

JANUARY 2008 OMARAMA GLIDING CLUB NEWSLETTER



A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

What a glorious soaring season it is turning out to be!! Hot temperatures day after day of 30 plus degrees with the dry dusty conditions bringing back memories of what Omarama used to be like when we followed the rope through clouds of dust before rotation, not being able to see the tow plane at all and "Omarama Brown" referred to the colour of layers of dusty dirt that settled on your skin!

We have enjoyed the best of awesome soaring conditions with a number of our members achieving award and badge flights - by far the biggest number for quite a number of years.



Congratulations - First of all to Ben Flewett on his marriage to Kat Hodge which took place in Queenstown early January – a very enjoyable occasion we are told. Kat was a First Officer on Dash 8's flying for Flybe and is currently doing simulator training to be a First Officer on the 767. Ben and Kat will be based in Kent, UK. Our best wishes to you both for a very happy future together. We think you are off to a "flying" start!

Yet more congratulations go to Ben for his very impressive second place in the Grand Prix World Final against 18 of the best pilots in the world. You are a 'SOARING STAR' Ben and we are very proud of your outstanding achievement in this hotly contested arena.

Congratulations to Trevor Mollard for an outstanding 1000k flight. The weather improved only slowly during the morning but Trevor took his chance making his start after 1300 hours and landing back two minutes before CET! A very impressive effort Trevor and we know you have now achieved a long held goal. While waiting for Trevor to finish we enjoyed two glorious aerobatic displays by Terry Delore and Mike Oakley carried out against a spectacularly red "Omarama special" sunset – pity you missed the show Trev.

Congratulations to our President, Peter Robinson, who has achieved his Silver "C" this season.



As some of you may not have met Peter here is a photo taken after landing back from an aero tow retrieve following his successful 50k flight.

Congratulations to Shanta McPherson on completing his Silver "C" which was great to see.

Congratulations to Robert Mollard (yes Trevor's Son) who went solo under Trevor's instruction, gained a rating in the Discus and completed his Silver "C" badge all in a very short period of time.

Congratulations to Toby Read (yes Roger's Son) who obtained a rating on the Discus in which he achieved a Diamond Height and a rating on the LS6 soon followed.

Isn't that a great line up of member achievements!

New Members - A REALLY **BIG WELCOME** to

Robert Mollard and Toby Read

Great to see the next generation getting involved in gliding!

Andrew Jowett – has recently taken up residence in Wanaka ex UK and Australia. Andrew has been flying since 1983 and is a tug pilot as well as a gliding instructor.

And temporary Member - Saschu Kusebauch from Germany

The Good News – Funding Grants

Emergency Locator beacons – Thanks to the *Lion Foundation*, who fully funded three new Personal Locator Beacons, these have been purchased and placed in each glider. Take the time to acquaint yourself on a regular basis with the operating instructions. Each locator beacon is coded to a particular glider so they do need to be kept in the relevant glider.

Equipment for Yankee Foxtrot - We have received **\$3,000 from Mainland Foundation** towards a Transponder for the Discus and **\$3,500 from New Zealand Community Trust** fully funding an oxygen system for the Discus. We are extremely grateful to these organizations for their funding assistance which helps the club enormously.



The Not So Good

Important Message – Members are forgetting to put their oxygen usage down on the time sheets the cost of which is billed to their accounts. As a result the club has funded oxygen to the tune of several hundred dollars. If you used oxygen and forgot or didn't know about the system please let me know how much oxygen you think you used. We accept some members may not have been aware of the system or simply forgot so there will be no recriminations on "late notifications".

As background information up to recently the person who filled the oxygen bottle paid for it even though they may have only used a couple hundred pounds!! We have tried the honesty system of putting down usage on the time sheets so you only pay for what you use however it would appear this system isn't working unless we jog a few memories!

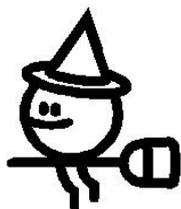
Pre-flight inspections. A plea not to be too vigorous with elevator pushing and pulling as rough treatment can cause damage. Yes the DUO elevator has movement which can be of concern to those not used to this model but we are assured it has been like that since we took ownership and is not dissimilar to other DUO's of the same era on the field. Still keep an eye on it – if you are not happy with what you see talk to Don Mallinson for further guidance.

WC Volkslogger –the plug attachment can be put in upside down which causes the fuse to blow with the loss of the logger and LX instrument read outs. If you are not sure how to insert the plug correctly just ask.

Grumbles about the dirty state our gliders are sometimes left in after use. A few members are obviously not bothering to wash and clean the glider before or after use and members using the equipment after them are faced with unacceptably long cleaning sessions. A warning that we are entering the end of our tolerance and the "Name" and "Shame" time has arrived!

Often tape is just added over the top of cracked or old tape as a 'quick fix' making the gliders look very tatty. If the tape needs replacing get out the bottle of meths, new tape and do the job properly!!

All glider pilots are expected to have their own cleaning kit comprising a shammy, soft material suitable for using on the canopy, meths, white tape, sissors and Pledge or other suitable product. A plastic box to contain these items in your car boot can be purchased cheaply at The Warehouse or Payless Plastics. No excuses!



If you are hanging around there are hangar jobs to do – sweep the hangar, vacuum out cockpits, replace tape, clean underneath the fuselage and wings thoroughly, pump up tyres on tail dollies and wing wheels and generally remove the greasy marks and do the little things that just need a general tidy up. We need to do more than just turn up and fly – every member is expected to contribute to the general upkeep and day to day tasks as they do in any other club.

From the Executive meeting held 2nd February.



Following our first season of “on line bookings” it was agreed that this was working very well however we have given further thought to one or two areas and for everyone’s information a few more guidelines have been added.

Where a member cancels within the three days “penalty applies” period and the glider is subsequently flown by another member it was decided that these situations should be considered on a case by case basis and on a discretionary basis to be discussed/decided/arbitrated on by Don Mallinson and Phil Plane.

If a member had booked a particular glider and changed to another one – no penalty would be incurred.

Special thanks go to Trevor Mollard, who with his vast experience and knowledge (he is an Airline Captain as well as an accomplished glider pilot), has contributed significantly to the flying operations of the club this season as a much needed and valued Club instructor willing to help other club members.

If you haven’t made the most of the awesome soaring this season there is still time. It is predicted the hot weather will last some time yet so don’t miss out.

ENJOY 2008 AND THE BEST OF SOARING ALWAYS

YVONNE