

# WARM AIR 27 Jan 18

## Aviation Sports Club Gliding Newsletter

<b>THIS WEEKEND:</b>	Club Cellphone 022 357 6731	<a href="http://www.ascgliding.org">www.ascgliding.org</a>
<b>Saturday</b>	Instructing: Ivor Woodfield Towing: Ruan Heynike Duty Pilot: Roy Whitby	Bank Acct 38-9014-0625483-000
<b>Sunday</b>	Instructing: Rex Carswell Towing: Craig Rook Duty Pilot: Kishan Bhashyam	
<b>Monday</b>	Instructing: Lionel Page Towing: Derry Belcher Duty Pilot: Rudolf Struyck	

## AUCKLAND ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

### MEMBERS NEWS

**SATURDAY** *Instructor Steve Wallace and his Towie Jamie Wagner give their stories*



Saturday's weather probably turned out a bit better than forecast but mostly it was a good day for training rather than a good thermal day.

We got underway at 11.30 with a good consolidation flight for Clare Dickson, followed by a first look at a simulated tow out emergency for Joseph Dickson in which lots of learning was achieved. Kazik Jasica got in a couple of flights in which he made good progress with his aero-towing. Rahul Bagchi and Melodyanne Grant both went for flights in the twin and Rahul and Simon Hay both followed up their VF solos from a few weeks back with another flight

each in VF. Tony Prentice gave MP an airing and we had one passenger. Nobody got more than half an hour but that's just the way the weather was. A hot, humid northerly, a low 2,000' cloud base and only the occasional weak thermal. Still good enough for 10 flights for the day and lots of learning for all those who choose to partake.

A lovely warm sunny day at the field on Saturday. Unfortunately the lift just wasn't there for staying up long. On the 3rd flight of the day, instructor Steve asked me to



simulate a tow plane failure through 500 agl. I duly obliged with a closing of the throttle and a brisk waggle of the wings. GMW disconnected and headed toward the runway and I followed in behind. A great learning experience for all involved! It was great to see plenty of familiar faces after a 2 month hiatus from towing at WP. Other highlights included completion of my 300th tow and a leisurely scenic flight in the tug after towing was finished with young Simon. A good day for the towie, not so much for the soarers!

**SUNDAY** *Towie Fletcher McKenzie and Instructor Peter Thorpe tell the tale*

The morning was looking good, sticky but clear with scattered cloud. I texted Peter, the instructor for the day and said, weather looking good what time do you need me? he texted back and said, yes looking good heading to the field see you there 10:30.

I relaxed and was excited that it wasn't raining, maybe 2018 will be better than 2017. I sorted out my flying kit and made the family eggs on toast for breakfast.

Getting to the field I found the usual



suspects pulling out the gliders and caravan, I walked over to RDW and started my usual inspection and paperwork.

With the aircraft checking out and checking my fuel situation I backtracked down Grass 08. I had to taxi all over the field to move the hundreds of birds laying about on the grass. I was conscious of what may come.

At 11:23 we were up with GMW, it was Brendan Moore and Peter. There was a mild crosswind, birds all over the field and good lift at about 200 feet, there were patches of lift but as soon as we hit them and it settled they were gone. Of course, I delivered the lift at the magical 1500 feet drop point.

Next up was Kazik Jasica again in GMW, up to 2000 feet, turns out Kazik and I share a mutual friend - small world indeed. Still the patchy lift with birds taking off in front of us along grass 08.

Rahul Bagchi grabbed a single GVF and we got up fast to 2000 feet, I zoomed back down for Roy Whitby who was up for finding the lift in GMP. The crosswind was coming and going, birds were still hanging around. Next, up, excitement with GMW and Joseph Dickson- a 500 foot tow with simulated cable break, always fun to see a glider do a low turn back to the field.

Upon landing I saw a bird with a severed wing, I told Peter and I did an inspection of RDW, nothing had been observed and I saw no damage to RDW, GMW was checked also. Brendon was despatched to find the bird and put it out of its misery. Thank you, Brendon.

The next four flights were to 2000 feet, Tony Prentice in GVF, Joseph up again in GMW, then Rahul in GMW, quickly followed by Toni Thompson in GMP. Then from the ground, we all got to watch Rahul and Toni soaring together near the field. It was great to watch. The birds sat and waited for the next tow.



Clare Dickson was next up in GMW and then a trial flight with a young lad who lived on Herald Is, he seems keen to come back and carry on his training. His dad turned out to be a pilot. We were limited to the cloud base, but he was very happy - the grin said it all. And still, the birds took off just in front of us scattering to the left or right with room to spare.

Last flight up was Kazik in GMW up to 2000 feet. The lift had moved on and it was a long tow getting up to height.

All up there were 12 flights with gliders staying up longer than first thought. Not a bad day really. We finished with a quick debrief and disappeared home. A good day towing.

PT I made a big effort to arrive on time only

to find I was all alone. I opened up the hangar and was soon joined by Tony Prentice, Kazik Jasica, Rahul Bagchi, Toni Thompson, Roy Whitby and Brendan Moore who were soon busy extracting gliders and doing DIs. Rahul wanted to get the DI signed off so he looked after VF closely watched by Tony (you would almost think he owned it). The weather was fine with broken cloud at around 2000ft and a light wind from the north east so it was a 08 day. Neville Swan was soon on hand to look after the caravan and yellow tractor, Fletcher McKenzie arrived to do some towing and Clare and Joseph Dickson to do some gliding so we moved to the other end and were ready before 1130.

First up was Brendan who demonstrated a well-planned re-join, circuit and landing from 1500ft. Then Kazik and I continued with his aero tow training and some upper air work. Rahul took VF up to 2000ft but was not able to get established and then Roy took MP and made the best flight of the day at 37 minutes. Joseph is getting close to solo so I demonstrated a low level launch failure and turn back to land downwind while Tony took VF to try to better Roy's time but he was not successful. Next was Joseph again to try his hand at a no instrument circuit. We released at 1500ft and then found some lift so he thermalled for nearly 20 minutes before re-joining and landing right beside the caravan - a really good effort with no instruments.



Neville was very kindly looking after the books so duty pilot Toni T was able to put her rating from Omarama to good use to fly MP. She was able to manage a 24 minute flight and joined Rahul and me in a thermal near the prison. Clare D flew a nice circuit with me and then I took a keen young man from Herald Island for a trial flight. His father Peter Head is into aviation and was keen to introduce his son to the sport, assuring me he loves aerobatics and lots of G. We couldn't quite do the aeros but he seemed happy with a wingover and some steep turns. Last up for the day was Kazik again who is making good progress in handling the dreaded

aerotow - he managed all the way from just after take-off so he will soon be moving on to bigger things. All finished by 4pm after 12 flights for the day and then a wee chat around the caravan before heading for home. PS Peter Head flew with us a number of years ago. I have a picture of him with a huge grin on his face as they go inverted.

### **MICROAIR RADIO LCD DISPLAY** Derry Belcher writes

There is a switch on the Microair radio labelled LCD.

It is held down to cycle through the brightness of the display and takes about 10 seconds whereupon it starts again.

If the display is on maximum brightness and you flick the switch it will possibly go blank, or at least unreadable in sunlight and you may think the radio is kaput. Hold the switch down until the display returns.

All pilots rated to fly the gliders need to know how to operate the systems so a reference manual is needed.

There are no instructions for this radio in VF so will try and find the manual for the radio that could be kept in the caravan for reference. The info I have for the radio does not give instructions on operating this switch. Ideally both MP and VF should have their own copies.



### **TIME TO TAKE A BREATH**

We have had a series of small events over the past couple of weeks. Each of these in isolation would not cause much concern. However the pattern of a series of small incidents have caused those with experience in such matters to wonder if this will follow an all too familiar path and lead to a bigger event. We hope not but we believe it is timely to step back, take a figurative breath, and be a lot more careful in the coming weeks.

There are many things we all can do. Perhaps the most effective method of taking this figurative breath is to make sure everyone is aware of what needs to be done and everyone understands their role in the evolution. If you are not sure then ask someone who does know.

Take towing a glider from the hangar out to the launch point. Make sure we all know who is in charge, that someone reasonably experienced is driving the tractor, the wing runner knows what to do. The wing runner understands he or she is responsible for steering the glider. The tail wheel dolly has been removed once out on the strip. The tractor driver drives gently and at walking pace and is constantly monitoring the glider and the wing runners for the entire tow.

Take it slowly and carefully, think through the job, make sure all involved know their role and keep it safe.

### **UPCOMING DATES**

27 Jan to 10 Feb 18 NZ MultiClass Nationals - Matamata

17th to 24th February 18 Central Districts Competition at Waipukurau

## Duty Roster For Jan, Feb, Mar 2018

Month	Date	Duty Pilot	Instructor	Tow Pilot	Notes
Jan	20	S HAY	S WALLACE	J WAGNER	
	21	T THOMPSON	P THORPE	F MCKENZIE	
Auckland Anniversary	27	R WHITBY	I WOODFIELD	R HEYNIKE	
	28	K BHASHYAM	R CARSWELL	C ROOK	
	29	R STRUYCK	L PAGE	D BELCHER	
Waitangi Weekend	3	S FOREMAN	I WOODFIELD	P THORPE	
	4	C DICKSON	L PAGE	G LAKE	
	6	B MOORE	R CARSWELL	R HEYNIKE	
	10	I O'KEEFE	R BURNS	J WAGNER	
	11	I BURR	R CARSWELL	C ROOK	
	17	T O'ROURKE	I WOODFIELD	F MCKENZIE	
	18	R BAGCHI	L PAGE	P THORPE	
	24	J POTE	S WALLACE	G LAKE	
	25	T PRENTICE	R BURNS	R HEYNIKE	
Mar	3	R WHITBY	I WOODFIELD	J WAGNER	
	4	C DICKSON	R BURNS	R CARSWELL	
	10	I BURR	P THORPE	D BELCHER	
	11	S HAY	R CARSWELL	C ROOK	
	17	T THOMPSON	S WALLACE	F MCKENZIE	
	18	S FOREMAN	L PAGE	D BELCHER	
	24	K BHASHYAM	I WOODFIELD	P THORPE	
	25	R STRUYCK	R BURNS	G LAKE	