

OMARAMA GLIDING CLUB Winter 2008 Newsletter



MEMBERS NEWS

Well first of all an update on Eion Coutts recovery - going well but a bit too slowly for Coutties liking. The tubes have now been removed and the outcome is all very positive so good news there. Eion is hopeful he will be able to get back to doing his own shopping next week. There will still be a few months of recuperation and getting back to normal in front of Couttie but the worst is now behind him and it is all onwards and upwards. Please call Eion, Christchurch (03) 352 6447 if you have the time - he is pretty much home bound and enjoys hearing from people.

Commiserations to Ben Flewett whose final placing in the World's came no where near his expectations. Ben got to a very creditable 12th placing mid way through the competition but slipped down from there experiencing some bad luck on an AAT day and taking several big chances trying to catch up - none of which paid off. It only takes one 'bad luck' day to blow one's chances but the good thing is there will be another World Championship in two years time so just hang in there Ben – just getting to compete in a Worlds is awesome to the rest of us.



Ross Drake hasn't exactly got away to a flying start with his World Championship preparations with the glider he was going to use being written off in the French Alps a week ago. Fortunately the pilot/owner, Roland Stuck, survived but sustained a severe injury to the 4th vertebrae which the Doctors have treated successfully– a very lucky man because the wing caught in trees preventing him from plummeting down a steep drop of 200m. The latest news indicated there could be a Ventus 2B being made available to Ross.

Our very best wishes are extended to Ross for a very successful World competition. Those who wish to follow the competition can do so via website www.wgc2008.org



OGC members Roger Read and Steve Green helping to open the Canterbury Gliding Club club rooms

FLEET UPDATE

All our gliders have been polished and are ready to go for the new season with maintenance and annuals completed.



The DUO is back at Omarama and YF and WC are both now at Hororata waiting to be flown (when the weather improves) – it is pretty wet and soggy around Canterbury at present. Canterbury GC had a very successful open day last week when their new clubhouse was officially opened. WC was on static display before being flown by Graham Erikson and many CGC ex members from the past turned up and were quite blown away by the modern single seat gliders gliding clubs own today.

S.I. Regionals - 16th to 22nd November 2008.



Again these will be organised by the Canterbury Gliding Club who made an excellent effort to "put the fun back into the Regionals" last year and if you missed it I am sure the photos in Soaring NZ illustrated very well what you missed. A great time was had by all. The SI Regionals is a low key competition where there is a lot of help and support for the first timers or the competition inexperienced. It is a good opportunity to learn heaps and improve your flying skills. OGC members are encouraged to participate – both as competitors or to assist with the organization - the Canterbury Gliding Club does not want to be seen to be taking over this event which they feel should be a true South Island affair. They are happy to pass on their experience and invite other club members to join in any aspect of the organization and work with them towards learning something about running this type of event. Anyone interested in taking up their offer should let me know.



Important - Should you wish to compete in an OGC club glider in the South Island Regionals in November please let me know within the next 2 weeks as the committee will shortly be allocating OGC gliders.

X-COUNTRY COURSES



The Canterbury Gliding Club will be again running their very popular “Introduction to X-Country flying” course Monday 29th September to Friday 3rd October from Hororata. This is a club operated week long course of briefings in the morning followed by cross-country flying and land out practice in the afternoon. Everyone is welcome to attend – pilots come from far and wide to attend this course. For further information, or to lodge an expression of interest, contact Jerry O’Neill jerryo@xtra.co.nz.

The “Intro to X-C course” is followed up with an Advanced X-C course which will be held at Omarama from Sunday 9th to Friday 14th November 2008 inclusive, again under the instruction of Jerry O’Neill. This is the week prior to the SI Regionals which is timed to give pilots a good currency/familiarization run in for those who wish to compete at the Regionals.

Although it would not be necessary to have your own glider to attend this course as participants can fly dual with CGC instructors, any OGC member who may wish to hire an OGC glider for these courses would need to apply to the OGC Executive in the first instance.

OMARAMA SOARING CENTRE & OMARAMA AIRFIELD UPDATES

Camp Fees – due to rising costs of fuel and tip fees (\$120 a time) camp fees will rise by \$1 to \$14 per night. (The committee is looking at smart ways to recycle/minimize the rubbish waste). Caravan rental is now \$20/night.

Ideas for improving the popular BBQ area by creating a more sheltered dining area are under consideration. One idea is to concrete pave (similar to the terminal sail area) between the end of the kitchen and the BBQ and put a sail overhead. This would provide sun and rain protection and provide a covered seating area for outside dining. Any further ideas would be welcomed.

Opinions are being sought as to whether gas BBQ's are preferred to the current wood fired BBQ.

Plans for flight following, engaging a full time camp ground manager and maintenance on the amenities building are in progress.

Negotiations to purchase the small strip of land between the new OAL land and the existing airfield remains ongoing with the landowner.

Landing fees are expected to increase to \$7.

Plans to extend the terminal building are being investigated.

That is all from me for now

MAKE THE MOST OF THE JOYS OF WINTER

ROLL ON THE SOARING SEASON

YVONNE