

Out of the Blue

Waikerie Gliding Club Newsletter

May 2004

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Waikerie Gliding Club will be held at the Clubrooms, Waikerie aerodrome at 1400 Hrs, Saturday 22 May 2004.

In the time since the last AGM of Waikerie Gliding Club (WGC) on Saturday 31 May 2003, there have been some significant happenings.

I express my appreciation of the efforts and active involvement of a few members who have contributed significant time and effort to the Club, including

- The Club Committee, including Pete Page who joined late in the year.
- The Instructors and Tow Pilots making up our flight crew, who have made it possible for us to fly.
- The Social Committee and their helpers, for their renewed efforts, particularly during the National Gliding Competitions in January.

To all those involved, thank you and I hope you will continue to actively participate in the coming year.

Waikerie International Soaring Centre

The Committee addressed the ongoing viability

of what was commonly known as the "commercial operation". This issue was largely resolved on 13th February 2003 when Mark Morgan tendered his resignation from WISC.

The Committee is now coordinating the formal winding up of this activity, and making arrangements for a 3 or 4 month window of fulltime flying operations during the December – March period, to allow our international members to continue to visit and fly at Waikerie.

Negotiations are in progress with Mark to operate a glider workshop in a private capacity, renting or leasing facilities from the Club.

Club Activities

With the closing of WISC, the many roles and responsibilities previously undertaken by paid staff are now required to be undertaken by members. These activities will be led by the more traditional Committee – President, Secretary, Treasurer etc.

There is now an opportunity (in fact a requirement) for members to get involved with the many and varied activities and tasks of the Club.

We will again host the National Club Class Gliding Competition in January 2005. This is a major event in the national gliding calendar where we can build on the great result from the 2004 event. Members are encouraged to get actively involved in this event.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM on 22 May.

John Hudson, President.

DIARY DATES

Next Committee Meeting	Friday 21 May 04, 7.30 PM
Annual General Meeting	Sat 22 May 04, 2.00 pm
Team Waikerie Day	Sat 22 & Sun 23 May 04
Sports Class Nationals	11-21 January 2005

Phone (08) 8541 2644

Fax (08) 8541 2644

E-mail wisc@riverland.net.au

Web www.waikerieglidingclub.com.au

Committee Positions

I am pleased to be able to say that Committee members serving from last year have agreed to continue in their positions. Although we do not need to find members to fill positions on the committee, it is of course possible for any interested member to nominate for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and 5 Committee positions. Nominations can be accepted at the AGM.

Easter Regatta 2004

by Grant Hudson.

My Easter Regatta began early in the week with a general enquiry to Andrew Wright as to whether or not there would be 4 days of flying at Gawler over the Easter long weekend. To my surprise I found out that after a 1year break the traditional ASC Easter Regatta had been reborn.

I conned a work mate into coming for a drive to Waikerie with me after work on Wednesday night to collect the Pik. We had no dramas completing this exercise, although he'd never pulled a glider apart and I'd left my wing stand in the last paddock I out landed in! We eventually dropped the glider off in the ASC trailer park at about 10:30pm and I had 4 days of flying to hopefully look forward to.

In the interests of providing a cheap and friendly competition, the registration fee was done away with, club rates were charged for launches, pilots were responsible for their own scoring and no proof was required...just a distance flown and a speed.

Day 1 and the forecast looked promising. I got out to the airfield early and with some help from the friendly ASC locals had the Pik rigged and ready to go in next to no time. Andrew Wright and Paul Clift as comps directors conducted a detailed safety and airspace briefing before setting a 2hour AAT of the bottle factory (start line) – Hoyleton (30km radius) – Eudunda (30km radius)

– Gawler bypass roundabout (finish line). The remote start and finish lines were set to take competition activities away from the airstrip where the members were flying passengers in the Grob and the air scouts were being trained in the motor falke.

Most of the 9 pilots competing had a scrappy run to Hamley Bridge with thermals to around 4500', the whole time listening to Bernard Eckey, Catherine Love and Geoff Hastwell from Balaklava topping out at 9000' north of Clare while Bernard conducted a lead and follow coaching exercise. Conditions improved markedly over the ranges with some pilots leaving climbs still averaging 8 knots at 8000' due to the airspace. Cloud base looked to be around 10000', with obvious wave conditions above that. The good climbs meant there was some good sink about also and this kept everyone honest. Geoff Woods in the Pilatus won with a handicapped speed of 85 km/h. Paul Clift in his Pik 20B and myself came equal second at 82 km/h and Phil Ritchie came third at 81 km/h...great racing all round.

Day 2 was canned due to a thick band of heavy overcast and 30knot winds at 2000'. We had a great dinner provided by the house group ladies in the clubhouse that night supporting Phil Ritchie and his trip to the world club class comps in Norway in July.

Unfortunately (or as normal some might say) the next 2 days were also lost due to persistent high cloud. We did however have the locally constructed Wright Flyer conducting engine run tests and maybe making an unintended short hop if things went well! The crew made a short run up the launch track on Monday afternoon, but didn't make it into the air...more wind needed was the verdict!

So the Easter Regatta was over for another year. A few more visiting pilots would have been good, but hopefully numbers will improve as a new generation of pilots discover the fun, challenge and camaraderie of competition flying.

River News Waikerie

The following is an item that was printed in an April edition of the local Riverland news paper the River News. It was submitted by Ann Woolfe and thanks to Ann for her efforts. It is vitally important that the club get and maintain a presence in the local area and articles in the local paper will certainly help.

Waikerie Gliding Club

There has been flying at the club the last two weekends despite the fact that the commercial season has ended.

Last Saturday Bill Mudge, who was duty instructor, flew 9 passengers as a result of the gliding club being shown on The Great Outdoors on Channel 7 a few weeks ago.
<http://thegreatoutdoors.com.au/display.php?ID=5981> will tell you about this edition.

Also flying was John Mudge a club member from Adelaide who is a retired aircraft engineer from the RAAF. Our tug pilot this weekend was Peter Siddell.

This Saturday we had another 3 passengers as the result of the TV programme. Bill Mudge once again was our duty instructor with Peter Cassidy our tug pilot.

Ron Brock, Mark Morgan and Peter Robinson from Adelaide flew together in their own gliders. They managed flights of just over 350 kms which took them just over 5 hours. They went to Swan Reach then near Cambria and back to Waikerie with heights reaching 5000 ft. The weather was reasonable for this time of the year with fairly strong thermals and a good southerly wind.

Andrew Mudge, who has been flying with his father Bill since he was 22 mths old, is now, at 14 yrs training with Bill.

Another young local resident who was flying with her father today was Alannah Jones the daughter of David Jones. This was her first flight in a glider, a 9th birthday present, and she thoroughly enjoyed it and hopes to train to go solo later on. They flew over her house and the swimming pool as well as some houses where her friends live.

From next weekend, 24/25 April the club will be flying every other weekend. Details can be found



Don't forget that flying in winter can be just as great in Waikerie as in summer.

on our website
<http://www.waikerieglidingclub.com.au/calendar.htm>
News items can be found at
<http://www.waikerieglidingclub.com.au/news.htm>

75th Anniversary of Gliding

This year marks the 75th year of gliding in Australia. Apparently, it all started at the Adelaide University with the construction of a primary glider. To mark the event the South Australian Gliding Association is planning a dinner and celebration on 6 or 7th of November this year. Standby for further details.

Do you want to become a coach?

By Bernard Eckey
RTO/Sports for SA

If you are a regular cross country pilot and are keen to assist newcomers to fulfil their dreams and ambitions why not become a coach?

A meeting of current SA coaches is being held at Adelaide University on 20th of May 2004 at 7.30pm. Please come along and learn about the role of coaches and see how you will fit in.

The meeting will be in the following room:

Engineering North Building
1st Floor, Chemical Engineering
Room N123

If you have difficulty finding the meeting room, please go to Gate 5 on Frome Road and ring Andrew Wright on Mbl 0427 976 779. Someone will give directions or come and find you.

All you need to bring is a writing pad and as many good ideas as possible.

I look forward to meeting you there.

Bernard

For sale.

ASW19b VH-GWL - 1/2 share for sale. Mark Schultz. 0427793946

Diamant 17 – VH-GUV. Nigel Baker 0418 841 631 nigelbaker30@hotmail.com

201 Lebelle – VH-GBV. Ron Brock 8541 2809, fax 8541 4434

Flying Roster

Flying during winter will be on alternate weekends and will depend on flight crew availability. Flying will be on Saturday and Sunday where possible. The most up to date roster can be found at www.waikerieglidingclub.com.au/roster/. Each day will require a duty instructor for operations to proceed. Other days will be scheduled when possible.

Day	Date	Instructor	Phone	Tuggie	Phone
Sat	May 22	Peter Robinson			
Sun	May 23	Peter Robinson			
Sat	June 26	Peter Robinson		Rob Pollniz	8338 0970
Sun	June 27	Peter Robinson			
Sat	July 31	Bill Mudge	8541 3570		