



Web Site www.ddsc.org.au OR www.gogliding.org.au

Chaotic

Darling Downs Soaring Club Summer Newsletter February 2009

Firstly congratulations to Gerrit for his selection for the World Championships in Open Class, to be held at Szeged, Hungary 2010.

Presidents Report: Pam Kurstjens

When I write my report, I think of the highlights of the last month or so. One of the great strengths of our club is the open and friendly atmosphere that we enjoy and that each of us contributes to. My highlight of this month is an email from a new member: he writes to say that he is touched by how everyone has gone out of their way to make him feel welcome.

We all contribute to the success of the club. Our instructors, tuggies and duty pilots are on the front line, but there are many more volunteers working hard. When you come to the club at the weekend, give a thought to all the volunteer effort needed to keep our club operating smoothly, editing Chaotic, installing the new weather station, mowing the lawns, making canopy covers and tow out gear, stocking the bar.

New members and trainees must focus on their flying training, but as soon as you feel able to do a little more, we encourage you to become duty pilots. This is not a simple role. It involves running the launch point, answering queries, taking calls from pilots who land out, and getting to know everyone, as

well as good record keeping, logging the flights and taking money so that the bookkeeper can invoice the flying time and launches,

In a new initiative, Aircraft Captains have been appointed who will each take a personal interest in a particular glider, and act as the contact person for you to report anything you think needs fixing. Don't forget to enter defects in the Maintenance Release as well.

Another bunch of volunteers working hard behind the scenes is the committee. We are reviewing the Strategic Plan for the club. In identifying our strengths and weaknesses now, compared to 4 years ago, we can see that significant progress has been made in post solo training with a more structured program, and in training for cross country and competitions.

Our main strengths are location, location, location: you can't beat the Downs for year round soaring and cross country opportunities.

Have fun and fly safely.

CFI's report:

The training panel has taken another significant step forward in improving the way we deliver training to all our members with the appointment of coordinators for each stage of the training and development model.

The following training panel members have generously agreed to give some more of their time to help our members:

Stage 1 (pre solo) Denis Lambert
Stage 2 (post solo and pre cross country) Richard Hoskings and Pearce Mitchell
Stage 3 (early cross country) Chad Nowak
Stage 4 (cross country and competition) Mike Codling and Jo Davis

The role of the coordinators is to help members achieve their training and development goals, wherever they are in their gliding careers from first flight right through to world comps pilots.

The coordinators will be able to fill some of the gaps between what we learn each weekend flying day. There is an awful lot of information and knowledge that we need at each stage to help us make the most of our time in the air. The coordinators will be able to help organise ratings e.g. DI or radio, help you if you get a bit stuck and things don't seem to be progressing as fast as you would like, or if you need help with goal setting, devising a training program and so the list goes on.

It's great to see them already taking steps to improve our training in their respective stages, thank you!

Appointing these coordinators is another step in the evolution of the training panel concept of instructors and coaches working together. While DDSC was the first club in Australia to adopt the training panel concept, and Kingaroy the second, it is good to see that a third club, Adelaide Soaring Club, has joined us. By

my count of Australian clubs that is 3 down and 85 to go! Like DDSC and KSC, ASC has a strong training panel with the likes of Phil Ritchie, Peter Temple and Terry Cubley available to coach club members.

That was the good news, now for the not so good news.

For the third time in the last 18 months we have had a near miss between a tug towing a glider and another glider in the circuit area. These are serious incidents as was proven some years ago at Waikerie and which I was reminded of when I was there over Christmas. In the incident at Waikerie the off-tow glider impacted the tow rope between the tug and another glider. The on-tow glider was able to release and land safely, but the incident was fatal for the tow pilot and the other glider pilot.

This latest incident was discussed at the last panel meeting and some recommendations will be issued after the next meeting. In the meantime, all glider and tug pilots are reminded that the circuit area is one of the most concentrated traffic areas where aircraft are frequently on conflicting flight paths, climbing and descending, arriving and departing.

Can all pilots please fly a predictable pattern in the circuit area and maintain a very, very good lookout. This is no time to have your head in the cockpit. Before take off ensure that your radio and flarm are working and are set correctly.

Ralph

Clothing for sale in the Bar:



Hats \$20

Navy and Yellow polo shirts \$35

Long sleeved blue shirts \$45.

All with the DDSC logo.

Duty Pilot Roster: March

David Nash	7/03/2009
Clark, Paul	8/03/2009
Holbrook, Dave	14/03/2009
Barnes, Allan	15/03/2009
Allen, Keith	21/03/2009
Ian Lesh	22/03/2009
Libby	28/03/2009
Harris, Steve	29/03/2009

From the webmaster

I'm often asked to subscribe people to chat. Whilst I don't mind doing this it is very easy, and quicker, to do it yourself.

A fast way to subscribe is to send a blank email to chat-subscribe@ddsc.org.au. You will get an email with instructions on how to complete your subscription. Usually all you need to do send a reply.

You can also subscribe via the club's website. The process is described below.

Select the Member Information page via the following menu options:
Member -> Information Centre, as illustrated below.



Scroll down to the bottom of the page to see the "Mailing List (Chat, Carpool and Chaotic)" link. Once you click on this link you'll get the following page.



The webpage illustrated above can also be reached directly via the following web address:
http://www.ddsc.org.au/member/mailling_list.asp

Please familiarise yourself with the conditions of use for the mailing list, then:

- 1) Choose the appropriate mailing list, the default is chat@ddsc.org.au
- 2) Enter your email address (make sure you get this right).
- 3) Select "Add to mailing list"; you can also use this form to unsubscribe from chat.
- 4) Click the "submit" button.

You'll get email several minutes later with instructions on how to confirm your subscription. Usually all you need to do is to reply to that email.

If you have problems with above methods then feel free to contact me (tonycavanna@ozemail.com.au or webmaster@ddsc.org.au) and I can subscribe you directly. A request entered this way normally takes a couple of hours to process.

If you stop receiving emails from chat for no apparent reason please check that your spam filter isn't removing them. Also, if you change your email address you will need to re-subscribe to chat with your new address.

You can also unsubscribe yourself by sending an email from the address you wish to unsubscribe to chat-unsubscribe@ddsc.org.au. You will be asked to confirm your request which you can do by just replying to the request confirmation.

Clouds:

Some unusual looking clouds I saw a couple of weekends ago. The conditions were quite turbulent in some areas and I suspected some wave influence mixing with the thermals. On looking closely at the strange quite small clouds I could see lenticular shapes. Now, how far away the clouds were and how small they were really – I can't say but the first picture gives a scale idea.



Dave Holbrook

Chaotic Contributions:

Forward anything, pictures, stories, etc to

holbrookdw-ddsc@yahoo.com.

Deadline is 22nd of the month. In future I will process Chaotic on 23rd or near after.

Dave Holbrook (editor)