

## Event Report –Great Southern Jet Rally- 2014

19/20 APRIL 2014

Our last weekend away to a full size airstrip was late October 2013 when Westjet went to Cunderdin. Well the wait for the hot weather to pass was well worth it. The buzz for the Wagin weekend, later-on formally titled “The Great Southern Jet Rally”, was running hot, with many Westjet Members talking about the upcoming event on Social Media. So this weekend was eagerly anticipated by many and wasn't a disappointment in the slightest. The Great Southern Jet Rally will go down, in my opinion, as the best event to date for our 1 year old club. I firmly believe that the away trips will only improve from Great, to flipping Brilliant. With the members we have and their friendly approach towards each other and the fun to be had, the events can only go from strength to strength.

So we picked a cooler weekend for our event, it being a beautiful blue sky weekend with light cross winds. We starting setting up at 8am on Saturday and before long we had a whole airport full of cars and trailers looking for somewhere to set up for the weekend. This

was quickly arranged adjacent to the pits, with only 30 metres to the main runway from there. A start-up and shutdown area was established, on the off chance the local Wagin peoples dropped in to say hi,



which they did by the car load later on that day and also on Sunday. Not bad for a non-public event. Lucky we didn't advertise it as open to the public; we would have been swamped with everyone from all local towns I am sure.



Our mate Kenny G was doing his thing from 9am, certifying aircraft and helping those in dire need of good guidance. Well done, as always Ken, the Westjet Members appreciate your efforts, more than you may know. And did I see Kenny G flying the wheels off of the 5 Jet on the Sunday.....of course I did, we all did. What a bullet that little thing is! You go Girl!



Well Saturday saw people test flying maiden aircraft through to experienced pilots going out for their 10<sup>th</sup> flight! A lot of Kero got burnt, that's for sure. Even I got to burn some, gotta be happy with that. Hey, no flies....no wheat, no problemo...

Saturday night saw us having dinner in the private dining room at the Palace hotel. 25 attended dinner, which was a



great success and moved to the main bar for some light refreshments. So after having a few, I wandered back to the donger with Kenny G and we bullshitted until midnight. What happened next, about 15 drunken fliers showed up from the pub and put on a show with a couple of the locals, which I believe was titled "Arrest me, you're a copper aren't ya". Having not bought tickets, we didn't attend this performance of the local street theatre at 1am.



Sunday morning arrived, as it would, with me making as much noise as humanly possible to pay back those around me for the prior evening's performance. That sounds oddly familiar of Cunderdin. The Cunderdin

Vans & Street Theatre wasn't nearly as entertaining.

After doing some more shopping in the town for groceries, I made my way down to the airport at 1 minute to 8am, where there was a line of cars waiting for the gates to open. These fliers were very keen, I will say that. I was 20 seconds earlier than my planned 8am, but received a scolding for making them wait, which I took on the chin of course, making varied excuses for being on time and stuff like that. They weren't having it, they wanted in and now! Sunday was an easy day with flying commencing earlier than scheduled, due to keen members everywhere. During the course of the day the Local Boys In Blue showed up and started to take speed gun readings of the jets. Never seen so many fliers wanting to get the fastest pass... Lucky Shane's Flash was put away, would have been interesting to see it come through. Speeds in the 300 range were well and truly seen by many of our fliers.



The event was due to complete at 4pm, but an extension was ok'd for last light, which saw half a dozen fliers staying until 6pm. Lots of kero burnt Sunday also.



Special thanks go to all those people who chipped in to erect the shade tents and also to pull them down at the end of the weekend. People were going across the taxi way with sand to absorb any spilled kero and others were picking up litter. Without being asked. You are the heart and soul of what Westjet Membership is all about. Thankyouall! Total membership is now 40 with 28 attending the weekend's event. The local town has reported back that they noticed our money in their town and of course us, and they welcome us back!

WE WILL RETURN

Happy Jet Flying

By: Murray Tingey