

Ardmore Traffic circuit etiquette and good airmanship



September 2020

The following recommendations/observations were made at a recent meeting of the Ardmore Flight Operations Group (AFOG). These recommendations are made with a view to standardising pilot procedures and enhancing safety. Courtesy is an important attribute of “good airmanship”.

If you have any questions about these recommendations talk to your CFI or give Ardmore UNICOM a phone call. 09 296 4512.

The standard of radio calls appears to be falling with many calls difficult to understand resulting in clarification being required:

- Pilots not using standard phraseology
- Talking too quickly and/or mumbling
- Making too many unnecessary position reports
- Position reports that are vague or inaccurate
- Instructors need to lead by example and more radio discipline is required
- Listen to the nature of previous radio call before transmitting to avoid breaking into an important conversation.
- If you don't understand the information transmitted by someone else, ask the person broadcasting to “say again”
- Some pilots not stating their intentions
- Downwind call stating whether you are touch and go, full stop or for the grass helps the following aircraft adjust spacing
- Stating your sequence number in the downwind is causing confusion as invariably there are more aircraft ahead. i.e. calling downwind number 2 when there is actually 3 aircraft ahead (two on final)
- Stating your sequence number when turning final is definitely helpful
- Joining non-traffic side from Clevedon when RWY 03 is in use is not recommended. Join downwind at 1100ft AMSL traffic permitting, or join via the overhead at 1600ft tracking initially towards the Waterworks before crossing over the field to descend right hand on non-traffic side
- Mandatory hold signs require all aircraft to hold, lookout, make mandatory radio call, before crossing or entering the runway.
- Aircraft taxiing on Sierra should give way to aircraft vacating the runway.

Thank you for your cooperation. Keep safe, keep a good “Look and Listen out” and “See and Be seen”