

SAFARI NEWS

Wednesday 24 March

Welcome to the Safari News, the daily newsletter of the Classic Hits Around New Zealand Air Safari. This newsletter is an informal way of sharing snippets of news, gossip, rumours, jokes and anecdotes with your fellow safari participants. Personal bios, great flying stories (true or otherwise), birthdays & anniversaries – pretty much anything goes. It is also intended that the newsletter be published regularly to the website so friends and family at home can follow what we've all been up to. If you have anything you would like to share please email racedirector@ihug.co.nz or contact Anna directly.

Diary

The Classic Hits Around New Zealand Air Safari got off to a fantastic start yesterday with over 60 aircraft making the journey from Ardmore to Kaitaia and on to Whitianga.

Despite the threat foreseen the previous night of bad weather on the first day the safari was able to proceed without alteration to the route. The Trojan which headed back to Ardmore last night after completing the course reported that Ardmore was a wet and miserable mess on their return – quite a different airport to the one we left in the morning.

The day kicked off at Ardmore with a briefing, then a fly past of an Air Force Orion as it headed off to work. Ardmore Airport was then closed for two hours while the safari aircraft departed, which

was a great way to ensure things ran smoothly for the first safari start.

Lunch at Kaitaia was hosted by the Kaitaia Aeroclub, and after for some an all too short break with a briefing and some frantic flight planning it was time to take to the air again en route to Whitianga via the northernmost point of the country.

Dinner at Whitianga was hosted by the Whitianga Aero Club and showcased a variety of local cuisine. The president of the club John Stevenson and Mayor of Coromandel Phillipa Barriball welcomed all to Whitianga and the Coromandel region. Bill and Carmela Beard attended the dinner, representing day one leg sponsor Avsure.

Stressed? Me?

While it appeared that everyone was having a great time the occasional crack in composure showed through with some teams forgetting some important competition details – one team estimated their elapsed time for the first leg at 120 hours, so we might be seeing them sometime next week! Another team left their leg paperwork behind in the toilet in Kaitaia, so turned their flight to Whitianga into a scenic flight in the absence of having any questions to answer. Another team forgot to write any identifying information on their paperwork before handing it in, but were luckily picked up by the official remembering their team uniform and working it out that way.

Harrison Kidnapped

Safari mascot Harrison remains AWOL and is suspected kidnapped. Committee members are following leads after an ominous message was received late last night from a team suggesting that Harrison had been subjected to grievous bodily torture. The validity of these claims has not been proven, and this may yet turn out to be a hoax.



Airbus A390

Personals

Happy Birthday to Paula Jackson of Safari 1, ZK-DOG

Day One Results

Leg 1 Winner: 46 / ZK-DOK

Leg 2 Winner: 20 / ZK-MUL

Current Leader Overall: 20 / ZK-MUL

