



CHAOTIC

Monthly Newsletter of the Darling Downs Soaring Club

February 2002

President's Report

There is an old adage that the best form of advertising is word of mouth and I can see no reason why it should not be true for gliding clubs.

There is no substitute for everyone who comes to McCaffrey Field going away with a positive impression of our club. Fortunately, this seems to be happening, with arriving members being greeted and visitors and potential new members being welcomed and shown around what we do. We were all first-time visitors once and a positive experience is very important.

Ever since I started gliding, which was a while back, I have read stories of people arriving on a gliding field, no one spoke to them, no one introduced themselves, no one made them feel welcome, so they drove off, probably never to return.

Over the last couple of months I have heard a couple of comments that, somewhere in the past, people have had this sort of experience at McCaffrey Field. I don't know how far back it was, and I don't particularly care, as the important thing is that people never have these experiences again.

Over recent years I think we have become very good at welcoming visitors. All I want to do is to encourage all members to continue this excellent approach to welcoming people to our 'home'. We can spend a lot of money on our website, on advertising, promotional activities and flyaway visits, but it will achieve little if people are not welcomed when they turn up at McCaffrey Field. In fact it will have been a waste of money, which we can better use for other things.

The same applies to answering the phone, which is many people's first contact with the club, when they ring up to enquire about the club's activities. Every time we answer the phone we don't know if the person on the other end is a potential new member. Again a friendly, cooperative and helpful approach will help to convert the caller's interest into a visit to the field. If we give the impression that their call is an inconvenience to us, they will probably assume that visiting the field will be met with the same approach and will choose to go somewhere else.

Welcoming all visitors and making them feel at home is a responsibility of all club members. I think we are doing it very well at the moment and we must ensure that this attitude continues and if possible is enhanced so that every visitor to McCaffrey Field goes away feeling positive about the place. They may never come back, but if it has been an enjoyable time they will tell others how good it was. If it was a bad experience, we know that they will tell people about us. The research tells us that people will tell ten times as many people about a bad experience as they will tell about a good experience.

As Queensland's 'Premier Soaring Club' we also want to be renowned as Queensland's friendliest and most welcoming soaring club.

Easter Comps Update

This year's Easter Comp will be held at Chinchilla from Friday 29 March to Saturday 6 April. Michael O'Brien will again be contest director. The Easter comp is a low-key fun competition, which is suitable for pilots of all levels of experience. If you would like more information contact Michael O'Brien, 12 Playfair Street, Tarragindi, 4121 Ph 07 3892 3473 (H), Mobile 0427 3892 34, mob@ieee.org.

If you want to take a club aircraft to Chinchilla please send your request to the secretary Jenny Thompson.

The LS7, the Grob, the Hornet and the Nimbus have already been booked. This raises the question of whether or not we can sustain an operation at McCaffrey Field over the Easter long weekend or whether we try and take most of the fleet to Chinchilla and just operate from there. Last year it was difficult to get a duty crew for McCaffrey Field over Easter.

If you have an opinion please contact Ralph on 3843 6178 or email rhenderson@austarmetro.com.au

Christmas 2001 Flying

DDSC operated for six consecutive days through the period between Christmas/New Year achieving just over 82 hours and 79 flights in club aircraft.

A summary of daily activity is attached. Activity was limited on four of the days by showers and squalls.

The high level of activity placed a heavy demand on the Tug pilots. Bob Keen did 23 launches on one day and Stow Kentish did 22 launches on another.

At one stage on Friday 28 December every club glider was airborne. This is an indication of the growth in flying activity at DDSC given that we have two more aircraft than at this time last year.

Members were able to take advantage of an opportunity of extra aircraft and instructor availability for further training.

Paul Bart completed a successful outfield landing check to advance further towards his C certificate and cross country flying.

Mark Hughes almost completed the post solo syllabus missing out only on the flying with a hidden altimeter exercise when an approaching rainsquall forced the cancellation of this final post solo check. Recent member and student pilot Jo Davis completed six flights and achieved almost five hours of flying time. Koji Masuda made his first solo flight since joining DDSC.

Significant flights during the Christmas/New Year period were: Tony Cavanna 5:20 MV; Barry Daniel 4:56 MV; John Moore 4:30 LR, 3:03 LR; John East 4:11 MV and 4:10 XOW; Geoff Pratt 4:09 XV; Stephan Kollart 3:57 AW; David Hughes 3:57 XOW; Brian Hofmeister 3:12 XC; Geoff Brown 3:12 XHC.

Thanks are due to instructors Jenny Thompson, Tony Cavanna, Peter Bell, Geoff Brown,

Anthony Wetherspoon and Ralph Henderson; tug pilots Bob Ward, Bob Keen, Stow Kentish, John Knox, Tony Barker and Pam Kurstjens; duty pilots Mark Hughes, Peter Hughes, Libby Matuszczak, Jim Somerville and Brian Hofmeister who gave up part of their holiday to make operations possible.

Thanks are also due to Russell Bennett who carried out an impromptu 50 hourly inspection on the Grob to keep it flying and conducted check flights during busy periods.

Day	Club Gliders		Private Gliders	
	Flying Time	Launches	Flying Time	Launches
26/12	2hrs 49m	4		
27/12	20hrs 26m	19	12hrs 24m	4
28/12	28hrs 36m	21	6hrs 55m	3
29/12	12hrs 2m	12	4hrs 10m	2
30/12	15hrs 5m	18		
31/12	3hrs 2m	5		

David Hughes

Easter Comps Prize



A new prize will be awarded at this year's Easter Comps at Chinchilla. To encourage DDSC members to enter this excellent competition, I will donate a special prize that will be awarded for the most meritorious performance at the competition.

Only DDSC pilots who enter the competition will be eligible to win this prize. The winner of the prize will be decided by using a complex formula that will take into account:

the pilot's final points score,

- the pilot's flying experience,
- the pilot's previous competition experience,
- the performance of the glider flown,
- their overall airmanship and sportsmanship and
- contribution to the performance of all the DDSC pilots at the competition.

All pilots, regardless of their prior experience, will therefore have an equal chance of winning this prize, and to win it all you have to do is enter and compete.

And of Coursethe Nationals Results

It was wonderful to see such great participation in the Australian Nationals by DDSC pilots.

Congratulations to:

- Andrew Georgeson 2nd Standard Class (1st League 2 -Standard Class)
 - Bob Ward, 3rd 18m class,
 - John Buchanan, 1st Open Class,
 - Gerritt Kurstjens, 2nd Open Class,
 - Pam Kurstjens, 3rd in Open Class,
 - Geoff Brown, 9th 15m Class (5th League 2 - 15m Class)
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Membership Update

Thanks to those members who have sent in membership updates. We have only received around 45 so far, so please send the form (that was in last month's Chaotic) back to us if you haven't yet. We need to know your details and your privacy options, even if your details haven't changed.

TLC

Our gliders are our most important and most valuable assets, but they are not receiving the tender loving care they deserve. All gliders need washing and vacuuming out regularly and often.

One particular problem that has arisen lately is adjusting the rudder pedals in the Puchaczs. Pulling on the toggle only releases the locking pin. Pulling harder on the toggle does not make any difference. Once unlocked, the pedals will come back towards the pilot because there are bungies to bring them back. The pilot should then push the pedals out to where they should be, and release the toggle. Do not push the pedals out hard to the end of the travel, they will jam and the next shorter pilot will not be able to get them back to where he or she needs them. Brut force and ignorance are not required. Care and a light touch are.

Ground handling the Blanik requires special treatment. The elevators must be restrained while ground handling; otherwise they will bounce up and down and be damaged. Restrain the stick by securing the lap belts around the stick. This is particularly important when towing the glider to or from the launch point.

We have an excellent fleet let's keep it that way.

Shane McCaffrey

Congratulations and Achievements for January

Congratulations to Jeremy Parslow for his first solo on Australia Day.

Congratulations to David Burrell on his first solo on Monday 28th January.

Congratulations to Libby Matuszczak on re-obtaining her cross-country rating after a long break. Her first cross-country with the new rating was 3hrs 15 in the LS7 on Sunday 20th January.

Congratulations to Hugh Hofmeister for being selected to attend George Lee's training camp in March.

Some good flights during January – Tony Cavanna and Barry Daniel both doing 500k's.

Koji got into the Astir on Australia Day weekend and had some good flights.

(There must be more than this, but this is all I've been told about – pls let me know about people's achievements so we can recognise them here.....Jenny)

Events Calendar Feb-Mar
Feb 8: 7:00pm Instructors Panel Mtg Peter Bell
Feb 9: 7:00pm Committee Meeting Jenny Thompson
Mar 8: 7:00pm Instructors Panel Mtg Peter Bell
Mar 9: 7:00pm General Meeting Jenny Thompson
March 16-17 Jimbour Fly-away Murray Knight
March 29 – 6 April Queensland Easter Comps, Chinchilla Michael O'Brien: 07 3892 3473 (h) 0427 3892 34 (m)

Gliding Videos

There is a box of gliding videos now in the Pie Cart. These are to be provided free for new members, and visitors who show particular interest in their flight and perhaps pursuing gliding and joining the club.

If you give a video away, please note the name of the person on the flight sheets.

ADVERTISEMENT

15 year old student stalls, faces grounding

Jeremy Parslow is an up and coming 15 year old who appears on our list of Achievements for January.

After his first TIF at age 12, Jeremy set himself the goal of going Solo by the end of January 2002, and then got himself a job delivering leaflets. After pushing an estimated 140,000 leaflets into letterboxes around Toowoomba, he saved the full price of a Solo Quest course, plus a year's DDSC club membership and went solo on Australia Day.

He has now set himself the goal of getting his 'C' certificate and doing some serious cross country flights, plus going solo in a powered aircraft at age 16, on the way to his goal of a full commercial licence.

However, along the way he has discovered one of the fundamental laws of aerodynamics, which states that for flight to occur, the velocity of money earned must exceed the velocity with which it is consumed by the aircraft, otherwise all training stalls.

After his sterling efforts, Jeremy risks being grounded unless he can obtain a part time job in the Toowoomba region with a higher velocity of cash flow. He can work 2-3 afternoons/ evenings after 4 pm, or on some weekends (at least on the rainy ones!)

If you've got a job that needs doing, (especially associated with aviation), please give Jeremy a call on 4636 0408.

Darling Downs Soaring Club

Instructor, Tug Pilot, & Duty Pilot Roster

February 2002 – March 2002

February 2002	Instructors	Tug Pilots	Duty Pilots
Sat 2	S McCaffrey	M Robertson	A Barker
	B Keen	R Muir	H Hofmeister

Sun 3	D McManus	J Geddes	R Percy
	C Jordan	D Baartz	K Allen
Sat 9	T Cavanna	T Barker D Gerschwitz	Jim Knox
	M Codling		D Burrell
Sun 10	Jeremy Thompson	Jenny Thompson	L Matuszczak
	R Henderson	N Kranenburg	F Ning
Sat 16	D Lambert	J Knox	P Hughes
	T Lake	L McQueen	D Ferguson
Sun 17	G Brown	M Robertson	A Barker
	A Wetherspoon	D McCaffrey	R Sundell
Sat 23	P Bell	Pam Kurstens	R Henderson
	M Codling	B Ward	P Hyde
Sun 24	K Senz	R Bradley	C Hall
	R Henderson	B Keen	A Sim

March 2002	Instructors	Tug Pilots	Duty Pilots
Sat 2	R Bennett	Pam Kurstens	J Somerville
	P Bell	R Muir	J Lee Lewis
Sun 3	T Cavanna	M Robertson	P Bart
	C Jordan	D Baartz	T Kehoe
Sat 9	Jeremy Thompson	N Kranenburg	D Hughes
	R Henderson	Jenny Thompson	P Downey
Sun 10	D Lambert	T Barker D Gerschwitz	J D'Arcy
	A Wetherspoon		R Armstrong
Sat 16	S McCaffrey	L McQueen	B Rolfe
	T Lake	J Knox	S Kehoe
Sun 17	K Senz	D McCaffrey	S Tromp
	M Codling	B Keen	N Muspratt
Sat 23	D McManus	J Geddes	B Hofmeister
	R Henderson	B Ward	K Houghton
Sun 24	G Brown	R Bradley	D Pinel
	B Keen	M Hurst	Jim Knox

CONTACT DETAILS

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Queensland's Premier Soaring Club

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Please send inquiries or material for publication to chaotic@ddsc.org.au



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Jondaryan Queensland Australia**

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