



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

Chaotic

Monthly Newsletter of the Darling Downs Soaring Club January 2007

Everything Report by Keith

Summer, Xmas and Holiday Time. With many of the Committee away the job of all reports falls back on the Chaotic Editor. The report is a bit haphazard as a. I have not prepared it, b. I was away and most stories I heard are 2nd hand and c. I'm off on holiday myself today and have little time to write, print and send! But we will have a February Chaotic soon with lots of reports from afar.



Many hard earned rests being taken by the Committee early this year and gliding is on the agenda.

The Pres, AKA Bob F is in New Zealand enjoying the hospitality of both the Canterbury and Omarama gliding clubs who have joined forces to provide special resources to DDSC pilots. The organizer Phill Downey has rallied many people together and has most of the committee over there as well.

Shane McC, Fran N, Jo D, Graham H make it up to 5 of the 10 committee being

in NZ, Tony C is on extended leave in the Northern Hemisphere and is sure to take in some gliding, Jeremy T is enjoying an extended gliding holiday in the Southern States.

Chad N, Ben B and I are holding the fort with the extended help of many past committee and drafted in volunteers. And doing some flying :-)

The Xmas period saw a lot of activity at the club but not all of it was great flying, well not the 1000km type stuff. The profits at the bar seem to be up mind.

Training at the club has kept the instructors busy and I saw quite a few people lined up over the past weekends.

The tugs were going well until last weekend when we had two failed tugs. SWR had an exhaust crack and MLR had a magneto failure, both tugs being down we launched two gliders on the Sunday... but with a lot of effort and chasing the towing was (I am assured it will be at time of writing) fine the next weekend.

Coaching initiatives for 2007 by Ralph

Coaching week

Some club members experienced last years coaching week in September which was memorable for the record number of

500 kilometre flights that were flown. The 2007 coaching week will again be held at DDSC in the week before the state comps, which are also at DDSC. So mark 24 – 29 September 2007 in your diary if you would like to join us. If you would like to know more about how it was run, read Chad's article in Soaring Australia. This year's course will be even better.

Rostering coaches

DDSC is fortunate to have 8 coaches among its members. From February we will be rostering coaches, like we do with tuggies, instructors and duty pilots. Given the number of coaches available, we will try to roster one coach most Saturdays.

The aim of having Saturday and not Sunday is that we tend to be more adventurous with our cross countries on Saturday than Sunday when some of us are keen to get home. It also means that we can do the debriefing and SeeYou analysis after flying on Saturday.

Some coaches are also instructors so it may be that the same person will be both instructor and coach on some days.

The role I foresee for the rostered coaches is to add on to the normal briefing that the duty instructor gives, with an additional briefing for cross country pilots or any others who are interested.

This could include more detailed weather briefing and analysis for cross country, task setting, and discussion of particular coaching topics, setting specific skills or techniques to try or practice on the day.

Then it would be up to the coach and the needs of the day whether two-seater flying is done with a pilot, or lead and follow, or everyone just flies the same task, or whatever else people want to do.

This should be followed by a debrief at the end of day, covering weather, what was experienced compared to the forecast and why, thermal strengths and speeds achieved.

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Booking for coaching flights

Coaching can take a number of formats including two seater flying and lead and follow with single seaters. Over the last year or so I have been doing some coaching in the Duo and a number of members have taken advantage of this opportunity. I believe it is the best way to learn, but then I am biased and I do have a commercial interest.

We would now like to make this coaching a little more formal and more readily available to all members. It will now be possible to book a coaching flight in the Duo. This will not be through the clubs booking system, but by emailing me with your requested coaching date. I will then confirm the availability of the aircraft and the availability of one of the coaches to fly with you in the Duo. As the coach will be giving up much of a day to do the pre-flight briefing, aircraft DI and preparation, flight and debrief, I don't believe it is reasonable for the coach to also be expected to pay for the glider hire.

This will mean that the pilot being coached will be responsible for paying the normal charge of one dollar a minute, or \$60 an hour, up to a maximum charge of 4 hours or over for \$240, plus the tow. This is how the Duo is normally charged out at coaching weeks.

This may seem expensive to some but is reasonable by comparison with other charge rates. It is twice the cost of hiring the Grob or a Puch and you get nearly twice the L/D and a glider which is worth more than twice what WQX cost us. The

rate is comparable to the \$66 an hour charged by Kingaroy and \$70 an hour charged by GCV at Benalla and somewhat less than the \$180 an hour charged by the commercial operators at Omarama, but that is in New Zealand dollars. And remember that JSR is a turbo which significantly reduces, but doesn't eliminate, the chance of landing out.

Winter coaching course

The other new initiative is an idea sparked by the visit of Giorgio Galetto. In his talks he made the point that it takes time to coach a pilot and that this cant be done in one flight, as there is much to learn and many different conditions to be experienced.

So, in addition to the one week course in September, which not everyone can make, we would like to run a "winter" coaching course. The course would run one weekend a month over 5 months between the Easter comp at the beginning of April and the state comps in October. The aim would be to have a small to medium sized group of people and dedicate the one weekend each month to coaching. This would give us

the opportunity to experience a range of conditions, fly dual and lead and follow, and be coached by a number of coaches. It would also give us time to discuss and debate topics in detail and hopefully decipher what all those things are that everything "depends on".

To be successful it would need a reasonable degree of commitment from pilots, to be there for each of the weekends, baring unforeseen circumstances. This would give us the opportunity to build on the information that what we learn weekend to weekend. Hopefully pilots would have the opportunity to do some flying and get some practice in between the coaching weekends.

I will seek formal applications closer to the time, but in the meantime if you think you might be interested in the winter coaching course, please email me.

For more information on any of the above, please email me or talk to me at the club.

Ralph
DDSC coaching convenor

| | | Instructors | Tug Pilots | Duty Pilots |
|---------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| January | Saturday 6th | R Bennett John Moller | M Robertson R Bradley | Keith Allen (AEI) Robert Percy |
| | Sunday 7th | A Huggins P Mitchell | D Baartz D Cramer | Brian Rolfe (AEI) Koert-Jan Schonewille |
| | Saturday 13th | R Henderson R Hoskings | J Knox B Hofmeister | Phill Downey Chad Nowak (AEI) |
| | Sunday 14th | P Bell B Daniel | Gary McMahon TBA / Volunteer | David Ferguson (A) Roly Sundell |
| | Saturday 20th | M Codling J Grosser | L McQueen TBA / Volunteer | Greg Valler (AEI) Michaela Valler |
| | Sunday 21st | C Downes | F Ning A Straume | Brett Kettle (A) AJ Wesley |
| | Saturday 27th | R Henderson P Michell | B Keen G Kurstjens | Richard Armstrong Paul Bart (AEI) |
| | Sunday 28th | B Keen P Mitchell | P Kurstjens TBA / Volunteer | Neil Muspratt (AEI) Ben Bezuidenhout |

| | | Instructors | Tug Pilots | Duty Pilots |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| February | Saturday 3 rd | R Bennett B Daniel | M Robertson R Bradley | John Hook Rob Murphy (AEI) |
| | Sunday 4 th | P Bell J Grosser | D Baartz F Ning | Jo Davis Michael Mowbray |
| | Saturday 10 th | C Downes P Mitchell | J Knox B Hofmeister | Steve Harris (AEI) Alan Midwood |
| | Sunday 11 th | A Huggins | Gary McMahon TBA / Volunteer | Libby Matuszczak(AEI) Peter Davison (AEI) |
| | Saturday 17 th | R Henderson J Moller | L McQueen TBA / Volunteer | Bob Flood (AEI) Graham Hennessey |
| | Sunday 18 th | M Codling | D Cramer A Straume | Gavin Field Joan Robinson |
| | Saturday 24 th | B Keen R Hoskings | B Keen G Kurstjens | Keith Allen (AEI) Robert Percy |
| | Sunday 25 th | P Bell | P Kurstjens TBA / Volunteer | Brian Rolfe (AEI) Koert-Jan Schonewille |

| | | Instructors | Tug Pilots | Duty Pilots |
|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| March | Saturday 3 rd | J Thompson | M Robertson R Bradley | Phill Downey Chad Nowak (AEI) |
| | Sunday 4 th | R Bennett B Daniel | D Baartz D Cramer | David Ferguson (A) Roly Sundell |
| | Saturday 10 th | A Huggins | J Knox B Hofmeister | Greg Valler (AEI) Michaela Valler |
| | Sunday 11 th | R Henderson | Gary McMahon Jeremy Thompson | Brett Kettle (A) AJ Wesley |
| | Saturday 17 th | M Codling R Hoskings | L McQueen TBA / Volunteer | Richard Armstrong Paul Bart (AEI) |
| | Sunday 18 th | P Bell J Grosser | F Ning G Kustrsjens | Neil Muspratt (AEI) Ben Bezuidenhout |
| | Saturday 24 th | J Thompson J Moller | B Keen P Kurstjens | John Hook Rob Murphy (AEI) |
| | Sunday 25 th | B Keen P Mitchell | P Kurstjens TBA / Volunteer | Jo Davis Michael Mowbray |



Georgio and Pearce ready to fly together at the recent Coaching Event