



Newsletter No. 340

September 2023

*Atherton Aerodrome Users
Meeting Sun 8th October 10am*

The Atherton Aero Club is an organization of aviation enthusiasts who promote the sport of aircraft building and flying. The organization is associated with *Recreation Aviation Australia Inc.* The Club meets at Atherton Airport every third Sunday of the month. Food and drinks are available and visitors are most welcome.



Mark's new Victa Airtourer
The smile says it all



At the FNQAM Open Day
Story inside

Atherton Aero Club - Committee Contacts

President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
Jack Cross PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 xjac@bigpond.net.au	Dave Camp PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 dcamp.gvale@gmail.com	Mark Aitken PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883 mjaitken54@bigpond.com	TBA PO Box 227 ATHERTON Q 4883

Web Page <http://www.athertonaeroclub.org/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AthertonAeroClub?ref=hl>

Email athertonaeroclub@gmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTE - by Bill Gronbeck

Hi All and welcome to edition No 340. In this issue, links to other interesting aviation sources, aircraft acquisitions and adventures of our local flyers, news from other clubs and upcoming events. Keep those flying adventures going and remember to send us your photos and stories.



A thank you to John Martin, Mark Aitken, the NQAC, FNQAM and other Clubs and Flying Groups who contributed content to this edition. Please contact me with your newsletter contributions on any of the following: (07) 4036 2868 or 0408 073 142 or email at -

williamgronbeck2@gmail.com

Watch the AAC, NQAC, Burdekin Flyers, FNQ Flyers, Donnington and Innisfail Facebook Pages for details of calendar changes and other short notice events. Check out the AAC Website for the YATN weather-cam and older AAC Newsletters.



The next **AAC Club Meeting** will be our regular monthly social get-together and BBQ Lunch on **Sunday the 15th of October 2023.**

From **10:30am** to around midday at the **AAC Atherton Aerodrome** facility.

Visitors are most welcome.



NEW VICTA IN THE FAR NORTH

On a cold, windy, drizzly Tableland day I sat down to clear the accumulated un-attended emails when boredom suddenly set in. As you do in these circumstances, I digressed to a little web surfing of the aeroplane sales and after dreaming of the ones I knew I couldn't afford, up



Victa Airtourer

pops a Victa Airtourer for a price that got my attention. Following diligent research and a fresh annual it was off to Bendigo with my youngest daughter to bring the Victa home.

I'd flown a Victa back in the 80's at Redcliffe and liked the way they flew. They are aerobatic, designed and made in Australia, had 'Rolls Royce' on the rocker covers, didn't need 2 stroke oil, and burns 21 l/h. A bit different to the 60l/h I'd been used to in the Cherokee.

Having done most of my flying in Queensland and a trip to Broome I knew we lived in an expansive country, so when we took off from Bendigo we were in NSW after flying all of 40nm. (Atherton to Pinnarendi for coffee and pizza is 60nm each way).

Leaving Bendigo mid-morning we headed for Cobar to refuel then on to Charleville to arrive 30 minutes before last light with a Mooney, the RFDS and us with the same circuit time. They showed respect and called themselves number 2 and 3.

The pilot of the Mooney offered us a lift into town, such is the country hospitality.

Off to the RSL for a good feed and a quiet one, then back to the motel for an earlyish night. Early start the next day with clear skies refuelling at Barcaldine then Hughenden landing at Atherton to a family welcome.

The next part of the process of acquiring a Victa was joining the Airtourer Association and the Co-operative. It soon became evident how passionate fellow owners are in flying them and preserving their place on the Register. By being members of the Co-operative owners have access to guidance and spare parts.

It has been an interesting journey researching the history of its design, development, manufacture, sale to New Zealand and then having the RAAF purchasing the CT4 as a trainer from NZ. Prior to the sale to New Zealand, Victa had made 168 aircraft. Made in 1964, my Victa is number 67.

Mark Aitken



Victa Office

THE VICTA AIRTOURER STORY

The Airtourer was the winning design, submitted by Henry Millicer, the chief aerodynamicist of Australia's Government Aircraft Factories, in a competition organised by Britain's Royal Aero Club in 1953. A wooden prototype was constructed by a small group of enthusiasts (the Air Tourer Group of the Australian Ultra Light Aircraft Association) in the Melbourne suburb of Williamstown during the late 1950s. This prototype, registered *VH-FMM* was first flown on 31 March 1959 by Flt. Lt. Randell Green at Moorabbin airport.

The Victa aircraft company purchased *VH-FMM* from the AULAA in an exchange deal where the aircraft was swapped for a new Piper Tri-Pacer.

Full story via this video link:

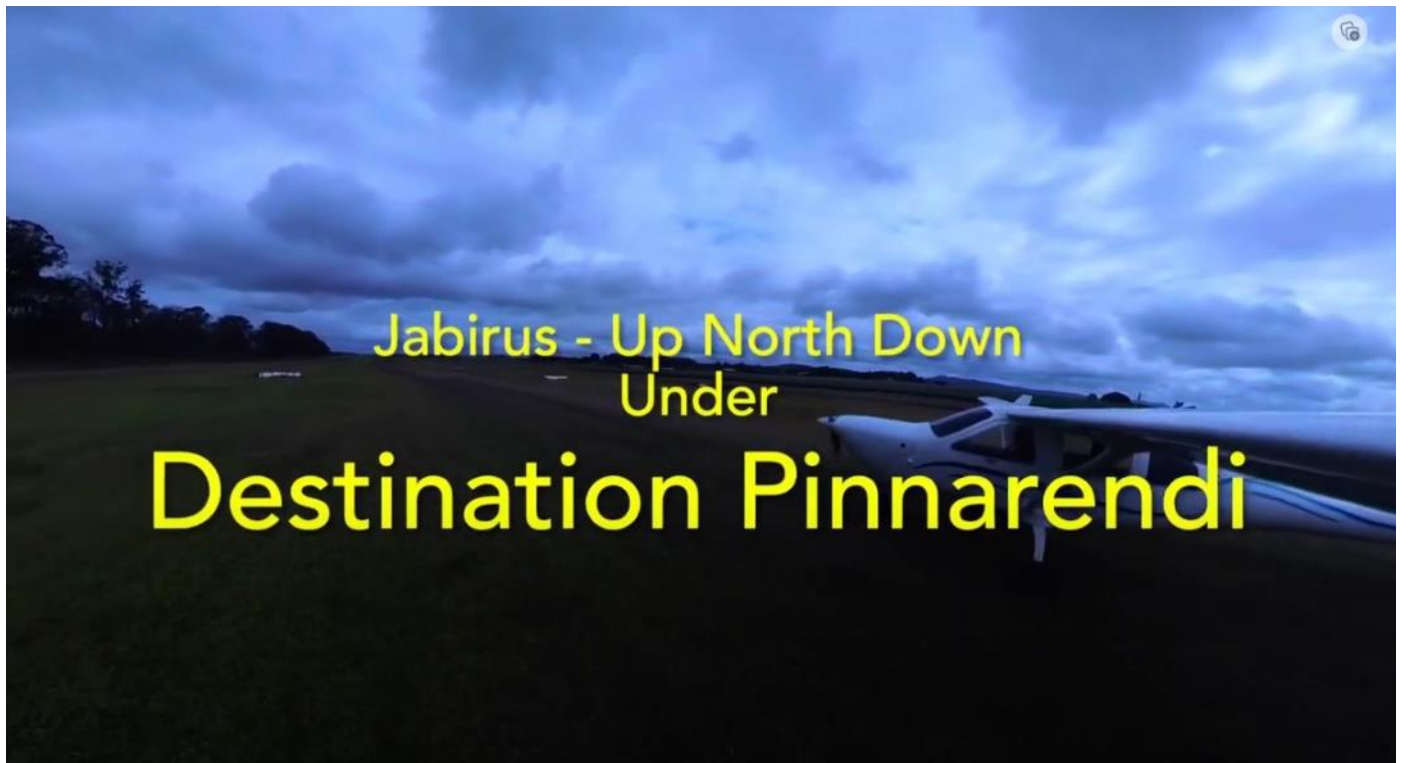
[How did the Victa Mower Company get into aircraft? - YouTube](#)

The Wooden Prototype



The First All Metal Victa





Our recent weekend camping trip to Pinnarendi Station.

The last opportunity before it closes for the season.

Re-opening around Easter2024.

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x65Ck6amTz4>



Pinnarendi line-up

More photos next page -

WEEKEND CAMPING AT PINNARENDI



Busy watching others set up camp



"Cheers"

Pinnarendi Station Stay & Café

<https://www.facebook.com/Pinnarendi/>

Ron Atkinson 0419 201 622



Aircraft For Sale

SKYFOX GAZELLE CA25N



1997 Skyfox Gazelle 24-3432

1589 airframe and engine hours.

Rotax 912 80 HP. Bolly 2 blade propeller. Recent 100 hr check.

Well maintained, tidy reliable aircraft with standard Skyfox instruments.

Always hangared, currently located in Atherton QLD.

Folding wings (ten minutes) for storage at home.

A 450hr (approx), 80 HP Rotax 912 second engine is included.

Second engine will require checking as required. Ideal for parts.

Call for enquires and more details and photos if required.

STEVE GORDON. 0408308065

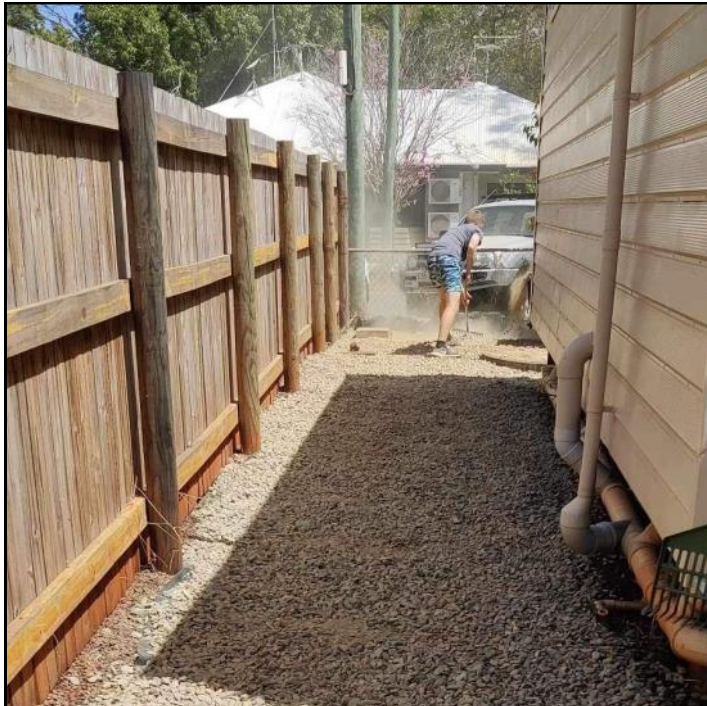
\$31,000

NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS



WORKING BEE 2023

Thanks to the members who came to the Club today (Saturday the 16th September) to help with the working bee. Team work!



NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS



SAVE *the* DATE



WINGS NIGHT

11.11.2023

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

NORTH QUEENSLAND AERO CLUB NEWS & EVENTS**Cessna 170 VH-CAS****Now Available for Tail Wheel Endorsements at
the North Queensland Aero Club**

Come and experience the simple joy of tailwheel flying in this lovely vintage Cessna. Improve your 'stick n rudder' skills and gain another design feature for your pilot licence!

The training will be conducted mostly at Atherton, on its rolling grass runway. However for crosswind practice and all round experience we will venture further afield!

An average pilot can gain a tailwheel endorsement (TWU) with 5 to 10 hours of dual training. Contact Jack for further information: jack@nqaeroclub.com.au

Innisfail Aero Club Open Day

Come and join us on Saturday 28th October 2023

At the Innisfail Airport on Mundoo Rd Mundoo

FREE Admission!

Time 9:00 - 1:00

The Aim of the day



- * promote aviation in the region;
- * provide information on how to become a pilot;
- * display career paths in the aviation industry;
- * introduce people to recreational flying; and
- * inform the community about airport facilities they can use

Things to See

- Experimental & Home Built Aircraft
- Formation Flights
- Antique Cars & Planes

Things to Do

- Talk to Pilots about their experiences
- Check out all the different types of aircraft
- Talk to an Instructor about flight training
- Take a TIF Trial Introductory Flight
- Check out Our facilities
- Become a Club member



Aero Club Fly-in

All clubs welcome & encouraged to attend.
Bring a tent and stay the night Showers Available.
If enough interested in staying, we can have
a BBQ Dinner & Refreshments that evening.

Food & Drinks

- Sausage sizzle
- Soft Drinks
- Tea & Coffee



Don't Miss It!

Check out our Facebook page "Innisfail Aero Club Inc."



September Update

Thanks to everyone who came out to visit our OPEN DAY on Saturday 23rd September! We had a great number of local drive-in visitors and 3 fly-in aircraft visitors (unfortunately the weather on the coast & upper Tablelands kept some on the ground). A great lineup of classic cars from various groups including the Cairns & District Historic Vehicle Club also graced our event.

Our forum sessions included some historic footage at Mareeba Airport, Noel Tunny/Bob Katter & Aircraft Researcher, Ian Whyte.

Special Guest Author Noel Tunny enthralled us with his journey from childhood during World War II to penning 18 captivating books. Thank you Noel for coming all the way up from Brisbane at the age of 93!! Bob Katter also added a couple of words to the conversation, knowing the Tunny family growing up.

Ian spent considerable time researching & looking into the World War II local crash of B-17 "Hoomali-mali" & provided an interesting insight and perspective into B-17 operations during the War.

We even had the privilege of a live broadcast, courtesy of the local radio station 92.3FM, which also recorded the presentations for posterity.

Thanks to the many visitors who came both locally, some as far as Charters Towers & Townsville who helped support us and some local businesses/organisations like Dairy Whipp, 92.3FM Community radio, Jaques Coffee & Mareeba Shire Council.

A big thank you to our dedicated volunteers for manning coffee machines, BBQ's, tills, presentations, managing people and traffic - all played a vital role in making this day unforgettable!

Pictures Aaron Lock, Brendan Kent

Continued/

FNQAM Open Day - Continued



FNQAM Open Day - Continued



US Air Force Medals & Ranks

Before and after! US Air Force medals, ranks, wings, insignia & patch were on display at the open day, although now the placards are all secured and look great. Our suppliers wouldn't take any funds for this project and were generously donated!

The team effort included display items donated by Noel Tunny.

Laurie Wincen formed the acrylic stands which have been made from left over crop spraying aircraft windshields!

John at Mareeba Trophies designed and donated the placards while we mounted and fixed the placards at FNQAM. Thank you!



FNQAM Open Day - Continued

Projects

There are a number of projects underway including the engine displays nearing completion, continued internal restoration of the Dakota, C152 kids play plane & the NA-64 Yale.

We'll have some more news shortly as we are currently working on 3 infrastructure projects at various stages.

Membership Form

Apologies if you have tried using our online form and weren't able to submit. For some reason the submit button went AWOL! We realise how frustrating this may have been. We have rectified this issue and is serviceable once again.

If you would like to get in early for 2024, any membership applications/renewals from now will cover you for 2024. Thanks for your support.

Sponsors

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND AVIATION MUSEUM



VOLUNTEER RUN | COMMUNITY BASED | NOT FOR PROFIT | LOCALLY OPERATED

The FNQ Aviation Museum is a brand new facility due to open in the near future showcasing the incredible contribution that aviation has played in Far North Queensland's history. The Museum will create employment, volunteering, educational and training opportunities that will benefit the community and boost tourism.

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

PRESERVE | INSPIRE | EDUCATE | RESTORE



DONATE

Make a tax deductible donation.



ARTEFACTS

Preserve aviation items that will be of educational or display interest.



VOLUNTEER

Variety of roles available - admin, grants, social media, design, curation, research and history



SERVICES & MATERIALS

In-kind support to assist with building construction and restoration.



RESTORE

Help our restoration team every Thursday or Saturday.



MEMBERSHIP

Show your support by becoming a member.



SHARE

Spread the word on Facebook, Instagram and join our newsletter.

JRM Braes Rd, Mareeba Airport, QLD
 admin@fnqam.com.au
 www.fnqam.com.au
 0422 379 984



DONATE



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Pinnarendi Station Stay & Café

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AAC EVENTS CALENDAR

(Check Your Club Website or Facebook Page For Short Notice Changes)

Atherton Aero Club 2023 Events

Oct *Sunday 15th—AAC Meeting & BBQ Lunch—1030 Atherton*

Other 2023 Events

Oct *Saturday 28th—Innisfail Aero Club Open Day—9am to 2pm*

Nov *Saturday 11th—NQAC Wings Night—Details TBA*

Dec *Saturday 2nd—Innisfail Aero Club Christmas Party—6pm*



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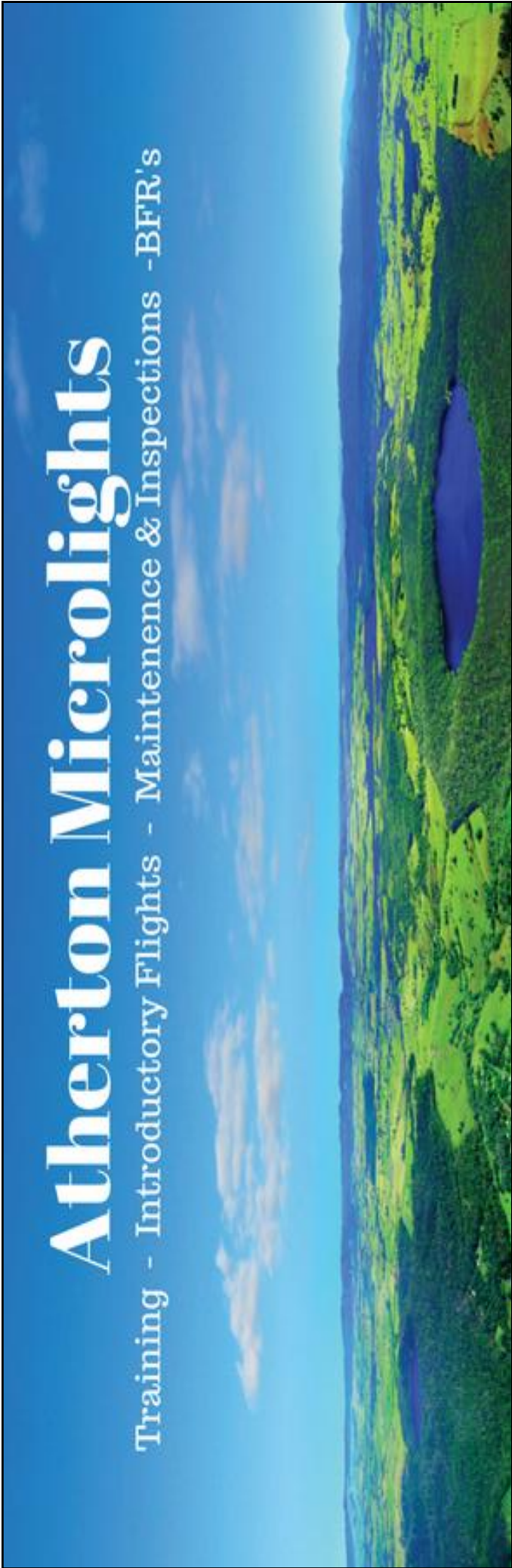


Atherton Aero Club (YATN)



Atherton Microlights

Training - Introductory Flights - Maintenance & Inspections -BFR's



Atherton YATN
Elevation 2460 feet

Flight Strip
Length 1286 mtrs Width 90 mtrs
Grass Runway
Length 1166 mtrs Width 30 mtrs

(CHECK ERSa & NOTAMS FOR CHANGES)

Feeney Cr

52

33

15

NOTICE



The **Atherton Aero Club** is now an ASIC Issuing Agent for **Aviation ID Australia**.

Those seeking the issue or renewal of an Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC) should apply directly to **Aviation ID Australia** via the following link:

<https://aviationidaustralia.net.au/application.html>

Once the ASIC card has been approved the applicant will be advised and the required “face-to-face” identity check carried out locally by an Atherton Aero Club representative. On the satisfactory completion of the identity check the local agent will hand over the ASIC card to the applicant.

AIRCRAFT FOR SALE AND WANTED

If you have, or know of, an aircraft for sale please contact me directly by telephone or email with full details. The AAC offers free advertising in the club newsletter as a service to local flyers. Direct emailing of your advert to aviators on the club mailing list is available should your advert be received after the publication cut-off date. *Bill Gronbeck, EDITOR.*



INTERESTED IN BUILDING YOUR OWN AIRCRAFT?

The Sport Aircraft Association of Australia (SAAA) is an organization that has mentored and assisted many owner builders, for both VH and Ultralight registered aircraft.

Further information on the SAAA's National and FNQ Chapter 34 websites:

<http://www.saaa.com/>

<http://www.saaafnq.com/>

Local contact is:

Laurie Wincen (Secretary) laurieq19@gmail.com

Atherton Aero Club Fundraising - Club Member Stephen has arranged the Scheme ID for members who would like to donate their 10 cents Container Refund to the club. These regular small donations will greatly assist in covering our running costs.

Congratulations Atherton Aero Club Inc! You're all set.

You've joined our Containers for Change team doing our best to make a real difference in our communities and to our environment. We're super excited to have you on board.

Here's your Containers for Change scheme ID. Your scheme ID makes it even easier to return containers and receive refunds directly to your bank account.

Scheme ID

C10476716

Save your scheme ID to your mobile wallet

iPhone users



Android users



If you don't have WalletPasses installed, you will need to download it from the Play Store.

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Electrical & Roadway Lighting Consultants

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Queensland
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Telephone: 07 4032 3311

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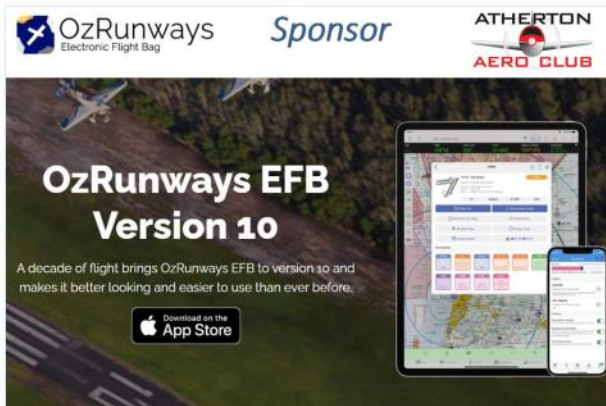
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