



CHAOTIC

Monthly Newsletter of the Darling Downs Soaring Club

November 2004

President's Report

Firstly I'd like to thank Richard Hoskings for the great work as President over the last year. Richard has again decided to step into the Treasurer's role and he has now been on the committee for four years. Richard has had a very busy year and the President's shoes are always hard ones to fill.

The Club's Annual General meeting was held on 11 September and I'd like to thank those people for volunteering to stand on the Committee (many have been on the committee for some time and it has been a long and ongoing commitment from them). The committee members are Richard Hoskings – Treasurer, Tony Cavanna – Secretary, Shane McCaffrey – Airworthiness, Bob Keen – Tugmaster, Bob Flood, Charlie Downes and Keith Allen – Committee Members. Jeremy is continuing as CFI.

Thanks also to outgoing Treasurer Brian Hofmeister, who also finalised the Club's changeover to an incorporated Association.

We still have a vacant committee position, so if you are interested in helping out, please contact myself or Tony Cavanna. It is an opportunity to contribute and find out a bit more on how the club runs, but not a great workload.

Awards presented at the AGM were:

- Rex Teakle Award – Bob Keen
- Club Service Award – Peter Wetherspoon
- Warwick Out and Return - Robert Hart
- DDSC 750 km – Robert Hart
- Most Improved Cross-Country Pilot – Robert Hart

- Most Improved Pilot – Bob Flood

Congratulations to all.

If you have been out at the Club in the last couple of months, you will have seen our new Pawee (MLR). A HUGE thank you to Bob Keen and Des Cramer (and others) who put so much work into getting it flying ready for the Nationals and now for club flying.

We've had a lot of activity to report on in the last two months. In Sept/October, the Qld State Comps were held at Kingaroy with some great soaring conditions and of course DDSC hosted the Nationals from 4th to 15th October. These comps, predominantly organised by Ralph Henderson and Bob Keen, were undoubtedly the most successful National in many years. Congratulations to DDSC members Shane McCaffrey (Australian 15 champion), David McManus (Highest placed Junior), and Bob Ward (Australian 18m champion and Masters Trophy), as well as all the other club members who flew, and assisted in the organising to make it such a successful event. Thanks to Ralph and Bob for the enormous effort, which has certainly reinforced DDSC's reputation for excellence.

During October, the Caboolture Club visited. They were not so lucky with the weather but nevertheless had a good week. We also had a group of visiting New Zealand Pilots who flew the Kestrel (HC), the Duo and other club aircraft. Again, the weather was not fantastic, but they did get a few good days, making it a worthwhile trip.

I was lucky enough to be able to attend the Performance Coaching Week at the club in

early November, organised by Gliding Queensland, run by Bruce Taylor (new Australian Open Champion) and assisted by Shane McCaffrey. We had quite good weather and all who participated agreed the course accelerated their cross country abilities. DDSC and Caboolture members were the only participants and we were lucky to have the use of the Kingaroy Duo Discus and JSR. We hope to get Bruce back again soon and will keep members posted.

Schleicher is also putting a new ASW28 on loan at the club for a few weeks commencing around 13th November (contact Ralph Henderson for more information).

Looking a long way out to the Easter Comps, an expression of interest has already been requested for the Grob some months back, and more recently, the Hornet. As these comps have been so popular over the last few years, it will cease to be fair if aircraft are booked up to a year in advance. So, if you are interested in a club aircraft for Easter, please put your expression of interest to the committee (care of Tony Cavanna). If we have an "over-subscription" for particular aircraft, we may then have to ballot or share the aircraft around.

If you aren't subscribing to the DDSC Chat, then you're probably missing out on club information. Following most weekends, there is a weekend report, and any news and general information that falls between CHAOTIC editions is posted as well. To subscribe, go to the DDSC website, *Club Members Area, Mailing List*, and follow the instructions. Failing that, drop Tony Cavanna a line and he can add you to the chat list.
(tonycavanna@ozemail.com.au)

We will continue to hold General Meetings every second month at the Club, and any member is welcome at the Committee meetings in between that. However with the Nationals and flying activity during October and November the meeting dates

have been pushed out a bit now. If you have any club suggestions or gripes, don't hesitate to contact me or any of the committee members.

Finally, most of you will know that Bob Ward was seriously injured in a gliding accident in Kankhoben? recently. Bob is now out of intensive care and on the mend and we all wish Bob a speedy recovery.

Jenny Thompson



Congrats!

Congratulations to Richard Hoskings for completing his Level 1 Instructor rating!

Mid Week Flying

We intend to fly from 27th December to 3rd January. Please keep looking at the calendar on the website for upcoming midweek flying.

Jenny Thompson

My Last Day at McCaffrey Field

I met up with Barry Daniels last Thursday evening, mainly to give him a cable to link the club's Colibri GPS output into the LNav in the Ventus, which he had booked to fly on the Sunday 26th. Having explained the cable connections we got around to talking about longer flights and I

said I would have loved to have had a serious attempt at a 500km before my imminent return to UK, but now I only had one flying day left (I had booked the LS7 for Sunday 26th, thanks to a very understanding wife, Janice, during a very busy time) before our departure from Australia on the Wednesday morning. Sometime, when conditions were suitable, Barry said he was keen to fly out to Wandoan Silo, about 205km North-West from McCaffrey Field and a lot further out than Miles - my furthest venture in that direction last summer. He said that he would welcome some company and thus a plan started to hatch to combine both ideas but knowing that it was a really long shot that Sunday would provide the weather or a long enough day. We quickly looked at task possibilities, working on a yo-yo task combining an O/R to Wandoan Silo with a short O/R to somewhere around Jimbour House to make it up to 500+kms. Out with my Volkslogger, hastily hooked into the cigarette lighter in the car, and we quickly filled in the details, McCaffrey - Wandoan Silo - Mt Maria - George Lee's Strip - McCaffrey gave 511kms and leaving the last two legs close to home if it all went to worms late afternoon, ideal! Barry was on duty at DDSC on the Saturday, so he could prepare the Ventus in the evening (including fitting/checking the new cable - Colibri to LNav). Janice and I were up to our eyes vacating the apartment and packing all our worldly goods for shipment back to UK, but I said I hoped to make it up to the field in reasonable time on Saturday evening to prepare the LS7.

In the event I had to phone Barry on the Saturday evening and say that I could not make it up till early Sunday morning as the packing was not yet completed! I knew he was concerned that I would not make it in time for the early launch we needed. After a few hours sleep I set off from Brisbane at 0530 hrs and arrived at McCaffrey before 0800hrs. There was 8/8s low cloud cover from Brisbane out to the Ranges, then between Toowoomba and McCaffrey Field the air seemed heavy with hazy visibility at

lower levels, but the sun was starting to work. We prepared for an early launch and although the visibility improved there was some high cloud developing which could potentially cut off the day. I gave the LS7 a rapid clean, fitted my Volklogger in and did a DI, but I couldn't find the water filling gear so I had to abandon the idea of any ballast! Undeterred, we were out on the grid by about 0930, Barry with the long tips on and water in the immaculate Ventus, even the GPS data input was working! The LS7 looked well too. Declaration completed, I launched first at 1050hrs and was delighted to find a solid climb which promptly petered out at 4300'amsl (~3000'ag). OK, so this what what we could expect initially, often as good as it gets back in UK! It was slow going into wind up the first leg, there seemed to be about 10-15 knots wind and the cloud shadows indicated it was right on the nose. I never did remember to ask Barry, who should have had an accurate wind velocity from the enhanced LNav set-up. After the start I didn't see Barry until we were well past Dalby, near the quarry and lakes at Warra. The climbs improved as we progressed going up to 6000'amsl at Chinchilla. After Chinchilla I was disciplining myself to ignore the weaker climbs and be more selective to try to improve the somewhat slow progress. Had a climb to 6500'amsl near Rywung rail crossing and I decided conditions were good enough to fly over the unlandable area on track of about 40kms, but that made me a bit more cautious again! But by this stage I was getting thermals to 7000'amsl. Clearing the wooded area and recalling "go low into an up wind TP", I glid fairly fast for the last 15kms into the Wandoan Silo TP, just checking en route that there was good lift under a couple of clouds which I could take on my return. I was well behind schedule at this stage, but I consoled myself that I now had a 214km downwind leg with rapidly improving conditions, so should make up the time. Barry charged off into the distance and I never saw him again, though I did get some useful feedback that conditions were really good ahead which was encouraging.

That leg was really great, though sometimes the thermals were a long way apart and they never seemed to be in the same position relative to the clouds. Some of the best thermals were in the blue, or with barely identifiable wisps - I was delighted when, having found one such real 10 kt stonker, a number of the Nationals Comp pilots flying across my track slotted in below me and obviously approved! Thermals were by now going to 9000', but again I tried to discipline myself to leave a bit earlier before the lift dropped off. I got a bit low down past Dalby - mainly through missing the thermals under a couple of clouds and pressing on - then I started to realise that it was getting later in the day so I should really stay/get higher. The result was that I ended up taking some weak climbs to get me back to a better height band before charging on to Mt Maria TP. Having rounded that I worked my way more carefully up wind towards George Lee's Strip finding some lift on the way. Barry was far ahead of me and had been up to near Jandowae, but he was able to reassure me that the clouds to the West of the TP had been working although he had not tried them at lower levels. On that info I made the detour to the west and found the lift, initially weak but it built 2-3 kts to give me enough height for a glide home.

It was a remarkably slow 511kms at 71 kph, but the feeling of achievement was none-the-less for it! To be able have such a fantastic flight on my last day was just unbelievable and a big thank you to Barry for firing me up to give it a try. I would never have ventured as far afield without that encouragement.

I am writing this on the jumbo back to UK and we have just tracked right over McCaffrey and up to Wandoan!!

George Crawford

Social Club

Irene and Libby intend to hold a BBQ every 2nd and 4th weekends.

The Christmas Party will be held on 11th December at the Club. Please let Libby or Irene know if you will be attending. We will also have a spot landing competition and a brief General Meeting.

Jenny Thompson

Decentralised Competition

Many of you may have not heard of the Decentralised Cross-Country Event (DCE, or the Decentralised Competition) or don't know much about it.

Gerrit Kurstjens won the Australian Gliding Trophy (overall winner) in 2003 but apart from that, our club members do not seem to participate in it at all.

The Competition is a competition, without having to go away to a competition venue. There is a Winter Competition (running from 1 March to 31 Sept each year), and a Summer Competition (running from 1 Oct to end Feb each year). I will give a bit of a summary here, but full details are on the GFA website (see SPORT menu).

- Cross country flights done anywhere in Australia by full GFA members are eligible for entry.
- Flights are entered by filling out an entry form, verified by an official observer and sent to the competition coordinator within a month of the flight (<http://www.gfa.org.au/Docs/sport/dceeform.pdf>)
- Any number of flights can be entered but the best three flights by the pilot are scored at the end of the competition season.
- Flights and gliders are handicapped

- The highest score in each League wins.
- There are four leagues (categories) as follows
 - League 1 – Top 50, National and World Record holders, etc
 - League 2 – Non League 1 pilots with more than 200 solo hours
 - League 3 – Club Two seaters (awarded to the Club, not a pilot)
 - League 4 – Pilots with less than 200 solo hours on 1 Oct (Summer) or 1 March 1 (Winter)

So that's the summary. DDSC has quite a few Official Observers, some good aircraft and great conditions for both Summer and Winter. Less experienced pilots have a chance to compete in both League 3 and 4, so let's see what we can do this year.

Next CHAOTIC, I'll discuss the various Club awards and trophies.

Jenny Thompson

Position Available

If anyone is interested in having a go at being Chaotic editor please let me know (jdavis@aacrc.net.au).

Jo Davis

2004 - 05 Events Calendar

	Event	Place	Contact
22-26 November	'Going for Solo' Course	McCaffrey Field	Russell Bennett
Saturday 4 December	Instructors Meeting	McCaffrey Field	Jeremy Thompson
Saturday 11 December	General Meeting and Xmas Party	McCaffrey Field	Tony Cavanna
27 Dec - 3 Jan	Midweek Flying (tentative)	McCaffrey Field	Jenny Thompson
8 Jan	Committee Meeting	TBA	Tony Cavanna
9-14 Jan	Caboolture Visitors Week (tentative)	McCaffrey Field	Jenny Thompson
5 February	Instructors Meeting	McCaffrey Field	Jeremy Thompson
12 February	General Meeting	McCaffrey Field	Tony Cavanna
5 March	Instructors Meeting	McCaffrey Field	Jeremy Thompson
12 March	Committee Meeting	TBA	Tony Cavanna
25 March - 2 April	Queensland Easter Competition	Dalby Airfield	David McManus
9 April	General Meeting	McCaffrey Field	Tony Cavanna
30 April	Instructors Meeting	McCaffrey Field	Jeremy Thompson
14 May	Committee Meeting	TBA	Tony Cavanna
4 June	Instructors Meeting	McCaffrey Field	Jeremy Thompson
11 June	General Meeting	McCaffrey Field	Tony Cavanna
2 July	Instructors Meeting	McCaffrey Field	Jeremy Thompson

9 July	Committee Meeting	TBA	Tony Cavanna
July	"Xmas in July" flyaway to Charters Towers with Nth Qld Soaring Centre (tentative)	TBA	Jenny Thompson
6 August	Instructors Meeting	McCaffrey Field	Jeremy Thompson
13 August	General Meeting	McCaffrey Field	Tony Cavanna
3 September	Instructors AGM	Bowenville Hotel	Jeremy Thompson
10 September	DDSC AGM	TBA	Tony Cavanna
September (dates to be advised)	Queensland Gliding Championships	McCaffrey Field	Jenny Thompson

	Day	Instructors	Tug Pilots	Duty Pilots
N o v e m b e r	Saturday 6th	R Bennett J Grosser	A Garrone G Kurstjens	Steve Harris Alan Midwood
	Sunday 7th	M Codling A Wetherspoon	P Kurstjens M Robertson	John Davies David Ferguson
	Saturday 13th	J Thompson R. Hoskings	L McQueen F Ning	Michael Russell Roly Sundell
	Sunday 14th	K Senz L Matusczak	Jeremy Thompson B Hoffmeister	Peter Davison John Moller
	Saturday 20th	P Bell P Wetherspoon	J Knox Jenny Thompson	Jo Davis Koji Masuda
	Sunday 21st	T Cavanna B Hofmeister	M Robertson B Ward	Richard Armstrong Paul Bart
	Saturday 27th	R Hart B Daniel	D Cramer TBA	Charles Gillmore Gordon Gillmore
	Sunday 28th	A Garrone B Keen	R Bradley TBA	Greg Valler Michaela Valler
D e c e m b e r	Saturday 4 th	R Bennett J Grosser	J Geddes D Baartz	Graham Hennessy Bob Flood
	Sunday 5 th	M Codling A Wetherspoon/P Wetherspoon	Jenny Thompson B Keen	Joan Robinson Sara Tromp
	Saturday 11 th	J Thompson R. Hoskings	A Garrone Jeremy Thompson	Koji Masuda Jo Davis
	Sunday 12 th	K Senz L Matusczak	F Ning B Hoffmeister	Keith Allen Chezhan Hall
	Saturday 18 th	P Bell B Keen	L McQueen J Knox	Ron Walker Brian Rolfe
	Sunday 19 th	T Cavanna B Hofmeister	R Bradley D Cramer	Ben Bezuidenhout Neil Muspratt
	Sundat 26th	NO FLYING	NO FLYING	NO FLYING

Ja n ua ry	Saturday 1st	R Bennett J Grosser	Volunteers Please	TBA
	Sunday 2nd	M Codling A Wetherspoon/P Wetherspoon	P Kurstjens B Keen	TBA
	Saturday 8th	J Thompson R. Hoskings	D Baartz J Geddes	Hugh Hofmeister Andrew Straume
	Sunday 9th	P Bell L Matusczak	F Ning M Robertson	Steve Harris Alan Midwood
	Saturday 15th	T Cavanna B Hofmeister	A Garrone J Knox	Roly Sundell David Ferguson
	Sunday 16th	R Hart B Daniel	Jenny Thompson B Hoffmeister	John Moller Peter Davison
	Saturday 22nd	A Garrone B Daniel	L McQueen R Bradley	Richard Armstrong Paul Bart
	Sunday 23rd	R Henderson B Keen	Jeremy Thompson P Hyde	Greg Valler Michaela Valler
	Saturday 29th	J Thompson C Downes	D Cramer B ward	Bob Flood Graham Hennessy
	Sunday 30th	M Codling P Wetherspoon	G Kurstjens TBA	Joan Robinson Tim Hastings

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