



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009

Annual General Meeting

23 members plus 2 prospectives attended.

Chairman's Speech

Mark summarised the year as having been good for flying, despite the poor weather. Many flights had been reported 'in area' as well as members organising trips to Turkey and Spain. He went on to again thank the committee members for their support in 2008.

Election of Committee

Chairman	Mark Stapleton
Secretary	Mark Ansell
Treasurer	Julie Stapleton
Membership Secretary	Bill Arkle
Club Contact & Coach	Bob Moore
HG Safety Officer	Mark Nicol
PG Safety Officer	Paul Cioffi (Adrian Bishop stood down)
Sites Officer (Dartmoor & East)	Robin Mogridge
Sites Officer (West)	Karl Sweeney
Club Webmaster	Ashley Ryall
HG Comps Officer	Karl Sweeney
PG Comps Officer	Mark Canvin
XC League compiler	Ashley Ryall
Social Secretary	Gordon White
Club Librarian	Matt Allott (Mark Nicol stood down)
Newsletter Editor	Mark Ansell

There was some discussion over the role of the Safety Officers. It was stated that it focuses on the follow up to any accident / incident. The Officer will liaise with the Police, Hospitals and BHPA, etc. ensuring reports are submitted. It's not necessarily their role to advise pilots 'on the hill' of safe flying practices – this can be done by any pilot / coach.

Treasurer's Report

Julie reported 80 paid up members in 2008 and the benefit that PAYPAL had given in simplifying payments, recommending that this be maintain (the annual usage fee came to around £15).

A small profit of £166 was reported, leading to the recommendation that subscriptions remain at £15 – this was approved.

Again a donation of £300 to Devon Air Ambulance was approved.

Turkey Trip 2009

After the success of last year's trip, another has been organised for 2009 and already 17 people have booked!

T-Shirts

Paul Cioffi and Ashley will form a subcommittee to come up with a proposal.

Frostbite Competition

This is technically a Kernow event, but can come on to our sites if the wind direction dictates. Initially planned for the 7th/8th Feb, the weather has caused 2 delays and this has now been re-scheduled to the 28th/1st March at the earliest. Karl will post details 2 or 3 days in advance once a suitable flying window has been identified.

Trethill Cliff, Whitsands Bay

The club only recently heard the sad news that Nick Rundle, the farmer there, had died last April and that the farm is in receivership. The licence agreement is with the National Trust, not the farmer, but Karl will liaise with the incoming family to ensure there is no misunderstanding.

Polhawn, Whitsands Bay

The farmer owning the field behind the Take-Off has very valuable horses in those fields. As we know gliders readily spook horses, so pilots are asked to move away from the area as soon as airborne.

You are also reminded to be generally considerate to horse riders for similar reasons.

Repack 2009

General consensus at the meeting was Sunday 1st March. Gordon has now booked the hall at Devonport School again, from 3 – 7pm. We can resend details nearer the time. However Gordon has asked that members turn up reasonably early in the session to avoid a last minute rush, spreading activity through the afternoon.

Meteorological Station

Martin Reed's son Michael is in the throws of setting out his third year dissertation at Plymouth University. He is going to look into sea breezes by comparing data from the met station at the University of Plymouth and by setting up his own met station at the View Cafe in Whitsand bay. This location is equidistance between Freathy and Rame head.

As we know the met information on XC weather from Roborough (Plymouth airport) is wholly unrepresentative of what is experienced on the coast. Additionally, the information and siting of the Rame Head NCI weather station leaves us wanting, despite their best efforts.

Mike Reed was going to purchase an Oregon Met station and collect data from an exposed location along the cliff, which is possibly one of the best sites available; he has been given permission from the owner of the Cafe.

A discussion was held on the possibility of this being the basis of a permanent weather station for the bay, but so far it appears that Mike only has permission for a stand-alone unit. Karl suggested the Cliff Top café is also an alternative. Ashley indicated that a weather station + PC would cost around £300-400, but connection to the internet and maintenance would be a big issue.

Future Events

Feb – Alan has offered another talk on GPSs, this time focusing on downloading data onto a PC after a recap on general aspects of use.

March – Graham Phipps may be coming back to talk on XC and also Motorised PG tuition. We hope to confirm this later.

Pilot Lectures – Mark N says he will liaise with the Condors to see how much interest there is (4 at the meeting raised hands). In previous years the Condors have hosted events, but it would depend on the balance of students.

Club Trophies

Mark N, Ashley and Mark S will form a subcommittee to review the trophies and consider 2008 awards.

Club Coach List

With many new pilots joining us as well as a high proportion of low airtime members, we have had requests to identify the Club Coaches. It was therefore proposed that we create an area on the website to identify coaches with their contact details, area sites they regularly attend and a Photo mugshot so members can identify them.

Airwave Club Challenge

It was suggested that we should try to put together teams for the British Clubs Challenge (see www.flybcc.co.uk). The Challenge is open to both HG and PG pilots (separately).

Each team has up to six members, one captain/coach and five team members. We therefore need to establish if we have enough enthusiasts to get up some teams. Initially we would like interested members to contact the local Competition Officers:

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

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

XC League

A potential dispute on rulings was referenced to the National rule. This says that an out and return along a ridge (or bay) is double the direct distance between the furthest 2 points – not the actual distance traveled e.g. if round a bay.

Other News

Flying News

There has been minimal flying to report these past few weeks. Let's hope the weather relents soon.

Adverts

No new items.

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

Mark Ansell, Newsletter Editor, SOUTH DEVON HANG GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING CLUB

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