

Out of the Blue

Waikerie Gliding Club Newsletter

October 2004

Waikerie Operations

"Club format"

By John Hudson

Now that a "Club" format has been reinstated for activities at Waikerie, I would like to make members aware of a few changes this brings about which affects all of us who visit the airfield. While most of the activities impact the flying operations, there are some that will also impact those who visit the airfield.

It must be recognized that there are now no paid staff to undertake the many jobs, which are required to be undertaken around the airfield. We, the members, must do this work and I call upon all members to actively participate in this work for the benefit of the Club.

Glider Maintenance Release

At the conclusion of each days flying, it is necessary to update each "Glider Maintenance Release" to reflect the flying, which has been undertaken during the day.

This should be done by the last person to fly the glider on the particular day.

The information required:

(a) Flight time, this day. (b) Number of landings, this day, is obtained from the **DAILY FLIGHT SHEETS**.

The flight time is entered into the respective column in the **Glider Maintenance Release**, and the **Glider Total Flight Time** is calculated. The number of landings (for the day) is added to the previous **Total Landings** number.

To assist in familiarizing pilots with this requirement, a *Calculation Sheet* has been developed to enable pilots to obtain the necessary information, calculate the totals etc and check the numbers, before entering them in the **Maintenance Release**.

As the **Maintenance Release** is a legal document, please ensure all entries are accurate and neat and tidy. If you have any questions, please refer them to the Duty Instructor.

The **Maintenance Release** should be left with the respective glider radio battery when completed.

Wiping down aircraft

It has been common practice in the past to wipe down each glider at the end of the days flying. This should also be done by the last pilot to fly the glider on the respective day.

The main purpose in the wipe-down is to remove insect debris, which has accumulated during the days flying activities, before this debris dries-out hard and stubborn.

It is preferred that this practice continues. All pilots are therefore encouraged to wipe down each glider at the end of the days activities, even if the glider only has one flight.

DIARY DATES

Next Committee Meeting	Friday 22 Oct. 04, 7.30 PM
Member's Flying Day	23 October & 24 October, 04
Performance Week	2 January to 8 January, 04
Sports Class Nationals	10 January to 21 Jan, 2005

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Club Facilities Security

It is now vital that members secure the Club's premises when you depart. If you are the last to leave, please check that all doors, windows etc are secure and lights, hot water heaters and air-conditioners etc are turned off.

Jobs to be done

There are a large number of jobs to be done around the Clubs facilities to ensure the facilities are maintained in good condition. There are too many jobs too list, but they range from mowing the glider pads, maintaining the Clubhouse and surrounds, mowing, watering, cleaning the facilities (Clubhouse, accommodation facilities, toilets, members kitchen, office, Briefing Room etc) to painting, cleaning windows, maintaining lighting, etc etc.

If you see something, which is in need of some **TLC**, and you are able to do the job, please do it.

Working Bees

Igloo Hanger, Club-house, Office

From John Hudson

A *Working Bee* was arranged for the weekend 25th – 26th September to install the irrigation modifications, however the non-availability of the trenching machine resulted in the deferment of this work. With a good turn up of members - Craig Vinall, Graham Francis, Peter Robinson, Pete Page, Peter Paine, John Mudge, Nigel and Heather Baker, Mark Morgan, Moss Potter, Brett and Larvina Potter, Allen and Marie Hudson, Ron Brock and Jean Hudson - the opportunity was taken to complete some big jobs around the Clubs facilities. The jobs included tidying the Igloo hangar, cleaning the gutters and windows on the Clubrooms, and tidying the office.

Was great to see Moss and Ruth Potter for the day and your help was appreciated.

Irrigation System

During a recent working bee, some modifications have been made to the glider pad irrigation systems. This will change the layout and format of pad watering. The irrigated area is now slightly longer (on the Rwy 26

and Rwy 02 approaches) and also slightly narrower.

The change was driven by the objective to reduce the work input required to water the pads.

Earlier efforts to proceed with this work were frustrated by the unavailability of the trenching machine. The trenching was finally undertaken on Friday 1st October and the installation of piping and fittings was undertaken the next day. A band of willing helpers – Mark Morgan, Craig Vinall, Graham Francis, Greg Jackson, Pete Page, Peter Paine, Nigel Baker, Ron Brock, Bernie Konopka, arrived, with a fleet of implements to “move dirt”.

A great effort by those concerned, under the guidance of Mark and Ron, to get the back broken on this large package of work.

Some special thank you's from WGC,

- A big one for Allen and Marie Hudson, who donated \$1000 towards the costs of the pipe and fittings.

- To John Vinall, who prepared the valve boxes and cover, thanks John.

I am sure this work will make glider pad irrigation easier.

New members

4 new members have joined the Waikerie Gliding Club.

Colin Turner

David Conway

Bill Gregory

Mark Newton

On behalf of the Committee and members, we extend a very warm welcome, and look forward to meeting and seeing you enjoy the activities at Waikerie.

Members Flying Day News

Last members flying day was Saturday 25th September, our next day is Saturday 23rd October

Recent news items are added to the WGC Web page which is definitely worth a read. The articles cover news of the members flying activities and other reports. Thanks to Ann Woolf, Peter Robinson, Mark Morgan and others.

Airfield Matters

Important Information for Duty Instructors

Our new accounting system is up and running and is working well. The new system has changed a few of the old procedures and I have highlighted some points for Duty Instructors that will hopefully help those who are later entering the data.

Firstly, can you please make sure that Log sheet is filled in accurately and clearly. The day's flying is now being entered by volunteers, so a little care at the time of filling in the sheet will avoid unnecessary hassle later for someone else.

Most importantly, the person paying for the flight needs to be either a member of the club with an existing account or they need to be signed up as a day member. There are sheets in the office for recording the pilot's details and the new office bible sets out easy charts for calculating the cost of the persons flying for the day. The cost calculations should be recorded on the daily member sheet, which should be sent with the log sheet for recording in the accounts.

Payment should be received on the day for any day member and remember that there is a different fee for overseas day members by comparison to local pilots. Also please get as much contact information as possible including email details so we can keep in touch with possible new members.

The office-receipting pad is now to have all cash, cheque and EFPOST (bankcard) transactions recorded on the sheet. It would also be very helpful to record on the back of the EFPOST slip what the transaction was for, ie fuel, accommodation, aef. For fuel sales, can you also record the aircraft registration and the number of litres sold.

There is a petty cash tin in the secure area with a small float when you need change for cash transactions. When that room is locked, please place all cash and cheques into an envelope, write what the transaction relates to on the envelope and place it in the security box on the office wall.

Please let me know if you have any problems or think that things could be changed to make things easier on the airfield (contact detail:
craig@madderns.com.au or 0416 236 662)

News on the Web site

By Peter Siddall

The Club has just been given a couple of mailing lists for club members to use. One is for general chat; the other is an announcements-only list.

For those who haven't used a mailing list before: a mailing list is a way for many people to keep in touch using email. "The list" is a special email address – mail sent there goes to a lot of people instead of just one. So if you sent a message to it (called "posting"), all the people on the list would receive it. An example is the aus-soaring mailing list known to many glider pilots.

If you already get enough junk email, this may sound like a bad idea. However the mailing list software does more than just pass on messages: it has several checks to keep junk, viruses and other undesirables off the list. Also, one of the lists is a specially low traffic one. The announcements list will carry only announcements - fewer messages than are expected on the chat list. So if you want to limit your mail, stick to on the Announcements list.

With these lists, you can put yourself on the list, or take yourself off (called subscribing and unsubscribing) and since that is under your control, it is safe to try the lists. Unlike junk mail, where trying to unsubscribe is usually a Bad Idea, you can get off these lists any time you want to.

What are these things for?

The Announcements list is intended to make it easy to tell all members something by email. Of course, "Out of the Blue" does that, but it comes out roughly once every two months. This can fill in the gaps: it can allow the flight crew to tell us that we have crew for an extra flying day, allow the committee to organise things at short notice, etc. I hope you'll all subscribe to this one, because it's going to help us all.

The Chat list is intended to help members talk about whatever they like. I hope people will post their flying stories, but it can also be used to discuss who's doing what, who should be doing what, suggestions, requests, whatever. At least to start with, there are no limits to what topics are allowed. This kind of list works well for some gliding clubs... let's try it here.

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But I don't have an email address.

There are plenty of free email providers on the Internet. You can use them from a shared computer, or a public one in a library - just visit their website with your browser, register a new account and login. I use mail.com and find it reliable, although the ads are starting to be annoying. Some people like Yahoo - yahoo.com.au.

How to subscribe

Here's what you have to do to subscribe to the Announcements list. The Chat list is similar – just replace the word "wgcannounce" with "wgcchat" in the "-subscribe" email address.

First, you send an email message to a special address: for the announce list it's wgcannounce-subscribe@lists.riverland.net.au

It doesn't matter what is in the message you send. What's important is the address you're sending it from: that address is the one that will be subscribed.

Almost immediately you should receive a confirmation message from the list software telling you what to do next. You're not subscribed until you follow these instructions and receive another message saying, "Welcome to the list".

Once subscribed to the Chat list, you can post a message to say hello, or just wait and see what everyone else is doing. Of course, on the Announce list, most people can't post.

Unsubscribing works the same way, except that you send your message to wgcannounceunsubscribe@lists.riverland.net.au and read the instructions that come back.

Do these lists have rules?

Anyone can subscribe to these lists, whether they're club members or not. So the list may not be a private discussion: although you will probably know most of the people posting there, you don't know who else is subscribed and listening in.

Be nice. Please respect other people and their opinions. Aggressive behaviour and put-downs may result in the aggro person being asked to leave.

On the chat list, you must be subscribed before you can post messages. Posting on the Announcements list is limited to a few people. This rule helps keep junk mail off the list.

There's a size limit on messages - currently 17 Kbytes, just smaller than a common email virus. This helps keep viruses off the list, as well as helping the mail flow smoothly.

No attachments are allowed, for the same reasons. If you have a file that you want to show everyone, put it on a webpage and tell everyone the address. You can still send it direct to one person - but not on the list.

There are no archives, no digests, and the subscriber list is not available. If you don't know what those are, don't worry, we don't have them!

We won't use subscribers' addresses for anything except the mailing list.

If you have questions or problems with the list, *please* start by reading any error messages you receive. They usually explain what's going on. There's a webpage (below) giving the list information that you've just read. But if these don't help, you can always email the list owner and ask for help.

Pete Siddall is the "list owner" for now, although someone else may do it later. The list owner's address will always be wgcchat-owner@lists.riverland.net.au

Info about the lists is also on the WGC website, at <http://www.waikerieglidingclub.com.au/contact.htm>

For sale

The committee has a plan to upgrade and rationalise the club fleet of aircraft and offers for sale.

Twin Astir VH-IKU – VH-IKO

Hornet VH-GMU and LS1a VH-GEB

Pawnee Tug VH-FAL has been sold

Members are encouraged to discuss and put forward their suggestions. Committee members contact detail will be published and kept up to date on the clubs Web page.

Private Sale

LS3 - VH-UKC is now for sale. It is a very well maintained unit and in very good condition. Reason for sale - owners upgraded
Interested parties to contact Mark Morgan.
ph bh-0427860992 or ah-85413752
or email morgans@riverland.com.au