

OUTLANDING

The Taupo Gliding Club's Newsletter



March 2019

How quickly the soaring season has come to a close. I hope you have achieved your goals over the summer and that you continue flying during these great autumn days.

For information, the taskPilot league has been extended until the 31st of May, so get out there and fly a couple of tasks before it finishes.

If anyone has an article or notification to be included into the next newsletter, please have to Trace by 20 May 2019.

Fly well and have fun!

Cheers, Trace

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CFI Report for CFI Bill Kendall



As you will be aware Bill has vacated the country and headed to the US of A for a month and I am sure he will have some good tales to tell when he returns.

Tony and Suzanne Budd have also now departed and have headed back home to France. Thank you Tony for your assistance over the summer it has been very much appreciated. We look forward to seeing both again later in the year.

The summer soaring season has come to a close and as we reflect back we can see that there have been a number of good flights, personal achievements, good contests and of course a visit from a multi world champion. We can also look back at our own flights and critique them again and say, "If I did this or that I would have had a better outcome". Self-Critiquing every flight is a must! It is the way we learn and the critique starts from the pre planning stage of the flight right through until you have finished securing the glider at the end of the flight. A common theme with the couple of incidents we had this season were the result of the loss of situational awareness.

You can ask a number of pilots what is situational awareness and you will more than likely get a different answer from each of them. So what is situational awareness? Keeping it simple, situational awareness is an active process of seeking information and creating a mental model of the world around us. We do this in the air by:

- knowing our aircraft and how to operate its fitted systems,
- listening out for radio calls,
- maintaining a good look out,
- knowing our location, and
- keeping an eye of the changing weather and soaring conditions

This mental model is dynamic as new decisions will be made as new information comes to hand, but one major factor will inhibit our ability to make good decisions and that is dehydration. With our summer weather the temperature can increase inside the cockpit by as much as 15 degrees when we close the canopy, so it doesn't take long for the body to start losing fluid by sweating. This loss of fluid must be replaced for good brain function as fatigue leads to poor decision making. A good rule of thumb is to drink 250ml of fluid every 15 minutes, this is best done by continuous sipping rather than consuming larger quantities less frequently. So remember, stay hydrated and have a good situational awareness.



I'm thirsty

Training Night – Use of Emergency Parachutes

The last training night held at the club on Wednesday the 13th of March was aimed at the use of the emergency parachute that we glider pilots choose to wear. The lecture was conducted by



Brendon from Taupo Tandem Skydiving who has in excess of 25 years of experience. Although there were not many members present, the interaction and information obtained was extremely beneficial. Brendon ran through the do's and don'ts for maintenance of our chutes, the reasons why they are serviced the way they are, the deployment of a chute when you have exited the aircraft, and most important how not to break an ankle when landing.

Hugh, graciously donated his chute for the demonstration (it need a repack anyway) and Brendon deployed the rig for our benefit.

Central Districts Gliding Championships

The 2019 CDGC was held between the 2nd and 9th of March at the Hood aerodrome in Masterton. There were 21 contestants overall which was a great turnout for this event. The CDGC is a great opportunity, like the Central Plateau competition, for first time contestant flying.

The best part about being a 'Newbie' at either of these two competitions is that there is an abundance of experience to help you with cross country flying. These events are not so much about competing per se but mentoring the lesser experienced pilots.

Weather conditions for the week were interesting. We had great blue sunny days, great for the beach but not so good for tasking. There was a day where we couldn't get above 2500' and hence nobody started the task and we also had a 'wave' day.

Congratulations to Tony and Mike for winning their respective classes. For Mike, it was the trifecta by winning the Central Plateau, NZ Club class and the Central Districts.

Overall, it was a great week of fun.

Champions

open

| | | | |
|---|----|--------------|-------|
| 1 | TD | Tony van Dyk | 2,690 |
| 2 | VZ | Pat Dreisen | 2,387 |
| 3 | TX | David Hirst | 2,175 |

Racing/sports

| | | | |
|---|----|----------------|-------|
| 1 | FM | Mike Strathern | 1,926 |
| 2 | NM | Trace Austin | 1,648 |
| 3 | JJ | Hamish McCaw | 1,399 |



Northern Regionals

The Northern Regionals were held at Matamata between the 16th and 23rd of March with 18 contestants in two classes. The practice day on the Saturday was terrific with climbs of six knots and puffy CU's everywhere, which provided a lot of optimism for the coming week.

Day one had a task to the north with turn points going back and forth. Although conditions were reasonably good to start with, the day died and there were four landouts in Racing class and two in Open class.

Day two was canned due to weather.

Day three had a task north to the swamp and then south to Whakamaru Dam. There were two landouts and two land backs in the Racing class and for everyone else it was a bit of a struggle.

Day four had the task going to the north again and then down to Artimuri and back. Conditions were generally good but there were some challenging spots along the way with four landouts in Racing class.

Day five task was set to the north, Kerepehi, Hotel Divin then south to Hinuera. Once again there were magnificent climbs and long glides and everyone got around.

Day six was cancelled but turned out to be an excellent day as Pat Driessen completed 307km under a fantastic convergence.

Day seven was forecast to be much the same as the day before so the task was left the same as it was set for day six, north to Kaihere and down to Ranganui airstrip. Unfortunately, the day was not like the previous day but still good. There were a couple of landouts in Racing class with the remainder of pilots having a good day.

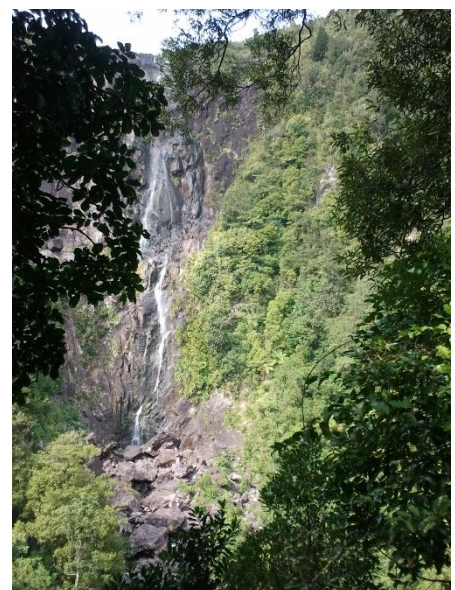
So that completed the flying of the Northern Regionals. The remainder of the day saw the gliders being dismantled and boxed up for their trips home. It is surprising how short the time period is required to make one airfield look so sparse. Next thing on the agenda was the dinner and prize giving.

Congratulations to Pat Driessen for winning the Open class and Dave Dennison for the Racing class. Team Taupo did well too with Trace Austin and Neil Harker coming 2nd and 3rd respectively. Roll on next season.



Champions

| Open | | | Racing | | |
|------|----|------------------------|--------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | VZ | Patrick Driessen 4,691 | 1 | YL | Dave Dennison 3,895 |
| 2 | BA | Tim Bromhead 4,350 | 2 | NM | Trace Austin 3,133 |
| 3 | TD | Tony van Dyk 3,750 | 3 | SP | Neil Harker 2,785 |



The no fly day walk to the waterfall, some needed a rest 😊

Helicopter Training

Amalgamated Helicopters NZ Ltd - from Masterton came up to Taupo and used our facilities for training on the 12th and 13th of March. Training consisted of the loading of personnel and also cargo slinging ops. The loading of personnel was a skilful act as the chopper skids remained about 200mm off the deck at all times.



Achievements

Congratulations to:

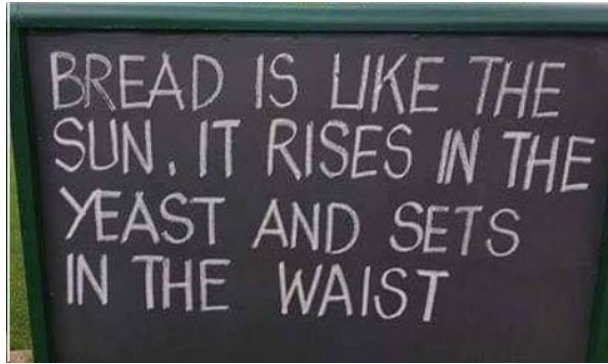
- Henry Hope-Cross for going SOLO! At the age of 13, Henry is the youngest ever pilot to go solo in the 59 year history of the Upper Hutt Gliding Club. Well Done! We look forward to seeing him back in Taupo.



Upcoming Events

- Airmanship competition
- Subscriptions are now due
- Youth Minicamp – Easter weekend
- Dinner and Awards night in June

Humour



Only in Matamata New World!

