONUMENT
BAMAGA	DUBBO		NIFTY	TIBOOBURRA
/INJINOO	DYSART	LATROBE VALLEY	NORFOLK IS	TINDAL
BANKSTOWN		LAUNCESTON	NORMANTON	TOCUMWAL
BARCALDINE	EAST SALE	LAVERTON	NORSEMAN	TOOWOOMBA
BARIMUNYA	ECHUCA	LEARMONTH	NOWRA	TOWNSVILLE
BARROW IS	EDINBURGH	LEIGH CREEK	NYNGAN	TREPELL
BATHURST	ELCHO IS	LEINSTER		TROUGHTON IS
BATHURST IS	EMERALD	LEONORA	OAKEY	TRUSCOTT-
BEDOURIE	ESPERANCE	LILYDALE	OLYMPIC DAM	MUNGALALU
BENALLA	ESSENDON	LISMORE	OMEQ	TULLY HOSPITAL
BENDIGO		LITHGOW MEDICAL	ONSLOW	TUMBY BAY
BIRDSVILLE	FITZROY CROSSING	LOCKHART RIVER	OODNADATTA	TUMUT
BLACKALL	FLINDERS IS	LONGREACH	ORANGE	
BLACKWATER	FORBES	LORD HOWE IS	ORBOST	VICTORIA RIVER
BLOSSOM BANKS	FORREST			DOWNES
BORROLOOLA		MACKAY	PALM IS	
BOULIA	GARDEN PT	MAITLAND	PARABURDOO	WAGGA WAGGA
BOURKE	GAYNDAH	MALLACOOTA	PARAFIELD	WALGETT
BOWEN	GEORGETOWN	MANGALORE	PARKES	WANGARATTA
BREWARRINA	(QLD)	MANINGRIDA	PEARCE	WARBURTON
BRISBANE	GERALDTON	MANJIMUP	PERTH	WARRACKNA-BEAL
BROKEN HILL	GIBB RIVER	MANSFIELD	PHILLIP IS	WARRNAM-BOOL
BROMELTON	GLADSTONE	MAREEBA	POINT COOK	WARWICK
BRONZEWING	GLEN INNES	MARGARET R	POLO FLAT	WAVE HILL
BROOME	GOLD COAST	MAROOCHY-	PT AUGUSTA	WEIPA
BUNBURY	GOONDIWINDI	DORE/SUN-SHINE	PT HEDLAND	WEST SALE
BUNDABERG	GOSFORD DISTRICT	COAST	PORT LINCOLN	WEST WYALONG
BURKETOWN	HOSPITAL	MARY-	PORT MACQUARIE	WESTMEAD
BUSSELTON	GOULBURN	BOROUGH (QLD)	PORTLAND	WHYALLA
	GOVE	MCARTHUR RIVER	PROSERPINE /	WILLIAMTOWN
CAIRNS	GRAFTON	MINE	WHITSUNDAY	WILUNA
CAMDEN	GRIFFITH	MEEKATHARRA	COAST	WINDORAH
CAMOOWEAL	GROOTE EYLANDT	MELBOURNE		WINTON
CANBERRA	GUNNEDAH	MERIMBULA	QUILPIE	WOLLONGONG
CARNARVON		MERRIWA	QUIRINDI	WOLLONGONG
CASINO	HALLS CREEK	HOSPITAL		HOSPITAL
CEDUNA	HAMILTON	MILDURA	RAVENS-	WOOMERA
CENTURY MINE	HAMILTON IS	MILINGIMBI	THORPE	WUDINNA
CHARLEVILLE	HAY	MINNIPA	RENMARK	WUJAL WUJAL
CHRISTMAS IS	HERVEY BAY	MOOMBA	RICHMOND (NSW)	WYNDHAM
CLERMONT	HOBART	MOORABBIN	RICHMOND (QLD)	WYNYARD
CLEVE	HOOKER CK	MORANBAH	ROCKHAMPTON	
CLONCURRY	HORN ISLAND	MORAWA	ROMA	YARRAM
COBAR	HORSHAM	MOREE	ROTTNEST IS	YARRAWONGA
COCOS (KEELING)	HUGHENDEN	MORNINGTON		YARROWEE
IS		ISLAND	SAIBAI IS	YORKE IS
COEN	INGHAM	MORUYA	SCONE	YOUNG