

How do you feel about your WING?

When you do your pre-flight inspection of the wing do you take the time to really have a close look at the components that make up the airframe or is it just a routine that you do as usual before you fly? I see pilots uncover their aircraft and do the standard walk around as they have so many times before – same-old, same-old, and I wonder what they are thinking sometimes. Is it 100% inspection or maybe 50% inspection and 50% what’s it going to be like up there? How long before the wind picks up or the thermals start to pop?

When was the last time you really took time out just to go over your wing without distractions? Have you laid the wing out on tables and made a thorough inspection of all the components.

I have thousands of hours under my belt and I still feel uncomfortable in the air when flying an aircraft that has quite a number of hours on the clock but is still flying on the original wires and fasteners. I guess this will always be the case with me, so what do I do? Well, that’s easy – take a look at the photos – I pull that wing apart and replace everything that makes me feel uneasy.

A quick call to Airborne and a order is placed, all new nuts and bolts and flying wires, and anything else that I feel could be replaced is! I feel safer already and



the parts haven’t even been sent yet. The replacement parts in this case being side flying-wires, front and rear wires and all the A-Frame nuts and bolts. This will cost you around about \$650 and around 4 to 5 hours to disassemble your wing and replace these items and reassemble.

The look of nuts and bolts and other components that have lost their anodising and have a coating of rust on them or that powdery corrosion look about them do nothing for me, and I’m sure that I am not the only one that feels that way. Corrosion and aircraft do not go well together, of that I am sure.

Your wing should be 100 per cent – not 75% or 85%. It is either right or it is not and there is no in-

between. The people you take flying with you in your aircraft give you the greatest responsibility you could ever have! Their life is in your hands for the duration of the flight. They literally trust you with their life – no questions asked!

Now, how do you feel about your wing again?

Safe flying guys.

Brendan

