



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2007

Welcome to the August edition of the newsletter. Well what a change in atmosphere since my last newsletter – then it seemed the elements were against us, but since then the weather-gods have been smiling a lot more and we have had some great days out, even getting a bit crowded (but more of that later).

July Meeting

23 people attended including one new face, a colleague of Mark Canvin, Keiren, who is considering taking up the sport.

Sitephone

This seems to be working well.

I would encourage more people to use it or the 'Faithful few' who are leaving messages at present may get fed up, and then we will all 'lose out!'

It was recommended that you listen to the instructions on how to skip messages. This will save you listening to the same information if you dial in more than once in a day.

Check **actual** reports from flying sites on your phone from club members.

I see no reason why it cannot be used as an XC retrieve number as well, just phone in when you have landed, and hope someone has realized that you've gone over the back.

Instructions

To report site conditions

Call **01579 308081**, no-one will answer, after a few rings, the voicemail greeting will be heard.

Simply state: the name of the site ; date and time ; Current flying conditions

Then hang-up.

Please: Don't call in unless you are actually at the site. Don't just say "it's flyable" - you might be able to launch in 18mph with gusts, but not everyone would want to.

To find out current conditions

Call **0207 0437777** you will be prompted for an Id, enter **9308081**, you will be prompted for a password, enter **8721**

You can automate the above by programming your phone to include spaces e.g:

0207047777**PP**9308081**PP**8721

Where P represents a pause. You can program a pause by pressing and holding the * key on most phones (on some you have to press and hold the # key instead, on others use a comma, on most nokia's press the * button 3 times in quick succession - read the manual)

Now you are into the voicemail options, here are the main commands:

Press the key ...

- [1] for new messages
 - [4] for previous messages
 - [5] to repeat the message
 - [6] for the next message
 - [2] to change folders
 - [0] New messages
 - [1] Old messages
 - [#] Cancel
- [*] Main Menu

You can skip the "message from XYZ left at blahdyblah" by pressing 1.

Important - it might say there are no new messages. Either there aren't any at all that day or someone else has rung in and those messages are now in the Old Messages folder. Just use the [2] key at the main menu to switch to the Old messages folder.

I will try to make sure that the voicemail is cleared at the end of each day,

Warning

You are dialling into the voicemail for the **01579 308081** number. So, you could (if you press the wrong buttons) delete any existing messages or even change the voicemail message (so, please don't be juvenile). **If this facility becomes more trouble than it is worth, I will remove it.** I get a copy of every voicemail message left in my inbox – so even if I am not 'flying' I should be able to monitor things

How much does all this cost?

Both the above numbers are standard landline number and will come out of any inclusive minutes if calling by mobile phone., so check with your service provider.

The service itself is free. There is no cost to the Club.

Any problems with the service please report them to me (ashley@itscornwall.co.uk) as I have the registration details.

First Aid

It was suggested that we investigate cheaper sources of training, in lieu of the professional services used by the Condors. Any Ideas anyone?

Grid Ref Cards

Cards were issued at the meeting listing site grid refs for use in an emergency. Unfortunately the data taken from the printed site guide seems to be inaccurate so they are currently being re-done. Does anyone have any ideas for other useful info to go onto the rear of the cards? Suggestions to Bob Moore please.

Club Library

Two new DVDs have been purchased.-

'Playground' - Ground-handling
'Broken Toe Acro' - Need I say any more?
Both available to borrow from Mark Nicol

We will also be purchasing 'Thermal flying' as reviewed in XC Magazine

South Hams Youth Festival

South Hams Council are organizing an 'Ultimate Sports Exhibition in Kingsbridge on Sat 8th Sept 07.

We have been asked to set up a Club Stand to encourage new uptake in the sport.

Andy Farrow has offered to attend. Would any one like to assist him? Pref Paraglider

Northampton Club trip to Laragna

Alan Hughes kept us all well entertained with tales of his recent trip, where he was joined by Mike Wood and Colin Jones from our club

Whilst the conditions sounded very daunting. The flying sounded spectacular.

Thanks Alan

Other News

Other Flying News

As mentioned in the introduction the weather has finally allowed a steady number of hours to be clocked up over the past 6 weeks. The Yahoo website has received regular reports of flying activities, and is now being used by more pilots.

The use of the phone service should also help pilots on the day, although I have found it sporadically failing with error messages, despite using the standard access. This is useful later in the day if you want to know who's 'up', but the e-mails from Mark C, etc are still very useful to know who is actively intending to fly, and where, so that you can phone them for an update. It appears to be tempting fate to log good flying on the voicemail, as I once did, only to find the conditions deteriorate before anyone hears it !!

Well done though for all the efforts to keep pilots advised, and the exciting flying reports that have followed (any photos?).

Safety

It seems only appropriate for me to make comment on safety this month, as there have been several e-mails going around.

- a) Thanks to all for your encouragement after I terminated this season's flying on a boulder at Sourton. I had become complacent about the risks at such a rocky site, and forgotten that it is Pilot Rated. Many there were only CP and showing more enthusiasm than caution (like me) and need reminding that ours is a dangerous sport. I am so embarrassed to have been the 4th Air Ambulance passenger this season, especially after warning everyone only a few month's ago in this publication.

Keep aware of the risks, and don't fly in marginal conditions, and you will be able to fly again another day.

- b) Air Law and collision avoidance. I was at Corn Ridge on 29th July when Julie reported counting 19 pilots in the air at the same time (she was the only person on the ground only because she shares the wing with Mark). On such occasions it is critical that pilots clearly follow the circulating rules ("hill on the right", etc) to avoid collisions that can result in 2 pilots descending in an uncontrolled manner. It is one of the few occasions where I felt Bob was in the right to swear at another flyer, in flight, who cut up the field to top land.

I now gather from Tom Dodge's e-mail that another similar situation has occurred with a lot of low hour pilots in the air. I know we are not used to having a lot of pilots at our sites, but when it does occur, please follow the rules for everyone's sake. If a car driver coming towards you suddenly decided to swing across the road and pass you on the wrong side you would be horrified.

I know on a quiet site if there is plenty of room and your intentions are very clear from an early stage, it is OK to pass on the 'wrong' side, but this is not possible on a busy site as you can't allow for pilots behind you and perhaps in front preparing to turn.



Freathy with a full car park!



Cawsand (or is it Kingsand?).

Next Meeting - Our next meeting will be held on the Thursday 30th August at the London Inn, South Brent, 7.30, as usual.

Alan Hughes to give a talk and review on GPS currently available.
Please bring your GPS and assist in the review.

Paul Cioffi is to show his video of his SIV Training this June in Olu Deniz.

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