

President

If you've been staying away from McCaffrey Field because you think its winter and the flying wont be too good, you're missing out on some great soaring.

On Sunday 22 July was probably the stand out day. Two 500 km were flown: by Peter Griffiths and Lars Zehnder in the Nimbus 4DM, and Bob Ward in the Ventus 2CM. A number of pilots flew over 300 km and even one of the Puchacz's did over 100 km. Best height for the day was 9000 feet QNH.

The previous day wasn't bad either with David Hughes doing all his Silver C in one flight in the LS 7. Congratulations David!!

The previous Saturday was pretty average weather wise but we still flew over 30 hours including 24 hours in club gliders. The last three gliders airborne had to come down because it was getting dark, not because they couldn't stay up.

The new Astir Jeans has been doing plenty of hours and has quickly become a popular aircraft. A number of low hour pilots are now experiencing the joys of single seater flying that they wouldn't be doing yet if they were still building up hours for the Hornet.

Shane McCaffrey has started work on repairing the Grob and in the meantime we have hired a Blanik for the next couple of months so that we can keep everybody flying and enjoying the great soaring. Some of our newer members will be able to experience flying a non-fibreglass aircraft for the first time.

I was really pleased to see a group of pilots set themselves a mini-pylon race a couple of weeks ago. Four aircraft took off to fly laps around a course DDSC – Malu Silo – Bowenville Hotel – DDSC. A pretty average day, only a short course and close to home, as two of the pilots didn't have cross-country ratings. I'm sure they all, well all except one, had a much more enjoyable and challenging flight than they otherwise would have had if they had just soared locally for a couple of hours.

There is a lot of good flying being done at the moment, even though its the middle of winter and its great to see so many happy smiling faces at the end of the day.

Dieter Gerschwitz has joined the tow pilot ranks after some training with Robert Bradley and Geoff Brown has rejoined the instructor ranks.

In amongst the weekend flying we also had a very successful midweek course. Three pilots not only went solo, but also completed their A certificates. This is a first for DDSC and thanks go to Allan Latemore, Alf Garrone and Brett Kapernick.

The last general meeting was well attended and there was some interesting discussion on a number of items including the operation of the Cessna, the proposed flyaway weekend at Jimbour House and supporting our junior members attending the national junior coaching week.

We have two more important meetings coming up. On Saturday 11 August we have a club planning meeting. The planning meeting is to plan where we go in the future. We have upgraded our assets significantly in the last couple of years, have consolidated a bit his year and probably need to consolidate a bit more, but we need to plan and prioritise for the future. There are many things we could do to make the club better, some cost money, some cost nothing but would make the place more pleasant for members and visitors to come to.

I encourage as many members as possible to attend these meetings. We do need a quorum for the special general meeting so please come along. Equally important is that as many members as possible attend the planning meeting. It is your club, please come along and have your say.

Then on Saturday September 8 we have the annual general meeting, another important event. A preliminary notice has been sent out. We will have some vacancies on the committee and are seeking nominations. If your are interested or know someone who you think would make a good committee member please put in a nomination. If you want to know more about what is involved please contact me. I can assure you that being on the committee is both challenging and rewarding, and an opportunity to contribute to the future of this great club.

Thank you to the members who have visited and sent get-well messages to Keith Mercer. Keith's wife Doreen has asked me to pass on her and Keith's thanks. The visits and messages are very much appreciated.

Thank you to the members who have helped, and have offered to help Shane McCaffrey with the form 2s on the gliders. Your efforts help reduce our operating costs and help to ensure that the standard of our aircraft is maintained. If you have some spare time I'm sure Shane would appreciate some more help, and you will learn more about the aircraft you are flying.

Ralph Henderson

Special General Meeting Cancelled

I regret to advise that the Special General Meeting that was to have been held on Saturday 11 August has been cancelled.

Conflicting requirements and time frames in the Corporations Law and the Club's current constitution, which became apparent today (26 July), make it virtually impossible to achieve a meaningful outcome from this meeting.

The planning meeting will go ahead as notified and the time that would have been spent on amending the constitution will now be spent on planning. A more detailed explanation will be given at the meeting.

I sincerely apologise for any inconvenience that may have been caused. I accept personal responsibility for getting it wrong and regret that the time spent on this matter, and the costs incurred, will not produce the desired result.

What has come to light are some fundamental problems with the way the club is governed under the new legislation. The incoming committee will need to deal with these problems.

What started out as a relatively simple exercise to update the clubs objectives and committee structure became more complicated as we found deficiencies regarding the role of the committee, the instructor panel, the election of the CFI, GFA membership and the liability of members. Changes were also proposed to meet the requirements of the corporations' law.

We also need to consider whether we wish to continue as accompany under federal legislation, or whether it would be more appropriate to become an incorporated association under Queensland Law.

We can continue to operate quite legally and satisfactorily under the current constitution, but if we are to progress and develop as a club our governance rules must be appropriate for today and the future. The old constitution served us well in the past, but like the K7s, its day is past and we must move forward.

Again, my apologies for any inconvenience.

Ralph Henderson

Planning Meeting

The planning meeting will use the format provided by the McKinsey 7-S-Model. The following information includes elements of the McKinsey theory adapted to suit the club.

This model is based on the premise that an organization consists of seven elements. Those seven elements are distinguished in so called hard S's and soft S's. The hard elements are tangible and easy to identify. They include our assets such as our airfield, clubrooms and aircraft. The four soft S's however, are hardly feasible. They are difficult to describe since capabilities, values and elements of club culture are continuously developing and changing.

They are highly determined by the members that make up the club or organization. Therefore it is much more difficult to plan or to influence the characteristics of the soft elements. Although the soft factors are less tangible, they can have a great impact on the hard structures, strategies and systems of the organization.

The seven S's in the order we will discuss them are:

Shared Values and Goals

Guiding concepts, fundamental ideas around which the club is built – club objectives which must be simple, usually stated at an abstract level, and have great meaning inside the organization.

Strategy

Actions the club plans in response to or in anticipation of changes in its external environment, the changing demands from members on our club.

Structure

What assets do we need to accomplish our goals and strategies - aircraft, land and buildings.

Systems

Formal and informal procedures and systems that support the strategy and structure. How we organise ourselves and how we communicate - Chaotic, chat line, website.

Style

The culture of the organization, the dominant values, beliefs and norms, which develop over time and become relatively enduring features of club life and the management style of the club. What the committee does more than what it says; how does the committee spend its time; what is it focusing attention on?

Staff

As a club we don't have any of these. How do people develop within the club and how do they advance through the club.

Skills

The distinctive competencies of our members in areas of operations, airworthiness, administration and sport.

Effective clubs achieve a fit between these seven elements. If one element changes then this will affect all the others.

It is easy to focus our efforts on the hard S's, Strategy, Structure and Systems and develop a 'shopping list' of new assets and equipment. We also need to discuss the soft S's, Skills, Staff, Style and Shared Values. The soft factors can make or break a successful club, since new structures and strategies are difficult to build upon inappropriate cultures and values.

The 7-S Model is a valuable tool to review processes and to give direction to the club. It helps the club to determine the current state of each element and to compare this with the ideal state. Based on this it is possible to develop action plans to achieve the intended state.

Ralph Henderson

Rex Teakle Trophy

Last year the Teakle family donated a trophy in memory of long time member Rex. It is a silver eagle, mounted and cased. The trophy is given to the most popular, worthy, contributing member over the last 12 months. Last year Murray Knight won the trophy.

Members vote on who should receive the trophy. Each member is entitled to one vote and votes should be sent to the secretary, Denis Lambert, by phone, email or letter. As Denis is away for a couple of weeks, votes will be received from 11 August to 7 September.

Ralph Henderson

Jimbour House Flyaway Weekend

There are now 30/35 members and families booked to participate. On the weekend of 18-19 August. There is the usual mix of tow pilots and instructors, so the operational side is covered. The committee hopes to have a Blanik online and this will enable us to take 2 two-seaters.

Jimbour House is owned and operated by the Russell Pastoral Company and they are able to offer catering for our visit. Lunches and breakfast can be supplied as can a BBQ dinner on the Saturday night. I am waiting for prices from the Functions Manager at Jimbour.

Accommodation - We have been allocated a camping area near the main house. There are three "basic" hotels at Jandowae with the main centre for this being Dalby, where there are a number of motels. Some examples: Dalby - Criterion Hotel 4662 5722, Dalby Homestead 4662 5722, Dalby Manor Motor Inn 4662 1011, Pioneer Caravan Village 4662 1811, Dalby Parkview Motel 4662 3222, Country Pathfinder Motor Inn 4662 4433, Myall Creek Caravan Park 4662 4793, The Russell Hotel 4662 2122. Bell - Bunya View Caravan Park 4663 1265, The Bellview Hotel 4663 1211 (Dalby Wambo Tourist Information Centre 4662 1066.) Jandowae - suggest you contact the Jandowae Community and Cultural Centre on 4668 5014 as they are the local information centre.

Activities - Possibility of wave flying (wind dependent, of course.) If anyone gets the hots for this in the week leading up to the Flyaway, please contact me on 0418 724 025 so I can arrange it with Jimbour House. Barbecue dinner Saturday night. Remote controlled helicopter display. Bunya Mountains, Rimfire Winery, Dalby Pioneer Park Museum, Jandowae Markets on the Sunday.

Murray Knight

Nimbus Flying

The Nimbus 2C has spent too much time in the hangar recently so in an effort to encourage more people to fly it, the syndicate that owns it has decided to reduce the rates for club members. The initial rate will now be 60 cents per minute instead of 65 cents. The rate will decrease by 5 cents per hour. The rate will be 55 cents per minute for the second hour, 50 cents per minute for the third and 45 cents per minute for the fourth. There will be no charge for flying time after four hours, which gives a maximum daily charge of \$126.00.

Having this aircraft on-line gives members the rare opportunity to experience open class flying and to do some big tasks. Now is the time to get converted and get current on the type so that you can make the most of it when the big days come in summer.

Ralph Henderson

New Members

We welcome the following new members;

- Paul Bart
- Richard Armstrong
- Bob Flaherty
- Francis Long
- Keith Jarrett
- Brian Hofmeister
- Hugh Hofmeister
- Vincent Vingerhoeds

Ralph Henderson

Meeting Notices

Planning Meeting 11 August 2001 (Saturday)

A planning meeting will be held on Saturday 11 August 2001 commencing at 4pm at the clubrooms, McCaffrey Field, Masons Road, Jondaryan.

Dinner will be available for members from 6.00pm.

The planning meeting will continue after dinner and conclude by 10.00pm.

Annual General Meeting 8 September 2001 (Saturday)

The Annual General Meeting of the Darling Downs Soaring Club will be held on Saturday 8 September 2001 commencing at 9.00pm at Dave's Steakhouse, Toowoomba.

Dinner will be available for members and guests from 7.00pm, prior to the AGM.

Nominations are called for all positions and completed nomination forms must reach the Secretary, Denis Lambert by 5.00 pm on

1 September 2001.

Notices of Motion and Agenda Items are also called for and must reach the Secretary Denis Lambert by 5.00 pm on

18 August 2001.

Significant Flights

Bob Ward (ZBW) - 5:35, 4:35, 4:33, 3:45, 2:51, 2:21, David Hughes (XOW) - 5:32, Barry Kruyesen (GXV) - 5:22, 3:04, 2:12, Dudley Waters (XHC) - 4:59, 3:43, 3:16, 2:45, Col Adam (FQR) - 4:46, 3:02, Vincent Vingerhoeds (XOW) - 4:16, David McManus (GKO) - 4:07, 3:55, Shane McCaffrey / Dudley Waters (GXY) - 3:54, Craig Jordan (GGH) - 3:53, 3:09, 2:32, Peter Griffiths / Lars Zehnder (GXY) - 3:49, 3:39, 3:05, 2:49, Peter Griffiths (GXY) - 2:33, Andrew Georgeson (GAG) - 3:37, 2:00, Brian Rolfe (KYT) - 3:20, Andrew Barker (KYT) - 3:00 - (GMV) - 3:00, 2:55, Murray Knight (GXV) - 3:00 - (FQR) - 2:36, John Moore (GLR) - 3:00, 2:21, Anthony Lee (KYT) - 2:36, Alan Latemore (WQR) - 2:27, Hugh Hofmeister (KYT) - 2:24, Nick Kranenburg (GAW) - 2:00

Shane Andersen

Events Calendar 2001
10 August Instructor's Meeting Peter Bell / Tony Cavanna
11 August Planning Meeting Ralph Henderson
18 August Notices of Motions and Agenda Items (AGM) Due Denis Lambert
18-19 August Flyaway Weekend - Jimbour House Murray Knight
25 August Puchacz (RI) / Hornet Form 2s Expire Shane McCaffrey
1 September Nominations Due - Committee Denis Lambert
22 September QSA AGM (Kingaroy) Ralph Henderson
23-28 September Teams Challenge - Kingaroy Denis Lambert / Peter Bell

29 Sept - 6 Oct State Championships - Kingaroy Denis Lambert / Peter Bell
29 Oct - 16 Nov British Army Visit Peter Bell
26 Nov - 14 Dec RAFGSA Visit Peter Bell
15 December DDSC Christmas Party Ralph Henderson