



NEWSLETTER

NEW YEAR 2009

Well it's been a while since I put finger to keyboard, but skipped winter newsletters expecting a quiet time. My glider is neatly packed away dry and warm in the bedroom (between me and the wife) and yet I keep being bombarded by reports of members out flying – sometimes in flocks. By the time I had recovered from Christmas and started to think I should venture out, the traditional winter gales had arrived.

October Meeting

22 members plus 2 prospectives attended.

The highlight of the evening was a talk by Graham Phipps (a regular European HG competitor) promoting the use of Winch Tow Launching, particularly at his site in Cornwall. Many members were intrigued by this opportunity to fly on otherwise 'nil wind' days.



Graham was going to change his company name / website to www.cloud-base.co.uk, but currently that still links you back to his old site www.flychaps.f9.co.uk .

In 2008 Graham only managed 80 days teaching due to poor weather. He normally expects 120 – 150 days / year with around 2,500 winch launches. Graham covers training for HG, PG, MHG and MPG. A tow conversion course is available for £225, after which successful pilots can pay £20 / day or £5 / tow. Graham also offers other group discounts.

Paul Cioffi wrestling at Cox Tor

Although Paul couldn't attend that evening he had told a couple of us about a deeply concerning event that occurred when flying Cox Tor. In brief, somehow Paul's flying had upset the local farmer – “upsetting the sheep” – and a confrontation ended in a fight when the farmer appeared ready to damage Paul's wing. Paul did get the upper hand with the very tough farmer (which wouldn't have been the case for many of us) and eventually managed to calm him.

The conclusion is that we need to keep well back from the fields below the west take-off, in order to keep this guy happy. It's a popular site so we don't want to upset the locals.

Curry Night

The Curry Night took place on Friday 21st November accompanied by a selection of home made paragliding videos for entertainment.

Quiz Night

The following week (26th), a quiz night was held (I couldn't attend)

DVD/Video

Mark N has bought some more DVDs including “Play gravity” and “3 Flights” and these are now available for circulation.

3Jam

Ashley reported that this service now charges and has no credit, so no calls will go through. It is therefore expected to die.

Ashley has since been researching alternative networks (mainly Indian?) and will probably report back at the next meeting.

Other News

Flying News

As mentioned above, there was a surprising amount of activity in these past few months, so I've extracted some of the reports circulated:

November 12th

Myself, Tony and Mark N. flew at Perran for about 3 hours, strong but really good fun considering the previous 2 weeks crap weather. - Dougie

November 19th

Decided to join Alan Hughes on his quest to Woolacombe, despite very top end forecasts. Pleasant surprise to see a paraglider up when we arrived, despite some white caps and distinct stripes on the sea. Wind slightly off to the north. While Alan rigged his stiffie I went down to the bowl and launched, flew to left of launch to gain height then discovered that even with full bar my ground speed was little above 0 mph. Took me half an hour to get back to an area to the right of launch where with caution and a lot of bar I could fly.

Three other gliders, Joey and Jay Jordan and Martyn Howe, on very hot ships with pods flew around as though it was light wind. Alan launched and got several hundred feet above TO and had a good soar about.

We both had a nice sunset soar, but it was too strong to attempt to get in on top so we both beach landed.

All in all, a blooming nice day out. – Bob Moore

November 26th

Belated thanks to Geoff Brook for introducing me to North Hill on 26th Nov. It took a while to get there but we were rewarded with a great (but chilly) flight down the coast toward Porlock. Geoff jumped the gap both ways, which Brett (condor) thought might be a first. Can anyone confirm? - Keith Sutherland.

Geoff added - I crossed the gap and ran along the coast to, I think Countisbury, where I realised sun was disappearing so I turned around and flew back to Porlock. There were plenty of sea thermals about. 2000' asl was quite easy to get without going to far back so I set off back across the gap. It looked like it could be rotary behind the Bossington part of the hill so I flew across the sea to join the main part of the hill in clean air. I was a bit low when I got to the ridge and was relived to feel the lift. Flew straight back to TO without turning and top landed just after 4:30. Derigged in the dark! I think if I took off earlier Illfracombe and back would have been possible. According to Mark Phillips no one else has crossed both ways on a flexwing, was 36km out and return. Quite lucky really!

Sunday December 7th

Bob reported - Early birds Mick Boarer and Mark Nicholls at Beesands, then from midday ish when the wind had switched to SE, Mick, Mark N (and Jen) Tim Pilling, Alan Hughes, Jim Fish, Simon, Mark and Julie S, Robin M and me had some good flying. (Sorry if I missed anyone?) Varying from perfect to a little on the scratchy side. With occasional sea thermals (small ones). On the way home Mark and Ju were just leaving, having stayed in the air for a good while later. Mark smiling like the cat that had got the cream, as when it got really cold the sea themals had really started working and they'd had 500 foot plus above launch.

Colin Blagdon reported same day - [Nice flying conditions at Cawsands from around noon, about 9 gliders in the air, conditions went from perfect to scratchy for a short time to just perfect again, some nice sea thermals came trough later to make it really interesting for a while anyway, pilots were still in the air having fun when I landed at 3pm.](#)

23rd December

Magic Maker worked again this afternoon, well for an hour anyway. Rame gave it 20 knots in the morning so I headed out at 12 ish to find it very light, I hung around for an hour and decided to pop my wing up and to my surprise found it very buoyant. I had a lovely hour with the hill to myself before just scraping in on top as the wind died. A great prechristmas flight. - Dougie

Bob reported same day from Strete - Wind did pick up a little a couple of times and for a short while we had a good couple of hundred feet and then it went light very quickly catching me out. Mick scratched back to take off; I ended up on the beach. Robin M and Alan Hughes turned up but too late. Mick and I forward launched to fly down in the end, as the wind had completely disappeared. Still a nice day out.

3rd January

Flew for 35 mins at Beardown, before my hands got too cold! Lots of frost on the ground, nice bright sunshine, until I landed when the clouds rolled in and visibility dropped a fair bit, it then got really really cold! Just bought myself some warmer gloves! - Mat

Hugo also reported - It was -6 at mine outside Crediton today, but I donned all the clothes I owned and went to the moor expecting King Tor to be on. It was South of East though so went to Belstone and had a few hours scratchy fun. It was too light for 10mins then flyable for 5 mins (up to 200ft above) all afternoon. Only 2 of us there. And I was too warm most of the time. honest!

Friday 9th January

Well a cracker had at Strete, nice sea thermals, myself Bob, Chris, Robin, Colin, Mark Helm, and then dinner in the camper down the beach in the moonlight, perfect , - jim

Paul reported same day - Dougal, Mike, Alan Kaye, Nick Gill, Tom Dodge, myself and a beginner from Cornwall all flew at Maker today. Flyable from about 11.00 - 15:15. Like Strete, some nice sea thermals, Dougal nearly got away with an impressive 1100ft. I must have got there too late!

Saturday January 10th

Well two days in a row cant be bad , myself bob moore mark and julie stapleton arrived at Beer, very light then came on strong , a good flight to Sidmouth and back, around 700 ato . think we all just landed in time before it became blown out ,, crackin day peeps ,, laterz jimfish

Same day Dougie reported - 7am I loaded the car up with the Tandem and a still sleepy Wife. Arrived Struddick at just after nine to find the wind SSE and gusting 8-14mph. We rigged quickly and off we went. First leg was off the Millendreath, easy as it had a down wind component. Then came the difficult part heading up towards Tregantel. It was slow going and we had a couple of low scratches heading towards

Battern, we were down to 40ft and preparing to land at one point!!! Battern was working very well and there were plenty of seathermals giving us good height gains. Carrying on, with the help of the seathermals we got to the start of Tregantle firing ranges and with the wind still SSE decided we had pushed our luck far enough and turned for home. That leg took about an hour to complete.

The downwind dash was a piece of cake and gave me chance to enjoy the views as we cruised back pretty much between 100 and 400ft all the way. Just as we arrived back at Struddick the wind shifted to South (typical).

The flight log gave us a distance of 21.4km. Julie's best moment of the flight was climbing in a thermal with three Buzzards (one very close). The joys of flying Tandem, seeing the smile of the passenger, always a pleasure.

Adverts

Posted 11th Nov, so not sure if still available:

For sale ,, firebird z1 around 100 hours concertinaed since I've owned it , never put away damp . I am only asking around £450.00 for it which seems to be a reasonable price after looking at sky adds, please feel free to fly it first ,, laterz all .. jim (fish). 01837 55405 or 07843943368.

Posted 15th November.

If anyone would like a brand new Windtech Zephyr I can get them for £1590. They are nice, safe, fast, great performance wings. EN B ... usually about a week for delivery. – Mark Helm.

For discussion at next meeting:

I have an old tandem glider (Nova Taxi) that I am happy to donate to the club to allow people to practise their ground handling on and learn how to launch and land etc - Hugo

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

Members were reminded that the January meeting will be the Annual General Meeting when committee members are appointed. Not only would we like a good turnout for this, but also it is a chance for enthusiasts to offer their services to the club for the various roles. A reminder of the positions up for election and the current committee members:

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	Adrian Bishop
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	Mark Nicol
Newsletter Editor	Mark Ansell

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