

AUGUST, 1998

Typical winter weather has hampered club flying operations but we have had some exciting & memorable times and our annual maintenance programme is well under way. The big news is that DDSC is alive on the Internet, with a web-site constructed & maintained by Shane Anderson. Shane, with input from Michael Codling & Murray, has delivered where others promised, tried or were committed by well-meaning third parties. Well done , Shane. It is a great effort & a very bright & interesting site. The address is www.powerup.com.au/~shanea/ddsc/home.htm If you have anything to contribute, Shane is all ears & fingers. The Grob & LS7WL Form 2 inspections have been completed.

The club **Annual General Meeting** is fast approaching and we really need more members to become actively involved in the administration, maintenance & growth of the club. Far too few committed & hard working individuals have carried the burden for far too long, in some cases decades ! Nomination forms are available and all positions will be "vacant". Please volunteer &/or nominate someone who, you know, has the talent or the ideas. Let's turn the critics into creators. Copies of the club's accounts are available from the Treasurer and one is already on the notice board. Trevor & Virgil both need a well-earned rest from their positions of responsibility so we need a new Secretary & a new Treasurer. A nomination form is enclosed. Dob in a friend (or volunteer.) We need : President, Secretary, Treasurer, Airworthiness Officer, CFI, Canteen Officer, Tug Master, Committee members, Marketing & Promotion Officer.

Guides :

The ladies from Brackenridge descended upon us on the evening of Friday 17th. After they got over the shock of the cold weather (12 deg !) we set about with a briefing & a tour of the hangar & all of its contents. Back to the clubhouse to complete the paperwork & planning & all 26 of us bedded down (politically correctly) in the bunkhouse. Russell Bennett's new external phone "chirper" heralded reveille at 0530, courtesy of John Davis & a mobile phone. Weren't they all impressed ! The first flight took off just after 0700 & the 20 Kt crosswind arrived 30 minutes later. The 25 flights were all over by midday. A tremendous effort thanks to Trevor Bange, Davis McManus, Shane X 2, Stow Kentish, Robin Hill (good to see you), Alf Garrone & John Davis. Stow's C180 & Peter Griffiths' Janus were greatly appreciated. This is how it was seen through other eyes :

"The Darling Downs Soaring Club is slowly recovering from the invasion of 22 guides and leaders on the 17/18 July. We arrived to a typically freezing Toowoomba evening for a tour of the aircraft in the hangar and a short talk on how they work, before lights out at 11:30. We started moving at 6:00 the next morning. After heartily exclaiming, "It's not that cold!" we pulled on our skivvies, waterproof jackets, gloves and beanies and raced out onto the field. Each flight began with being buckled in, told what not to touch under any circumstances and of course, photos. We were then locked in, attached to the tug and waved good-bye. After successfully taking off we also farewelled the tug and settled down to viewing the beautiful farmland patchwork below. That is, until the pilot/instructor began earning the second part of his title. First we learned how to go faster or slower and then how to go left or right

using the stick. Then we learned how to use the rudder pedals - this was a little ore difficult for some of us (ie the ones with short legs.) I don't know about anyone else, but I was at first terrified and then exhilarated to find that I was actually flying the plane. (My instructor proved that he didn't even have his hands on the controls by clapping them.) Some of the braver members of our group also requested aerial acrobatics. Fortunately, no-one needed the sick-bags so generously supplied by the club.

Meanwhile, those on the ground were being blown inside out by the wind. Some retreated to the caravan to play cards, where we heard some interesting reports over the two-way radio concerning parrots. Others ran the wings (this is where you run alongside a glider accelerating for take-off to keep its wings level), we listened to tales of dare-devil pilots and in the traditional Guiding manner, photographed like there was no tomorrow. In all, it was a fantastic weekend and we would recommend it to anyone. For information on organising your own weekend, send an email to the Darling Downs Soaring Club for information.

Katie Lee - Guides Queensland"

Thank you, Katie. Looking into the bank of cameras facing the cockpit before each take-off was like being in front of a firing squad. Dieter Gerschwitz & Tony Barker from Scouts AAC/DDSC were in Rockhampton over that weekend, so we went "solo" with the Scouts for the first time.

Communication :

The club contact directory is a step closer to a full update. Email addresses are slowly appearing. We can't read your mind, but if you fax us , we'll put you on the list. Fax & email details will assist us greatly if we need to communicate quickly & efficiently.

Blasts from the Past :

Good to see that Bob Garnett turned up for some flying on the 12th. Bob now lives in Launceston so that's not a bad commute. Ron Gaynier has sent Trevor a letter. It will be posted on the notice board. Paul Dalziel helped with the Grob Form 2. Good to see you, Paul.

From the Treasurer :

The club does not offer credit. Members are expected to maintain a constant minimum \$30 credit balance in their flying account. The books are cared for on a voluntary basis & this policy is designed to minimise the risk of exposure to bad debts, obviate the time & effort required to chase slow payers & to ensure that we don't have to pay for bank borrowings because our members owe us money. Members who have in excess of \$250 credit in their account are given a flying rebate @ 8% PA, credited monthly on the amount in excess of the \$250. Those who go into debit balance incur no charge for the first month but, from then on, interest is calculated daily @ 24% PA. This charge continues until the account reverts to credit. Transactions are posted to the accounts as at the last Sunday night of each month. DDSC annual club subs appear on March statements and are due on 1st April. GFA subs appear in August for payment on September 1st.

Marketing & Promotion :

We obtained a free article in the "Ascot & Hamilton Life" regional newspaper which has a circulation of 10,000. Annie & Stephen O'Dowd travelled up from Brisbane to experience gliding and Stephen reported :

"Remember those balsa wood planes that you used to get at the exhibition as a kid? The ones that would do loops and fly huge distances, shortly before you lost it on the neighbours roof? Until your editor volunteered me for a gliding expedition a few Sundays ago, I had never actually pictured myself inside one of those.

At about 2pm I found myself strapped in the front of (what appeared to be) a rather large model aeroplane. Admittedly this one was made from fibreglass and carbon fibre, contained radios and GPS and was piloted by a man in whom I had complete faith. My previous experience with flying had been sitting in the comfort of a 737 drinking gin and listening to the inflight entertainment., today my horizons were expanded. As I looked below to the quilted browns and greens of the Darling Downs and the grey ribbon of the Warrego Highway I knew how Icarus felt as he escaped from his Cretian prison and how tempting it must have been to go so high.

At 3000 feet your friends are the ethereal thermals which the experienced pilot sees through his fingers on the controls and your only foe is gravity.

From the moment the tow line is released and the glider becomes independent, the only sound is the wind and your own heartbeat. You fly by intuition, experience and through the extended sensors of the wings. It is not uncommon for eagles and other birds to join the glider, flying alongside in an elegant communion. In fact, if we could understand the language of birds, it would be the same language as the banter of the pilots who gather on these airfields.

Gliding (or the more prosaic Soaring) is for pure joy, there is no A to B. You take off and land, hopefully, in the same location. The pilots try to land like butterflies with sore feet. Bungee jumping and freefalling is for cheap thrills. If you want to experience flying as God designed it then try gliding."

Tugmaster :

Trevor will be looking after the tug during my absence until September.

Hangar Coordinator :

Bob Ward is now looking after hangarage allocations etc.

Airworthiness Officer :

A huge effort has gone into Form 2 inspections, so far. Peter Holmes & Ron Brecknell put a lot of work into the LS7. This included two weeks full-time by Ron. The wings have been re-profiled & re-painted & a number of other niggling items have been rectified, including work on the trailer. The water ballast bag tanks are unserviceable so the aircraft cannot carry water until they have been replaced. We need to be more careful when removing/attaching the tail dolly in order to prevent damage. Like the Grob, the entire aircraft was polished, just to finish the job off. Terry Mosler, Virgil, Paul Dalziel, Russell Bennett, Trevor Bange & David McManus worked on the Grob. Ron Muir turned some new bearings & bushes.

Club AGM :

To be held Saturday 12th September at the Toowoomba Railway Restaurant, dinner will be \$25 per head. Anyone needing accommodation in town should book early. Terry Mosler has a spare double room. Nomination forms for positions of office are available from the clubhouse or Virgil. They must be completed & returned to him by 5 PM on September 5th - fax, mail or personal delivery.

QSA AGM :

Saturday 15th August, 11.00 AM at Sports House, Castlemaine & Caxton Streets, Milton, Brisbane. Nominations should be faxed to Murray on 3868 2517 by 13th August.

Charges :

Our "published price list" is now posted throughout the clubhouse & launch caravan. These are the charges that apply to non DDSC members. Members discounts & concessions still apply but are not shown on this list.

Coming Events :

Kingaroy Soaring Club have agreed to host a wave camp Wed 5th, Thu 6th, Fri 7th August. Geoff Raph is the coordinator on 074 411 289. KSC President is Daryl Hansen 4162 2982 (h) 4162 3310 (w.) Denis Lambert is the contact for Caboolture GC's ridge camp at Watts Bridge on August 15th & 16th.

Calendar of Events :

FUNCTION	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	CONTACT
Committee	Sat 08	-	Virgil
AGM	-	Sat 12*	Virgil
Instructors mtg			Denis
Pylon races	-	Sat 26	Denis
Club comps	Sat 01	Sat 05	Peter Holmes
Oakey airshow	-	cancelled	-
Scouts/Guides	Sat 15	Sat 19	Murray
Scout course	-	start 6 or 20	Trevor/Tony B
ATC course	-	Sun 27-Sun 04	Trevor
Working bee	Sat 22	-	Shane McC
Midweek flying	Fri 28	Fri 25	Alf Garrone
KSC wave camp	5-6-7*	-	KSC direct
Hornet Form 2	1st week	-	Russell

Puchacz Form 2	1st week	-	Russell
* held off- site			