

March 1999

The committee has been active and a lot of positives have been kicked along. Blue & white reflective signs are to be erected on the highway, leading to the Masons Road turnoff, by the Jondaryan Shire Council. The K7 has been sold to Anne Elliott who is travelling up from Narromine and it is expected to leave for its new home on Wednesday 3rd March. A pergola with a decorative fascia will be erected over the existing concrete slab between the western entrance to the club house & the bunk house. The septic system, showers & toilets will be upgraded. A modern hot water system will replace the oil-fired boiler. The roadway into the airfield from Masons road has been graded. Parts of the airfield are to be planted with kikuyu as a trial to overcome stone damage to aircraft. Additional glider tie down points will be provided at each end of the airfield. The club has purchased two professionally made tie down kits for use when flying cross country. There will be a club general meeting on Saturday March 20th with a BBQ at 6:30 PM.

QSA State Comps

DDSC will be hosting the comps in October. This is a great opportunity for flying, socialising & the club's finances. Helpers will be needed. Please volunteer & contact John Buchanan with your offer. This is a chance for members without club "jobs" to make a contribution.

"CHAOTIC"

I shall be away overseas until early April & unable to write the April edition. We need a volunteer editor for one month only. Ideally, someone without a current voluntary commitment at DDSC. You will be provided with reports by office bearers as well as committee meeting minutes so it shouldn't be too onerous. Please contact John Buchanan if you are willing to give it a go. Murray.

Airworthiness Officer

The Grob is coming up for a 4,000 hourly inspection in 35 hours and volunteers are needed. With the sale of the K7 we could be short of two seaters so we need to complete this overhaul ASAP. The LS7 instruments are being worked on. The M Nav is to be overhauled. In the meantime, the new B40 has been installed temporarily. New water ballast bag tanks were fitted on 20th February. Peter Griffiths is lending us mechanical varios to tide us over & we thank him for his loan of various items recently. The Hornet has been smartened up with new decals and we are awaiting delivery of the new radio. The types of winglets to be fitted are being evaluated. The Grob wheel brakes are awaiting new parts. The main wheel fairing will be fitted soon. Please remember to turn the pie cart radio off at the end of each day's flying as it is charged by a solar panel which is ineffective at night and during overcast weather & rain. Several items are missing from the hangar. Please check your cars for : Puchacz canopy cover, Diamant canopy & fuselage cover (this is a privately owned aircraft!), LS7 ballast bar. Please contact Robert Scott or Trevor Bange if you can help to fine tune the Hornet & LS7 for Easter. Thanks to Dudley Waters for his constant efforts. Club trailers are occasionally rushed into action for an unplanned retrieve, often after long periods of "rest". If you spot any defects or cause any damage, please fix it or report it. Otherwise the next retrieve crew will get an unwelcome surprise. A "favourite" pastime with club trailers is to drag the electrical connection along a bitumen road for an hour or so.

Treasurer

Club flying is still well up, even though it is being disrupted periodically by rainy weather. R1 was, by far, the greatest earner in January. The LS7 & Grob tied for second place with the Hornet well back & the K7 way at the tail end.

Canteen Manager

The bar is trading well with stock & cash balancing.

Marketing & Promotion

Advertisements were placed in the Toowoomba "Chronicle" & "Star" prior to Valentines Day. The few calls received have, so far, not resulted in any bookings. A flier advertising glider flights is enclosed with this newsletter. This is for each member to use (by photocopying) in the local community, social groups, etc. Please write your contact details on the bottom & see how it goes. Try photocopying it onto coloured paper, rather than white. It enlarges really well as an A3 size poster. We need new members as well as casual "joy" flights as we can't rely on just our existing members, not all of whom are regularly active, for income. A new membership list is enclosed. Please notify Trevor of any changes or discrepancies.

Chief Flying Instructor

The DDSC local frequency will change to 122.5 from 1st March. 122.9 is still the cross country channel.

There must be no smoking in aircraft. This is socially unacceptable as well as dangerous. Congratulations to David McManus who now holds an Air Experience Instructor rating. Mid week flying was conducted from 1st to 19th February & one pilot went solo but the programme was disrupted severely by rain. The next club pylon race will be run on Saturday 20th March, following a briefing at 10:00 AM. Congratulations to Dieter Gerschwitz (A cert) & Michael Codling (C cert). The Easter Comps are at Thangool from 2nd to 10th April. See "AG" for details. Contact me for bookings & entry forms. Congratulations to David McManus for his success with the Duty Pilot roster. More volunteers needed. The club may be operating after Easter with a training week run by Trevor Bange. Limited space is available. There is ever increasing activity at Oakey AAC & this becomes particularly noticeable during week days. In order to cooperate effectively, minimise conflict (in every sense) & optimise our use of the airspace we shall need to communicate with the GA community by radio, from time to time. Trevor Bange & Tony Barker have offered to conduct one night radio & airspace familiarisation courses on Monday 22nd March. These will be held in Toowoomba & Brisbane, respectively. Please show your support by contacting Trevor or Tony & making a booking. Recently a report was submitted to QSA from Flight West Airlines concerning a reported Traffic Conflict between gliders from our club an a Brasilia aircraft from the airline. I **stress** that no blame was levelled at any of the pilots involved. Main points to come out of the report are that we must be constantly on the lookout for other aircraft (the Flight West airliner was spotted by a glider which then took avoiding action). The other point is that, when operating near major towns which are serviced by RPT traffic, we must be aware that those aircraft may be in the area. The GFA policy for CTAF's is that radio equipped gliders are required to monitor the CTAF frequency and respond to calls when in a CTAF area (generally 5 NM up to 3,000 ft AGL.) On a sad note, there has just been a fatal mid-air collision at Waikerie. It occurred just after cable release. A glider (not the one being launched) ran into the back of the towplane. The area close to the airfield is a hive of activity with takeoffs, landings, circuit joining, the first climb of the day - often slow & laborious. It is an area to stay clear of if you don't have any "business" there. LOOKOUT is essential & don't forget to look up, especially if you are pulling up or slowing down. High speed finishes, followed by a pull up, are of concern in a day-to-day club operational scene.

Winged Wogglers

Tony Barker & Dieter Gerschwitz were both airborne simultaneously on 20th February. Tony was in the Grob & Dieter the Puchacz - both solo. This is quite a milestone for our two Scout members.

Significant Flights

Good to see Paul Dalziel, Ron Brecknell & Brett Buchanan back on the field. Graham & Roger Carter have been getting in a lot of flying - shame about the interruptions due to the weather.

David McManus - 3.36, 3.33, 3.18 (LS7) Dudley Waters - 4.03 (Hornet) 5.28 (LS7) Michael Codling - 2.17 (Hornet) John Buchanan - 5.11, 4.15, 3.48, 3.20 (LS8 - 18) Owen Jones - 3.25, 2.46 (Diamant) Roly Sundell - 3.15, 2.54 (Mosquito A) Andrew Georgeson - 2.57 (LS8) Murray Knight - 3.17 (Mosquito B) 3.45 (LS7) David Griffin - 3.55 (Mosquito B) Chris Aniftos - 3.01, 5.12 ! (K7) Reg Trevor - 5.22 (DG101) Ralph Henderson - 3.06 (ASW20) Shane Andersen - 2.48 (Hornet)