



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2008

Well not the best August I've ever seen. As the anniversary of my accident came up, I was reminded that late July and early August last year produced some epic days. Not so this year and we have had to grab opportunities with little forewarning of success. I've therefore been pleased to see the few unexpected reports that have come through. Some however have despaired and fled to warmer climes.

July Meeting - A good turnout with 22 members attending.

Slapton Field Centre Fair -16th August

Robin again reported that we had been invited to show at the fair as we are regular flyers at Slapton. Robin (01364 72430) said he would coordinate volunteers to man the stand, although little enthusiasm was shown at the time [In the event Bill made an excellent show with his HG and entertained the locals in a barn out of the elements. I didn't go as I thought we had scrubbed the plan due to bad weather].

South Devon Competition and BBQ

Mark C suggested an event in August, preferably at Cox Tor for easy access. Possibility of Ground Handling and Accuracy competitions. Bring your own food and BBQ and camp by the landing area. The plan was for Mark to give a week's notice subject to good weather [clearly this hasn't been possible].

Mark S also proposed a Beach BBQ on similar weather conditions, to take 2nd priority to the 'Fly-In'. [obviously also not yet happened, but September was also suggested].

Winter Events

Mark S requested some ideas for the winter months:

Alan Hughes has offered another talk on GPS systems.

The First Aid course has "costed itself out". Chris Nash will approach some friends who are paramedics for an informal talk.

Meal Night – suggested November would be a good time.

Guest Speaker – Gordon will investigate getting someone like Jocky Sanderson.

Quiz Night – Robin may be able to run another photo quiz. His last one was very successful.

Repack 2009 – look to include some safety aspects.

Olu Deniz 2009

7 members have already booked the week starting May 4th (Bank Holiday weekend). If anyone else is interested, then Mark S. will be the contact.

Air Ambulance Raffle

Dartmoor Paragliding Supplies (Malcolm) donated prizes for the raffle.

£27 was raised from the raffle last month.

Julie also donated £250 she won at a recent works event.

With increased fuel costs it was reported that the Air Ambulance needs around £3m a year to run, with no government support.

July Flying

Gordon managed to persuade his wife Jill to take a tandem flight (not with him). So making some progress explaining his passion.

Towing

With various problems flying, several members have showed interest in tow launching. Graham Phipps has offered to come and give a talk on towing. A 1-day conversion course costs around £220, but he gives a discount for 7+ students. The Kernow winch is in the Redruth area and charges are £5 / launch or £20/day. Paul Cioffi will contact him for a talk in August [with Paul on holiday I don't know if this was agreed].

Other News

Flying News

It's been a poor month, as we know. I only managed 30 mins at Freathy (Sat 23rd), but there was a good turnout of PGs and HGs as the wind speed rose during the day.





Jennycliff on the 8th



Mark N with Colin Jones, Colin Blagdon reported fabulous flights. "It was blowing 14 mph, wind lines but no white horses, we were getting around 400ft in ridge lift **but climbing to over 1100 ft ATO in thermal**. The air was quite bumpy, this is at 5.30 pm, you could see the thermals as swirls on the water and we were flying at times about 1/4 mile out to sea -over the shipping. There may be 1.5 miles of Plymouth Sound in front of the cliff but this is in practice an inland site with XC potential.

Colin eventually landed about 2 miles inland -having gone XC- and I landed next to the car park."

Colin e-mailed the excellent photos.

However Mark also reported changes in our take-off options:

"As Colin Jones was about to take off from the usual field, that is owned by someone living in South Africa, he was stopped by a woman whose family actually rent the field. This woman is the daughter of the farmer who used to own a lot of the fields around the golf course and she was adamant that she didn't want anyone to fly from her field. There is a lot of history here -her father, now deceased, allowed a hang glider to take off from one of his fields and the hang glider pilot landed in the sea near Bovisand and a major rescue followed.....

Colin agreed not to fly from the field and explained that there are other places that we could launch from so to expect to see us in the air even if we didn't use her field.

So, Colin Jones, Colin Blagdon and myself attempted to take off from the grass field near the cafe. This is clearly not a good place as there is a hedge to clear and some rotor from the cliff. It was difficult to keep the canopy above your head whilst moving forward as half the wing could collapse at any time."

Membership arrears

Last month's reminder yielded some late payments. Thanks to those who responded.

Next Meeting will be on Thursday 28th August at the London Inn, South Brent, 8:00pm, as usual. Paul and Mark C suggested they will have photos from their short break in Spain.

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