



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010

Welcome to the 2nd newsletter of the year. Although I have covered the important AGM meeting, the weather has not yet brought many flying reports, although a few hardy stalwarts have managed to get a few hours under their belts. Let's hope March brings better opportunities.

January AGM Meeting minutes

Apologies from Brian Clavin, Martin Reed and Geoff Brook.

Chairman's Speech

Mark declared that we had a mixed year, a bit better than 2008, and good XC League performance. The Yahoo Groups web link and the newsletter had worked well and thanks were given to Bob and M.A. respectively. Thanks also went to Ashley for maintaining the website, the XC League and the PAYPAL system. M.S. went on to thank the other committee members for their hard work during the year.

Treasurer's report

Julie announced that we had more paid up members (87) in 2009 than can be recalled. 2010 memberships are now due and many have already paid [31 as of 16th Feb].

It was recommended that £300 be donated to the Air Ambulance, to be split between Devon (£200) and Cornwall (£100).

Comment was made that the National Trust are asking for £500 for 2 site licenses in North Devon. We should therefore be respectful of the rules when using these sites, although offers of a contribution had been declined.

Safety Officer's Report

Paul Cioffi reviewed the year's accidents and incidents, starting with his own collision with power lines when ground handling back in March. He subsequently saw similar near misses with visitors from North Devon.

In May, Bill had his landing in the sea at Maidencombe and several members had warned of bad experiences launching from Labrador Bay.

In June John Chick had a serious crash at Struddick with a parachutal stall. Initial checks for line shrinkage were later dismissed and the conclusion had to be pilot error probably had a high contribution to the accident.

Later in June at the same site, Malcolm had a bad accident at low level / ground handling and dislocated his elbow chipping his bone. Again pilot error probably played a major part.

Warnings were given that both Sourton and Struddick are Pilot Rated and have power lines in the potential landing areas (Pilots have collided with the lines at Struddick in the past).

It was recommended that members re-read their wing manuals and recognise the consequences of trying to recover at low altitude.

Committee Elections

There were no new prospective committee members and so the current members were re-elected, even if absent (see January Newsletter for details).

Trophies

A sub-committee was proposed to decide if any should be awarded. This will consist of Ashley, Mark N, Karl, Mark C and Mark S. Any winners will be expected to arrange their own engraving! The format for deciding trophies in future years is to be discussed at the next meeting.

The formal AGM was closed.

Annual Repack

Gordon will try to arrange an event at Devonport School for late March, e.g. Saturday 27th. [Gordon has subsequently reported some possible difficulties with this venue. This should be reviewed at the next club meeting]. Andy agreed to support with tuition as usual.

First Aid Course

Ashley has a contact who can do a course for £27 – 30 / person.

Julie has a contact who may be able to do a free assessment (we would have to pay for the venue) and will follow up at the next meeting.

T-Shirts

Paul C expressed disappointment at the poor response to last year's promotion. He needs a bulk order and will look to e-mail round details again and bring samples to the Feb. meeting.

Future Events

Richard Whitmarsh cannot now make the February meeting, but has been rebooked for April.

Instead we will have the presentation of trophies and Mark & Julie's short video of the Olu Deniz Air Games 2009 (insufficient time to show at the AGM).

For March it was suggested asking Phippsey to give a talk on Paramotoring.

Brass Monkey Competition

Initial dates were proposed for 13/14th Feb or 27/28th {Karl has now delayed to 6/7th March}.

Devon Adventures Flying School

Some members expressed concern whether Robert Greenwood's school was BHPA registered [it is, see BHPA website] and had National Parks permission to teach at our sites. This followed concerns over rough pilots jeopardising sites. M.A. agreed to contact Robert to clarify.

Venue

The London Inn is up for sale so we may need to move. This will be monitored.

Twitter

Bob and 6 members are experimenting with SMS texting to the web for pilot reports on site. It is not easy to set up, but good when it works. It needs to be disciplined to avoid junk. Bob is the moderator so contact him if interested.

Video shows

With restricted time, Mark & Julie showed some local flying videos and Bob advertised his new MD80DV camera.

Flying reports at the meeting

Woolacombe – some members went up on New Year's Day and again on the 23rd Jan. Lift was good, but got stronger and a couple of pilots struggled to get down before a gust front hit and it started raining.

It seems a very reliable site with ND pilots getting plenty of hours in there (beware of ND pilots doing acro close to T/O).

Other News

Kernow 2010 Frostbite Comp

This went ahead on the 30/31 Jan at St. Agnes Head, although conditions were light with spot landing included. Scores are attached in the appendix.

Flying News – fairly limited this month

30th January Paul wrote:

Jenny Cliff was a good call which although off to the north many hours flying were had. Flew from midday till 4.30 with a short interval to let the snow cloud pass us and drift out to sea. Around 2ish, was joined by Robin Mog, and the two Colins. For the most part of the day heights of 300-500ft were enjoyed but round 3ish it picked up a treat and myself and Colin Jones pushed out to sea and caught a corker upto 1300ft ato. Dougie turned up late in the day for a mellow boat about.

Spoke to Robin Mills who was flying at Buckfastleigh. He said he was doing great until the wind picked up and got blown over the back at 700ft ato and found it hard to get down in order to avoid some power lines.

6th Feb Jim wrote

well corn ridge was quiet fun this arfo, wasn't going to walk up as only 7 mph in car park, was greeted with a 12 mph nth at launch. was very scratchy as kept going light, the wind picked up for around twenty mins at a time. giving me three flights before top landing each time it went light. all in all not epic but had the air all to my self. i was surprised not to see anyone out as its Saturday, did any one else fly? jim

7th Feb Bob wrote:

Nice cold flying at Beesands today in the company of Mick Boarer, Chris Bellamy, Jim McDonald, Mark Helm and new bloke Andy. Apparently a couple of other people flew before we got there, one landing at Hallsands. Wind off to the NE at first, but by the time I got there at 1030? maybe not that far off. Grey sky and a bit cold, but my first flight in a month, so who cares! 298 feet ato was my best for the day, with some nice sea thermals and an hour and a half flight time till I was too cold. Wind was top end ish, though improved for a bit then picked up again maybe at 1400. Made the LZ with about 400 odd feet above the green.

High Water was around midday today and even on a neap tide as was today, there is naff all beach for much of the distance to the LZ, so if the wind is off to the NE and strong, your landing option may be a tricky one on the road.

20th Feb Dougie commented:

"Westbury yesterday, Polhaun today..... where are we off tomorrow?"

Details on his blog.

Next Meeting is on Thursday 25th February at the London Inn, South Brent, at 8:00pm
Mark & Julie will present a short video of the Olu Deniz Air Games 2009.

Mark Ansell, Newsletter Editor,
SOUTH DEVON HANG GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING CLUB
e-mail: 44homepark@supanet.com

Appendix

Frostbite Results 2010

Club/Pilot/Glider	Spot day1	Dist day 1	Dist Pts	Spot day2	Dist day2	Dist pts	Total Pts	O/all position
Kernow								
Tim Jones - Wills Wing Talon 150	480	7.3	365	180	14.67	990.225	2015	1st
Phippsy - Wills Wing Eagle145	420	7.3	365	410	11.29	762.075	1957	3rd
Graham May - Wills Wing Talon 150	0	19.96	1000			0	1000	5th=
Al James - Wills Wing T2 144	0		0			0	0	
Steve Hunt - Airwave Magic 6	0		0			0	0	
							4972	
Mercian								
Nick Collins - Atos VR	0	13.89	696		6.89	465.075	1161	4th
Julian Taylor -	0		0	300	3.9	263.25	563	7th
Pete Atley - Laminar	300	4.54	227			0	527	8th
Conrad Brant	295		0			0	295	12th
Ken Westly - Wills Wing XC	0		0	260		0	260	13th
Mick Ross	0		0			0	0	
							2806	
D&S Condors								
Patrick Peglar - Moyes Litespeed	0	19.8	992	400	8.87	598.725	1991	2nd
Greg Emms - Avian Amour	150		0			0	150	14th
							2141	
Sky Surfers								
Tim King - Atos VR	0		0		14.8	1000	1000	5th=
Paul Harvey - Atos VR	0	7.25	363.23			0	364	10th
							1364	
South Devon								
Karl Sweeny - Wills Wing U2 145	440	1.5	75			0	515	9th
Chris Smith - Wills Wing T2 144		5.9	295.59			0	296	11th
							811	