



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009

Well considering it should be a quieter time of the year, we seem to have managed a few flying reports this month (see below). Personally I haven't had the glider out of the bag since early September, so well done to the 'autumn stalwarts'.

September Meeting

A good turnout with 26 members attending including 3 new faces – John (PG), Gary and Roger (HG), as well as Mike Reed, Martin's son. Apologies from Paul C and Brian Clavin.

John Chick's Air Ambulance Raffle

The 2nd raffle was held to raise funds for the local air ambulances with 2 bottles of wine being won.

Ponies at Polhawn

Martin Reed has spoken to the man in the mobile home who explained that there had been an incident where the ponies had been 'trapped' by someone carelessly ground handing in the field in front of his home. We think it was probably rogue pilots.

These ponies are pretty 'bomb proof' and are normally unphased by flyers. However you are warned that some expensive horses are kept in the fields behind the mobile home, so please avoid any low flying/landing approaches there.

Motorised Paragliders

Members were again reminded that no powered flying (take-off) is permitted from our sites or Dartmoor National Park. Although there is little we can do to stop rogues, try to discourage them in case it reflects badly on us.

Summer BBQ

Mark Canvin finally called the Cox Tor event on the 5th/6th Sep. Mark & Julie were the only people at club night who went. The weather was very poor. Paul flew in drizzle for 10-15 mins. A few families had a BBQ and thanks went to Paul and Libby for arranging the Canopy and table to eat off, as well as providing some of the food.

Blorenges Bash

Mark N reported on the Bank Holiday event. It was well organised with several members and partners attending. A good social event, but blown out.

There were several talks and demos during the evening. Beer was cheap and food available. £40 for 2 people camping for 3 nights. Minibuses were available for pilots to get back up to T/O.

Paid up Membership has now reached 90.

Ager Trip

Jim F reported on his trip to Ager in August with several other members. He was a bit disappointed that the weather was still quite difficult with no flying between 1pm and 5 pm due to excessive thermal activity being a long 'stand down' time. Restitution was then rather close to dusk. It had good potential, but would prefer a different time of year.

T-Shirts

Paul had reported that only 5 orders had been taken. As the club had already paid £76 for artwork and samples it was considered too much to place a 'speculative' bulk order. Ashley will post more details on the web and members are encouraged to place orders for the versions they prefer. The HGs complained that the logo had mis-spelt "Hang gliding".

Future Events

October – Alan H will give a talk on GPS / Nokia Phone technology;
It is hoped that Matt will give a talk on his XC experiences.

November – Curry night.

Gordon has arranged for a meal in place of the formal meeting. Please note this will be on the FRIDAY 27th Nov, as traditionally more people (and partners) can attend than on a Thursday. A range of Mild, Strong and Vegetarian will be available for £5 !! However we need the money up front to guarantee a place. **Please aim to pay before/at the October meeting. If you can't attend, but want to book the curry night, you'll need to get someone else to pay for you.**

Lakes Trip photo show

Mark N and Jenny had traveled up to the Lake District straight after the Bloreng Bash. He gave an interesting talk on the different sites available and the type of weather conditions to expect, and the best conditions for that area. It was nice to get a fresh perspective of alternative UK sites, now that the weak pound is making Europe rather expensive.

Other News

Kernow Flying Restrictions

Perranporth, St Agnes and Chapel Porth have now become sensitive sites due to the RAF increasing their use of the airfield at Perranporth.

BEFORE flying Perranporth, St Agnes and Chapel Porth you will need to phone the airfield and let them know. Their number is 01872 552266. If other pilots are in the air, DO NOT ASSUME they have phoned, check first and if necessary phone the airfield.

Flying News

Tuesday 22nd Sep Alan wrote:

Hangies were myself and Martin Reed were at Freathy. Wind at TO was 14-18mph at mid-day, but c.25mph at flying height and off to the west. The flags were up, so no Looe run attempts. Getting to Rame was easy enough. I had a crack at getting out to the Scylla which ColinJ has done before. On the first run I turned back from about 1/2 way out at 800ft ATO. Second run was near enough there (not quite directly above the buoy) & turned at 320ft ATO. Getting back was a bit of a buttock-clencher: I arrived back just below ridge height. I found it absolutely impossible to judge my height over the sea - I needed to keep looking back at the land to reassure myself that the instruments were not lying too much!! All in all a fun day's flying.

Tuesday 29th Sep Jim F wrote:

Took a trip to Westbury white horse today, well worth it, came on around 1pm got to cloudbase for first time, was able to push well out front, cant go over the back, airspace restrictions unfortunately long xcs would have been possible. Thermals were large and plentiful people were still flying at sunset.. laterz all jim

Late September in Ager Jim McDonald wrote:

Brett and Toby tell me it was the worst week of weather all year. We had 2 days with no flying at all and the window was pretty small on the other days. But Brett and Toby ensured that we were up and flying at every possible opportunity, so I got 7 hours in on about 9 flights in 3 days. The first was 1hr40 with low CB, but managed a nice triangle around the Ager valley, although my GPS packed up so no data. The second was a similar length but much higher at a site which is 22km south of Ager (50km by road). Our biggest problem was northerly katabatic winds coming from some unexpected snow on the bigger mountains, and rain! I'm happy with the trip though, it was a great bunch to spend the week with, I shared a lodge with a brain surgeon called Richard - me and Rich got the best flights!

Thursday 1st October, Paul wrote:

Not a bad day really, although could have been much better if Okehampton range wasn't active. Myself and Robin arrived at 12.30 to find Tim, Innes and I think John Fielding flying at Corn Ridge, Tim doing rather well on his new wing.

Joined by Jim we all decided to go across to Sourton instead as wind was NNW and was forecast to go NW later. Once there wind was off to North and fairly stiff but plenty of lift about made it quite easy to stay up. Those flying at Corn then flew across to join in the fun. Innes made lots of ground pushing out in front whilst I took a thermal over the back reaching base at 2200 ato getting as far as Okehampton range boundary flag. Sadly at this point I had to leave the lift to cut across wind towards Widgery, unfortunately, the sky had blue'd over and wind had picked up considerably. Made it as far as Wilsworthy range, bit of a rough backward landing as unable to penetrate, at which point I could see Robin coming in for a landing towards the main road.

At 3.30 the only person flying was Innes as the wind was too strong for the rest of the gang waiting on a hill for a lull that never came. Tim and Jim were the last ones to leave opting to walk back to the car park.

Sunday 4th October, Mark S wrote:

After studying many forecasts.-Good old RASP came up trumps again!! Julie and I decided to head up to Woollacombe today. Around 20 gliders on the hill throughout the day, and around 12 in the air at one time. Wind off to the South some of the time, but very smooth. Flyable from 10.30 through to 4.30, when we decided to land and drive back.

Phil Bailey the only other S Devon member there - Test flying a demo Niviuk. Jeff and Chris Hoer flying tandem.

Thursday 8th October, Bob wrote:

Got to King Tor 1220 along with Malcolm W and Robin Mog, Ivor T and Robin Mills and Jim Fish later. 12-14 mph and thermic. Best height I had was 450 ft ato, think Robin Mo had a grand. Not rough (for a change) but Robin M said challenging. Not a lot happening between thermic cycles, so a possibility of going down. Lovely blue day, although the wind gradually got lighter. We packed in at about 1430 ish and headed for the Warren House. Malcolm flew back to the cars. We saw Chris Snowden and Matt A walking out and think we saw Matt fly back to the cars while we were at the pub.

Nice for October.

Saturday 17th October, Dougie wrote:

It was a good day on King tor yesterday, however Matt and myself were probably an hour late getting up there as the streets were starting to overdevelop as we launched. Alan, Matt, Miles and myself got away, Miles landing at Hexworthy and the 3 of us getting dumped off the end of a cloud street at Two bridges. I hear Martin F got away, not sure how far and Innes flew back to his van. Much ribbing followed in the Warren House Inn, a great day and good distance for so late in the year.

For Sale

2 Harnesses (one xc/one lightweight). 1 med x-demo apco vista DHV1-2. 1 safest reserve out there. conar 20 pg. Mint other bits and pieces.

Any offers? Contact Hugo Makin. E-mail: hugo@hmakin.com

Next Meeting is on Thursday 29th October at the London Inn, South Brent, at 8:00pm.

Alan and Matt have confirmed they will be giving talks, as highlighted above.

Mark Ansell, Newsletter Editor,

SOUTH DEVON HANG GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING CLUB

e-mail: 44homepark@supanet.com