



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2007

Welcome to the November edition of the newsletter. Finally autumn has turned wet and windy, although reports of short flights still filter in.

October Meeting

20 people attended including new faces:

Ivor – well old face really, just no-one could remember him coming to a club night before!

Jim Saunders – new PG CP, but already known out on the hill.

Projector

The new projector was in action for the evening with both external inputs and it's built in DVD player and speakers. Bill has also donated a screen.

Rogue Pilots

Further to previous month's reports of non-BHPA/South Devon members flying on our sites, and unapproved Dartmoor sites, there was extensive discussion over the course of action to take. The majority decision was to take no direct action to report these people, as we have no control over them. Further 'softly-softly' approaches will be made to try and persuade any flyers to join the club and 'go legal'.

It is not believed that this contravenes any obligations the club may have to report such people to the Park Authority, and to do so may only draw unnecessary attention to the problem.

First Aid

Mark S has made contact with a paramedic friend of Will who is prepared to run a 'low cost' first aid session. We will probably need to book the local sports hall.

Website payments.

The PAYPAL system has been proposed at previous meetings. Although there was some cynicism about the method and cost, it was said to only cost a few %.

In the light of the difficulty of ensuring that visitors pay up, many of whom may be willing but unclear how to, it was concluded that there was little to lose in pursuing this option, and some potential benefits.

Julie (accountant) to liase with Ashley (Webmaster) to progress.

Radios

Alan Hughes proposed a bulk buy of 2m radios for club members. However it was pointed out that the club already owned 3 radios, but these need new batteries. After discussion on finding standard replacement batteries for the D195 models, it was proposed to get conversion packs to allow them to take standard alkaline/rechargeable batteries. These are expected to cost around £25 each.

Food

The London Inn has had to cut back on costs and providing free snacks on club nights. Members recalled that this had been chargeable in the distant past, and so the change was reasonable. A vote was taken on the club paying for sandwiches on club evenings – the motion was rejected.

Air Ambulance

Malcolm had recently met the crews at a show at Eagles Cotter (?) airfield and had thanked them for their services on behalf of the club.

Free DVD

Bob reported that the XC Magazine had a free DVD, which he proposed giving to the club library.

Video Presentation

Bob Moore gave an interesting presentation on his recent trip to Greolieres in the Maritime Alps with Flying Frenzy.

Flying News

October had brought surprisingly good flying weather:

1. Beesands - Mike Connatty and Paul Squance had good flights around Start Point;
2. Struddick – Alan Hughes and Colin Jones managed to cross Looe to the bowl beyond. They were congratulated on making the furthest recorded ‘penetration’ from this regular site.
3. North Coast – it was suggested that better sea thermals are being found because of the drier arctic air mass arriving with northerlies.
4. Labrador Bay – Robin and Bob both managed flights from this easterly site near Shaldon.

Other News

Missing Paraglider

There was much e-mail news following the apparent theft of Paul’s glider from a National Express bus. Thankfully it turned up in Torquay lost property, spotted by a visiting pilot.

The moral of the story was summarised by Mike Connatty:

I travel for my work and have to be dynamite about not losing bags and equipment both checked in and hand carry on various types of transport, buses, trains, planes taxis, tuk tuks, rickshaws you name it...

1. get off the coach at every stop to check that nobody fingers your bags, even if you are asleep
2. make sure you have several cards located externally and internally with your full contact details
3. don't ever rely on lost property for repatriation of your goodies whether the carrier or police, they don't give a monkeys [k@#b](#)
4. if at all possible never let your kit out of your site
 5. left luggage at hotels etc is not secure, remove small valuable like variors, radios, gps and keep them with you or put in a safe.



Met Office Visit

For those who haven't seen, Gordon is arranging a visit in January:

Please find below details of a forthcoming Met Office Visit on Friday 25th January 2008. This will be specifically tailored for pilots and is sure to be very popular so places will be reserved on a first come-first served basis. If you want to book a place - please let me know, (providing all the requested information below), by Friday 14th December 2007 to the following email address: sdhgpg.club@googlemail.com making the subject of your email "met office visit"

Firstly, it has only been possible to organise such a visit due to the hard work and generosity of the Met Office Aviation Division and in particular to Dr Craig Donlon, (a Condors member) and Hilary Clements - thank you.

The evening will commence on Friday 25th January 2008 at 7.30pm prompt and will include a presentation by Met Office Staff showing what they do for Aviation and some of the products that they offer followed by an opportunity for them to hear from ourselves - the free flying community about what we actually want from the Met Office. This will be followed by a tour, after which we will adjourn to a local pub where anyone wishing to purchase food can do so and anyone who doesn't can just have a

drink and a chat. There will be a small charge of approximately £1.50 per person attending to cover the cost of tea/coffee/biscuits during the evening. This will be payable upon arrival. Further details including directions, parking, etc will be forwarded to those attending nearer the time. Craig has indicated that pilots from neighbouring clubs, with reciprocal agreements, could attend too. However, priority would be given to South Devon/Condors members first. Therefore if any of you have friends in these clubs that might wish to attend, please feel free to forward this email to them.

Details Required when booking - (for security purposes)

UK residents: Full name and postal address.

Non UK residents - as above plus current passport number.

Other Flying News

A small team of members sneaked off to Morocco during October, and Alan Kaye released the following photos:



I have suggested he gives us a presentation at a future club meeting.



Meanwhile Bill was finding the flying not so warm at Struddick:





Demo Wings

Malcolm has a couple of new demo gliders for test/trial.

Gin Zulu Explorer and
Sport 3

Both in medium.
Give him a call if you want to try them.

07957 751319

Next Meeting - Our next meeting will be held on the Thursday 29th November at the London Inn, South Brent, 7.30, as usual.

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