

What's News?

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Changes to our Website

Our website (www.catalinaflying.org.au) has undergone some changes recently. The most significant of these are the inclusion of:

1. a "NEWS" tab on the home page that will take you to the latest newsletters and press releases, plus the most recent photos of the Cat "in action" (includes a little slide show)
2. an assortment of recent photos of the Cat on the "Home" and "Ferry Flight" pages
3. a history of VH-CAT in the "About Catalinas" page.

If you have any news or comments regarding the website, please forward to Colin Cool (colin.cool@alinta.net.au) or Jill Brandon (info@catalinaflying.org.au).

New engines and money needed!

Following the unfortunate events of last month, it was decided to replace both engines in situ before attempting any more flying. It was originally planned to overhaul the engines after the aircraft arrived in Australia and before taking any passengers. Although this option is costly, "new" engines will naturally add to the value of the aircraft.

While we have put out our feelers in the search for new engines, any assistance would be greatly appreciated. We need two Pratt & Whitney 1830-92 radial engines and, of course, money with which to purchase and install them. So if you can help with our search and/or the provision of funding, please contact Philip Dulhunty ((02) 9870-7277, e-mail Philip@dulhunty.com).

Remember, all donations are tax-deductible

Ode to Round Engines

And now to round off the year on a lighter note....

In case you haven't seen this already, this serves to remind us all of the joys and challenges 'round' engines bring us, not to mention the respect which must be afforded them. This may be particularly poignant given the unfortunate events of last month. Enjoy....

We've got to get rid of these turbine engines. They're ruining aviation and our hearing.....

A turbine is too simple-minded, it has no mystery. The air travels through it in a straight line and doesn't pick up any of the pungent fragrance of engine oil or pilot sweat. Anybody can start a turbine. You just need to move a switch from 'off' to 'start' and then remember to move it back to 'on' after a while. My PC is harder to start.

Cranking a round engine requires skill, finesse and style. You have to seduce it into starting. It's like waking up a horny mistress. On some aircraft, the pilots aren't even allowed to do it!

Turbines start by whining for a while, then give a lady-like 'poof' and start whining a little louder. Round engines give a satisfying rattle-rattle, click-click, bang, more rattles, a couple of coughs, another bang, a big macho fart or two, more clicks, a lot of smoke and finally a serious low-pitched roar. We like that, it's a bloke thing...

When you start a round engine, your mind is engaged and you can concentrate on the flight ahead. Starting a turbine is like flicking on a ceiling fan – useful but hardly exciting. When you have started his round engine successfully, your crew chief looks up at you like he'd let you kiss his girl too!

Turbines don't break or catch fire often enough, which leads to aircrew boredom, complacency and inattention. A round engine at speed looks and sounds like it's going to blow up at any minute. This helps to concentrate the mind.

Turbines don't have enough control levers or gauges to keep a pilot's attention. There's nothing to fiddle with during long flights. Turbines smell like a Boy Scout camp full of kerosene lamps. Round engines smell like God intended machines to smell!

-Anonymous

Best wishes for the Festive Season

Well, the festive season is almost upon us, which means for many time for a break, celebration, reflection and some contemplation on the year ahead. For the members of the Catalina Flying Memorial Ltd (CFML), especially those who have worked so hard to acquire and ready the Cat for its (now postponed) ferry flight, there has certainly been much to reflect upon.

Looking toward the New Year, we look forward to a couple of new Twin Wasps to pull VH-CAT through the ether from Portugal to Sydney. Let's hope a sight similar to this greets Mr Dulhunty on Christmas morning!



To all CFML sponsors and volunteers – wishing you very merry Christmas and a happy New Year and above all, a safe holiday season.