



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2009

After a freezing February, finally the sky gods have started smiling and reports have been coming in of happy days. Even I have been out and about and managed 2 flying days (not including a fly/ski visit to Austria). It's been particularly pleasing to see the club enter HG and PG teams in the Airways BCC.

February Meeting

15 members attended (a quiet time of the year).

Airwave Club Challenge - Frostbite Competition

8 SD members, mainly HGs, turned out for the Kernow Frostbite competition on the 21st/22nd Feb. as our first round of the British Clubs Challenge. The Saturday was variable wind but OK for PGs, although some were 'dropped' on the beach, and flyable until 6pm. On the Sunday the wind picked up suiting only the HGs, but 18+ pilots took part in ridge run and spot landing competitions. Colin Jones was joint first, and although at the time of the meeting it was declared a draw, later the formal team result was a win for South Devon! (see full results at the bottom).

[see below for the next round – Brass Monkey competition]

For future rounds the Competition Officers are:

PG = Mark Canvin (mark.canvin@homecall.co.uk)

HG = Karl Sweeney (adamsbeck@hotmail.co.uk)

High Cliff, Bude – new site

This site is along from Dizzard and Pete Coad (Kernow) is Site Officer. The farmer has asked to increase the annual licence from £75 to £150. Kernow requested a contribution from SD club in return for access (currently Kernow members only). The site takes a NW wind and is about 75 mins from Plymouth.

In order to secure the site for future flying, and expand the clubs sites (members only) it was agreed to make the donation. Details will be added to our website.

Jennycliff

Following continued use of this controversial site, discussions concluded that internet reports of flying here should be kept to a minimum to avoid unwanted interest. Members are reminded that this is an "unforgiving site" with no bottom landing and that it is in Restricted Airspace, limiting flying from Friday 5pm to Sunday only. Pilots need to be discrete, lay out quickly and then fly away from the take-off site.

It is recommended that those intending to fly Jennycliff should contact Colin Blagdon (07712 875621) or Colin Jones (07808 064501) for advice.

Devon Air Ambulance

A Thank You letter and certificate have been received following our annual £300 donation.

T-Shirts

Paul Cioffi's designs were circulated at the meeting.

Future Events

March – Graham Phipps may be coming back to talk on XC and also Motorised PG tuition.

Pilot Lectures – Mark N says he expects this will be on a wet/windy weekend sometime after the end of March. He still wants an idea of those interested to advise Harriet (Condors) of expected numbers.

GPS Download Lecture

Alan Hughes went on to guide us on how to download GPS data into your PC, including Google Earth, and the variety of problems you may incur if you choose the wrong software.

Garmin tend to use MAPSOURCE, but it's not cheap and quite 'clunky'.

GPS Utility is shareware available for around £20, but doesn't give altitude on the trace.

GPS Visualizer was best for display, but only after you've extracted the data file.

All very difficult to follow, but I hope Alan will produce training notes.

Other News

Repack 2009

The annual Repack went ahead on Sunday 1st March. We look forward to details of results at this week's club meeting.

SD Brass Monkey Competition

Karl and Mark managed to organise a very successful local round of the BCC on the 14th/15th March.

Saturday was a strong NW and was called for Perranporth. Karl reported:

....a great day was had by all (with one or two breakages which I'll leave to pilots concerned to relate - I was onesorry Jesus....) Incorrect result initially announced at the Watering Hole after the event - only top four pilots score as this was a BCC round - Therefore **South Devon were VICTORIOUS Again.**

Sunday was forecast very light, so Mark C called for Cox Tor and reported:

A bevy of pilots converged on Cox Tor for a fantastic day's flying. Thermals everywhere! And this constant stream of thermal activity produced a soarable breeze up the front. Perfect. Alongside of the demanding official tasks, in which the Kernow guys acquitted themselves admirably to equal the home team, **creating a dead heat**, several unofficial tasks added some extra challenge.

Dougie won the 'Most Height Gained' event, with a superb thermal flight to bump up against the inversion at around 1200 feet.

Nick Gigg (Kernow) won the 'Spot Landing' competition, with a miraculous dead centre in thermic air on the highly technical piece of carpet.

Geordie Dave (Kernow) won the 'Groundhandling Dogfight', as the last man standing after a 'no holds barred' groundhandling fight!

Honour was satisfied with an even result in the comp, the thermals were lively and plentiful, the sun was warm and the company was good.

What more could you want!

Wessex BCC Round

And yet another round was completed by our illustrious pilots on Sunday 22nd March – the SD PG team now adopting the pseudonym ‘South Devon Devils’. Bob wrote:

Briefing was at 1045 after which open distance task was on until about 1600.

Wind was top endish, thermic and a bit rough at times, but a nice clear blue sky with a few odd Cu 's developing here and there. There were a couple or so opportunities to get away. Some pilots continued, some pushed back to the hill, but with a strong headwind, almost all height was lost by the time they got back to the front.

However, some personal bests for a couple of Devils!

Mark Canvin got up to over 2k and got away to land at Milborne St Andrew, over 11km, best XC. And Matt also got up and away and landed at Milton Abbas, 6 or 7 km. Not sure if that's a best?

Jlm Fish Saunders was well made up after getting 1400 feet ato , a best in the UK, and was kicking himself afterwards for not going with it. Next time Jim!

Dougie got some good height at times, but didn't go over the back. And he did an ace retrieve for Matt and Mark.

A couple of Wessex guys made the coast (30km?) But SD made a good showing. Well done Mark and Matt (and everyone who took part!)



Adverts

Sky Atis 2 wing, Size large 87-110 Kg's DHV 1/2, colour red, white and blue. 80 hours. Been recently serviced with Simon at Flying circus in Devon. Had eight new lines with full report. In great condition. £750. Skyline Core harness, size XL, also had annual inspection with report. Has some obvious wear and tear but still got plenty of life left in it. £100 .

Chris Bellamy 07886 179 773

Flying News

There have been plenty of flying reports on Yahoo groups these past few weeks, so I haven't got room to report them all. The general theme however is the hope that this portends to a better summer than last year. Just remember to fly safe at this time of spring thermals.

Next Meeting is on Thursday 26th March at the London Inn, South Brent, 8:00pm, with Graham's talk as mentioned above.

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Appendix

Official results, Frostbite 2009 : Kernow v South Devon

PG- Sat

	<u>Race Spot Total</u>	
Steve Hawken	80	50 130
Mike Abbott	60	60
Phil Austin	50	50
Ron Vercesi	40	40
Adam	10	30 40
Mark Butler	40	40
Pete Coad DSQ	40	40
Manuel Lira	30	30
Michel Kerhoas	30	30
Nick Gigg	20	20

HG - Sat

Graham Phipps 10 10 **20**

HG (Sunday)

Colin Jones	150	150
Graham Phipps	140	10 150
Karl Sweeney	120	20 140
Chris Smith	110	30 140
Geoff Brooks	130	130
Alan H? (SD)	110	110
Tim Jones	100	100
Patrick Buxton	90	90
Steve Hawken	80	80
Adie Jenas	20	50 70
Mike ? (SD)	70	70
Mark Nicol	60	60
Pete Coad	50	50
Alan James	40	40
Chris Whittaker	30	10 40
Andy Farrow	30	30

TEAM RESULTS

HG South Devon 730

Kernow 690