



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2007

Welcome to the October edition of the newsletter. Well it would appear that this autumn has started reasonably benignly with various reports of flying days still to be had. I hope everyone has been able to take advantage of it.

September Meeting

24 people attended including new faces:
Becky Seeley flies an Atis;
Chris Jordan – actually a sailplane pilot;

Projector

As the club is now regularly doing slide and video presentations it was proposed that the club acquire one to avoid confusion when ‘borrowing’ equipment. Julie explained that the club currently had sufficient funds, and Alan Hughes offered to get an ‘Optima’ for around £420. This has a DVD player, speakers and has TV quality. The proposal was unanimously passed. (AH will check other options before committing).

Site Cards

25 were handed out on the night. – Bob did the layout.

Rogue Pilots

Concern was again expressed during the meeting over a Paul Richardson who is flying in our area without being CP trained, no BHPA membership and flying Dartmoor sites (jeopardising Club access).

Subsequent to the meeting further contact has been made with this ‘pilot’ to encourage him to become legal and join the fold, particularly by Mark Canvin. This has been largely ‘fended off’, and I think the Club needs to consider it’s next course of action.

Dartmoor News

The Tourist Office publish an annual Dartmoor News (around March) and it was suggested that we should have a section on Paragliding (and Hangliding?). [No clear action resulted.]

Whitsand Bay Flying

There had been some flying the previous week in SSW breezes. It was highlighted that in those conditions Struddick was advisable over Freathy, as there’s always some beach even near high tide.

Jennycliff

Robin pointed out that there are restrictions here on weekdays, and pilots should fly with radios tuned to Naval Air 121.25. These don't apply at weekends.

New Tandem Pilot

Mark Nicol was congratulated on becoming a qualified tandem pilot. However this appears mainly to be so that his wife Jenny can keep a closer eye on him (if she twists her head round). He hasn't yet announced his charge rates for flights!



Video Presentation

Alan Hughes gave an educational presentation on GPS equipment and plotting the data on Google Earth, etc. This showed how technology has advanced, and the prices fallen, even in the last few years. It was recommended to check GPS warehouse for deals (www.gpsw.co.uk).

Other News

Helmet

Bob Moore is selling a new Charlie Helmet for £40 (£55 new).

Other Flying News

For those who didn't read his e-mail, Mark Nicol elaborated on his experiences as a tandem pilot this autumn and captured the theme of the recent weather:

What an Autumn it has been so far.

When I got my dual paragliding rating I explained to Jenny (my wife and co-flyer) that we were lucky to have good weather for me to do the rating in September. Also we were lucky to be able to fly the following week at Putsborough, N Devon.

Autumn is often wet and windy, the time of year that you fly the hang glider at Freathy between weather fronts or maybe get a good sea thermal day on the North Coast.

Well this Autumn has been one of dry weather and light winds.

We had three hours dual flying at Struddick about 4 weekends ago, two Sundays ago we had a couple of hours at Beesands, and then last Saturday we had 1 hour 40 mins at Strete.

Strete was the best yet. It was blowing 12 mph, smack on SE, sunny with cumulus forming out to sea and very light sea thermal. We were getting up to 400 ft ATO, and were able to fly to Mathews Point - and back. We shared the site with Mick Boarer and Robin Mogridge.

Jenny is keener than me to fly. She now says that flying comes first and that she doesn't want to hear any "I can't be bothered to go and have a look" kind of excuses. So far so good. It helps that I have a hang glider - so if it is blowing too much for paragliding I still get to fly.

Tandem flying - I can recommend it - it's the only time I get to be the boss!

Similarly Bob wrote on 21st:

Dashed over to Labrador Bay mid afternoon and met up with Robin M. Both launched and had a half hour or more lovely flying. What a site. My first time here.

360 feet ATO with bitty sea thermals, Robin had 400 feet, and great views across the Teign and along the cliffs towards Torquay. Was privileged to see one of a pair of peregrines buzzing a buzzard.

Wow. Folding its wings and diving at him from height.

Then the wind dropped. I braved it and just scraped back in to top land. We packed up and went home. Super.

Other News

Karen Thorpe (ex-Chairperson) hopes to be back in the UK in early December for some flying. We'll probably hear more nearer the time.

Condor's Xmas Party - the hotel is now geared up to take bookings for the Christmas party, to be held on Friday 21st December. Rates are £49 per person; dinner, bed and breakfast and afternoon tea!! Please call the hotel reception on 0800 220714.

Next Meeting - Our next meeting will be held on the Thursday 25th October at the London Inn, South Brent, 7.30, as usual.

Bob Moore has offered to give a talk on his recent trip to Greolieres in the Maritime Alps with Flying Frenzy.

Mark Ansell, Newsletter Editor, SOUTH DEVON HANG GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING CLUB

e-mail: 44homepark@supanet.com