



# Gliding

HAWKE'S BAY & WAIPUKURAU

Hastings Aerodrome  
1591 Maraekakaho Rd  
RD 5  
Hastings 4175  
Ph: 027 288 7522  
info@glidinghb.co.nz  
www.glidinghb.co.nz

## Gliding Hawkes Bay and Waipukurau Newsletter

### THE HEIGHT OF IMPOSSIBILITY

From Doug Honnor

Indeed, this actually can happen and such in aviation. One extreme instance as follows: ---

Back in the mid-1970s having just commenced my training and somewhat nervous and dubious whether had left this new gliding venture too late. However, on about my third launch in K-13, the instructor in control gave me the command to pull rope-release knob. --- Nothing happened! So I pulled it again --- and again, hard. Then we were both repeatedly tugging at it while the Pawnee tug kept on climbing. Then the vociferous instructor exclaimed "Ah- we have a problem", I thought this is an understatement! Then he carried out a strange procedure in endeavour to fly out alongside the tug and wave the wings. (By this time I was plain terrified) I learnt later this was signal to tell tug can't release. However, the pilot remained oblivious, kept climbing and approaching cloud base (maybe dreaming of getting more hours up) Meanwhile my instructor again trying release and with me making fervent promise that if this new-chum ever survives this onslaught, will never again leave mother-earth. It seemed like an age, but probably just some minutes, when -- Bingo, - rope departed, Whew!

The rest of the flight was completed uneventful other than me recovering in mild shock.

Must also stress that back then, we had no glider-tug radio communication. From memory, the power planes/tugs had VHF, but our gliders that had radio were on HF. Hence need for signals.

Also there was a large arrow laid out on the vector each day to warn other aircraft of active gliding operations.

Now once back on terra-firma there was much very serious ongoing investigation by the hierarchy, instructors, engineers etc.

Later, after lots of the release-assembly testing, it was reported to be in perfectly good order. Besides,

the K-13 was a lovely near new glider (KA) So what could have caused this mysterious event? Now further along the belly far from nose release there is situated an open-type hook called a bungee-hook. So the only prognosis is that somehow at release, the rope-rings must have flailed/whipped and strangled across the bungee-hook and while there was tension would remain secure. So eventually at some stage when the rope became slack, it simply fell away. When you look at the distance, configuration from nose hook to bungee, such event should be impossible. How on earth could such freak happen? No other such K-13 event ever happened in NZ and wonder if any overseas? -- doubtful. But as we say in aviation: -- "There is a first time for everything" .... *A good moral to remember.*

So the bungee hooks were cut off both our Club's K-13s. --- Sorted.

Now some of you may wonder about these hooks:

---

They were part of the manufacture at the time, where in various parts of the World, manual launching is popular and cheap. It needs a nice gentle slope into wind where a team run out a long bungee with its other end attached to the said hook. The glider is restrained with main wheel in a dip, so when tension reaches maximum, the wheel pops out of dip, glider rapidly twanged into the wind and slack attachment falls away. ---- Whoopee!! (check Google)

*Foot note: --- I broke my promise to stay on Mother-earth and was still flying gliders, several types and many places 35 years later. Also, that instructor is still amongst us! ----*

*Doug Honnor.*

## DUTY PILOT LIST

From John McConville

<b>Date</b>	<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Duty Pilot</b>	<b>Tow Pilot</b>	<b>Comments</b>
27-Nov	John McConville	Ryan Maney	Phil Gray	
4-Dec	Jason Kelly	Wayne Golding	Bruce Chambers	ATC Weekend
11-Dec	Richard Keir	Brian Malcolm	Neil Faulknor	HB in Omarama
18-Dec	Neil Faulknor	Mike Moloney	Mads Slivsgaard	HB in Omarama
25-Dec	James Foreman	Jason Price	Phil Gray	HB in Omarama <b>Consider Mon &amp; Tues</b>
1-Jan	Grant Jarden	Allie Thompson	Bruce Chambers	HB in Omarama <b>Consider Mon &amp; Tues</b>
8-Jan	John McConville	Ryan Maney	Neil Faulknor	HB in Omarama
15-Jan	Richard Keir	Wayne Golding	Mads Slivsgaard	HB in Omarama
22-Jan	Jason Kelly	Brian Malcolm	Phil Gray	
29-Jan	Neil Faulknor	Jason Price	Bruce Chambers	
5-Feb	Grant Jarden	Mike Moloney	Neil Faulknor	CDC Greytown
12-Feb	John McConville	Allie Thompson	Mads Slivsgaard	

## GLIDING IN THE RAIN

From Josh and Jason



Unfortunately, the photos aren't very clear as they were taken on a phone, you can see the cloud building up quickly. You must keep an eye out for this as it can catch you out very quickly

## SECRETARY REPORT

From Jason Kelly

Hi members

Spring has sprung (hopefully!) While there has not been a great deal of soaring activity recently, we should get some great soaring days as the weather improves.

If you are the rostered duty pilot, please ensure the list of duties in the caravan are completed and ask for any help required. All members need to work together to ensure the smooth operation of flying which is why we are with the club.

Please also check your tow account balance and ensure it is in credit.

The club is planning a blind circuit and spot landing competition soon and there are trophies to be won for both so make sure you take part.

The club will be officially 60 years old next year on 21st June so it is not too early to start thinking about how the club should mark this occasion.

If you have any suggestions on improving the club and its operations, please feel free to share them with the committee.

Remember also if any of your details change, e.g. mailing address, or are incorrect on the Membership List distributed (e-mail address, cell phone or phone number), please **advise me by e-mail** so the club membership and contact lists can be kept up to date.

Happy flying.

Jason Kelly  
Club Secretary

### NOTE:

Sorry for not getting this out earlier, I have been very busy with exams.

I hope everyone is well and are getting heaps of flying in! With the Christmas period coming very quickly, flying is being looked at for over the holidays. Just remember that HB and HN will be out of action for the Omarama YGNZ Camp from 6<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of December.

Don't forget to send me through any information you would like to have on the next newsletter so I will be able to put in.

Thanks,

Allie