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Chaotic

Darling Downs Soaring Club Spring Newsletter September 2008

New Editor:

Hi, the new editor is myself, Dave Holbrook. So if you have comments, suggestions (polite ones) send them to : holbrookdw-ddsc@yahoo.com . I thought I'd introduce a little photo competition; not sure what the prize is, suggestions anyone?

Club competition –

What are the two gliders pictured?



And what is familiar about the logo?

I took the picture from the Wasserkuppe gliding museum which is sited on the hill where Otto Lilienthal's brother Gustav watched Oscar Ursinus fly the first glider in 1909. This very famous soaring site saw development by every well known German aeronautical engineer in the

1920s. Today all forms of free flight you can think of occur here...

AGM report

By Richard Armstrong

The 5th Annual General Meeting of the Darling Downs Soaring Club Incorporated was held at McCaffrey Field on Saturday 6th September, 2008.

As usual, the meeting centred on the annual reports of the various officers, the election of committee members, presentation of awards for significant achievements and contributions and of course, a wonderful dinner accompanied by good wine and lots of joviality. Below is a summary of the meeting highlights.

Life membership

Life membership was awarded to Peter Griffiths in recognition of his very substantial contributions to the club over a long period of time. When we drive into McCaffrey field and look around at the wonderful facilities we have, we should take some time to consider how it all got there. It didn't just happen. It is the result of lots of hard work and very generous acts and donations by a number of people over a long period of time. Peter Griffiths is one of those people who quietly and very generously did lots of little things and some very big things to make what we have today.

Thank you, Peter. (Some of the substantial contributions Peter has made to the club are highlighted by Shane later in the newsletter. Ed)

Club Patron

Stow Kentish accepted the role of Club Patron.

Committee changes:

Bob Flood stepped down as President-then immediately stepped up again to take on the role of Treasurer.

President

Pam Kurstjens, fresh from looking after our tugs as Tug Master, is now going to look after our club as President. Congratulations and thank you Pam.

Treasurer

After three years of watching over our finances, Fran Ning passed the books onto Bob. Fran has done a fantastic job, identifying and implementing areas of saving, reminding us to be frugal and guiding our finances over a challenging period. That we are in good shape is partly due to her efforts. Thanks Fran.

Secretary

Our Secretary for the past five years, Tony Cavanna, handed over the keys to the mail box to incoming Secretary, Richard Armstrong. The obvious relief that this act provided for Tony was so palpable that we might ask if there something unpleasant about the Secretary's job that we should know about?

Thank you Tony, for your efforts over the past 5 years.

Tugmaster

With outgoing Tug Master, Pam Kurstjens, now elected as President, Lex McQueen will be responsible for the grease and oil changes, the kicking of the tyres and the other more important tasks that the Tug Master must do. Thanks Lex, and thank you Pam for leaving us in a state where we now have two tugs which should serve us well for a number of years.

Airworthiness Officer

Barry Daniel is the new Airworthiness Officer. Our fleet is in great condition thanks to the efforts of previous Airworthiness Officer, Graham Hennessy, Shane and others. Barry is the person to keep it that way.

Committee members

Returning committee members are Shane McCaffrey and Jo Davis, with John Moore and Paul Bart replacing Chad Nowak and Richard Armstrong.

Awards

Wally Mills Club Service Award
Jeremy Thompson and Graham Hennessy - Joint winners

Most Improved Pilot
Dave Holbrook

Most Improved Cross Country Pilot
Anton Grishin

Rex Teakle Club Service Award
(voted for by club members)
Bob Flood

Life Membership Award – Some background information about Peter Griffiths

By Shane McCaffrey.

I first met Griffo at a NSW comp in 1978 at Leeton; he had a LS3 and did well at a few comps, even winning a State title in it. He was a member of Kingaroy at the time and came over here to see what our club was like. Well, he ended up building a hanger with John Moore.

DDSC had steady growth and strong core of good members. We had a 3 KVA generator out the back of the main hanger on the southwestern side. Every evening you had to crank it up and last one to bed had to shut it down. During the comps it was difficult to turn on appliances, it would eventually stop. Some evening after a few beers were had, the last person headed off on x country to turn the generator off. This was fine, but then trouble with the GPS and A/H not working, results in out landing in the gully for a while!

Griffo saw that we needed power to the club and so it happened- the power was hooked up. It wasn't cheap back then, \$10000. Not long after that a Grob 103 showed up at the club, which we have now. Griffo bought the Grob, and carried the club for a couple of years until it was paid for.

We have always been a 1 1/2 tug club, we have had a few different tow planes but Pawnees have always been the workhorse. Griffo ended up buying a Pawnee and X hired it back to the club and it was used at gliding comps everywhere.

We had a lot of humps and bumps on the airfield and a big Roller arrived at the airfield thanks to Griffo. We ended up putting in an irrigation system underground in which bore and gully water can be used. Then what showed up on the airfield was a travelling irrigator which was donated to the club by Griffo and even now with limited water and unable to use the big irrigator, a small poly reel irrigator arrives at the airfield.

The club has received many instruments and generous donations from Griffo. He has always supported the comps in various ways, radios etc, and his is always willing to help. He has supported me in going to the World Comps in 1983 and allowing me to fly his gliders. (Have to make sure that the instruments work.)

Peter has been a Team Manager for the Aussies at World Comps on various occasions, done a great job, and supported the Juniors in gliding over this time. The Sport of gliding and DDSC have had tremendous support from Peter Griffiths and it was a privilege and honour to award Griffo the Life Member for DDSC.



Recent club visitors to the riverside...

Basic Laws of Gliding that we don't seem to teach any more.

Donated by Russell Bennett...

Flood's Observation

No matter what stage of completion is reached in the Club's development programme, the cost of the remainder of the programme remains the same.

Hennessy's Law of Inspection

The probability of anything happening is in inverse ratio to its desirability.

Henderson's Maxim

A mid-air collision can ruin your entire day.

Hoskings' Truism

The other thermal is stronger.

Hart's Law of minimal Self-delusion

Every pilot nurtures within himself a secret plan for a record breaking plan that will not work.

McCaffrey's Law of Survival

Don't fly outside loops without a parachute.

Codling's Law of Weather Forecasting

Chicken Little only has to be right once.

Ning's Golden Rule

Whoever has the gold makes the rules.

Coming in the next issue...

For the next issue we may have contribution from Allan Barnes about his trip to Reiti.

Perhaps also we'll have a 10 questions with xxx. (Depending upon replies to the questionnaire I have yet to send out...)

Zoom Zoom!

As well as the club AGM it was the GFA AGM down in Adelaide and a few of our club members couldn't make our AGM as they were down south.

Look what they brought back with them for Allan.



Pic by Jenny Thompson

And if we zoom in...



Pic by Jenny Thompson

The award is for the highest speed out of the 2 Australian Club Class pilots!

Till next time, a river dirchee.