



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007

Welcome to the March edition of the newsletter – still the quiet time of the year, so not much flying news.

February Meeting

A good turnout with 21 members attending, including 3 new faces:

Paul Cioffi – CP trained on PGs with Flying Frenzy;

Ashley Ryle – HG & PG pilot;

Mr Farrow Jnr. (David) – currently EP on HG.

The repack was publicized again (see report below).

Communications

Gordon (Social Secretary) complained at the apathy to e-mail invitations to attend events. Several have been publicized in the Newsletter and at meetings, but no-one has contacted him outside of the meetings. It was felt that we needed to improve our communication methods. Gordon proposes setting up a new e-mail grouping for him to contact members and replies to return to him, without cluttering the Yahoo site. However we believe that many members have not updated their contact information. I have therefore attached a contact form, which we request you return to Bill and myself, preferably by e-mail. It is in the excel format used by Bill for the membership list, but may be awkward to use manually (apologies for non-computer types).

Social Events proposed

The following ideas were put forward, but again Gordon wants some feedback:

Interclub Competition event

Summer BBQ

Visit to the Met Office (probably a long waiting list, so need interest to be shown)

Quiz Night

Boat Cruise (Torbay or Tamar)

Lakes Classic Weekend – a club group to attend in June.

Karting (Race World, Exeter)

Paintball

So please contact Gordon to give feedback on 01803 328181 or gw21@btinternet.com.

Membership Fees

Although nearly half of last year's members have paid up for 2007, the [paid] membership fell last year, and we feel some local flyers are abusing the system. I have therefore also included a reminder with the contact form for those who haven't sent Bill their subs.

Some people expressed a wish to pay their subs by Standing Order or On-Line banking.

Here are the Bank Details for those who wish to do so:

South Devon Hang Gliding & Paragliding Club
HSBC
4 Strand
Torquay
Account number 31321536
Sort code 40-44-22

Curry Night

Gordon has arranged the first social event as a curry night at the London Inn due to its central location for members. It was decided to hold this **in place of the March meeting**. However the Landlady recommended the **Friday 30th March**, as there will be live entertainment in the bar. Cost will be around £5 / head (an excellent deal) with suggested menus of Chicken / Beef or Veg. This is open to friends / partners, with a maximum of 30. Over 20 places have already gone, so **please contact Gordon** if you want one of the last – 01803 328181 or gw21@btinternet.com.

Pilot Lectures

These are to be held in conjunction with the Condors, and will be hosted in Sidmouth on a suitably non-flyable weekend. [9 SDHGPC members actually attended on a stormy 4th March].

Flying Sites

Trehill – Karl highlighted that the licence has gone up from £30 to £50. Although the site is not heavily used, it was felt unwise to abandon it given that other sites can't be guaranteed. The MOD are not happy with flying when the ranges are active as you could infringe their area during take off and landing. Although it is possible to avoid this, the range officer should be contacted to ensure they are aware (see website).

Battern Cliff can be used in the summer (contrary to some earlier references) but ensure no crops are damaged, i.e. no driving over the field, and walk round the edges to reach T/O.

Jennycliff – Colin Jones reported that a field just above the carpark can be used. It is owned by a South African, who he is trying to contact. It takes a W – NW wind. He and some experienced pilots will try it first before recommending for general use.

Beesands – Andy Farrow reported that the sea defences have been improved and they are causing some rotor when landing.

Slik Cut

Martin Reed said that HG pilots are having trouble finding reasonable sailmakers in Plymouth after someone cornered the market and closed several down. He recommended Slik Cut in Mountbatten (01752 401904).

Annual Repack (see photos)

The annual Repack took place at Devonport High School on Sunday 25th Feb.

This was a very successful event with over 25 members going along and practicing throwing their reserves as well as repacking them. Once again various difficulties were encountered with kit and throwing techniques – things you don't want to be sorting out in the heat of a collapse. I can't emphasise enough the need to check your kit and check your techniques in advance.

One major problem was found with a reserve packed by a paid 'professional' company, which may (or may not) have sorted itself out in the emergency, but left the pilot un-nerved.

Other News

South Devon Club Flying Holiday

There are still spaces to go flying in Oludeniz, Turkey from the 7th May 2007.

This now has the makings of a successful Club Flying trip if anyone else is interested.

Contact Gordon White for details.

Library

Mark N again requested that borrowed books/DVDs are returned on a timely basis. Several have been out for extended periods and other members are waiting for their return.

February Flying News

Despite some atrocious weather, the HG pilots have had the best of any flying (I certainly haven't got off the ground yet this year). The weather is looking better now, but the PGs need the wins to die down a bit.

Next Meeting

Our next **meeting** will be held on the 26th April at the London Inn, South Brent, 7.30, as usual. Don't forget the March meeting is replaced by the Curry Night .

Adrian Bishop (PG Safety Officer) has offered to give a talk and video on safe flying.

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