

AGC Weekly News

Weekend Roster

Saturday

Tug Pilot: Andy Campbell
Winch driver: Keith Annabel
Instructors: David Moody,
Christian Derold
Duty Pilot: Lal Busher

Sunday

Tug Pilots: Wayne Thomas,
Ron Burr
Winch driver: Paul Castle
Instructors: Volunteers
Duty Pilot: Lance Feldwicke

Monday

Tug Pilot: Wayne Thomas
Winch driver: TBA
Instructors: TBA
Duty Pilot: TBA

Welcome to the New Members

We welcome the following members to the club: **Frank Excell, Angelie Madsen, Damian Smart and Rhys (Gareth) Meredith.** Please make yourselves at home and don't ever feel too shy to ask questions. Remember – there is no such

thing as a stupid question – so just ask. All glider pilots love talking about their sport and will be happy to talk to you on any aspects of gliding, or the club, its history and its procedures.

News from around the Committee Table

Ross Gaddes, Club Captain

As part of an ongoing decision by the committee, we are going to attempt to get a monthly article out with brief comments on what is happening at committee level in your club. It is acknowledged that sometimes we could do better at keeping the membership informed and this brief is no substitute for our minutes. This article is not as brief as I would like but I will endeavour to keep it simpler as we progress towards next season.

New Treasurer & Secretary

We have spent the last few months transferring the Treasurer job fully over to Keith Macy. Keith has approached this job with huge enthusiasm. We want to say that Graham did a fantastic job as the Treasurer and was instrumental in bringing our accounting system to something modern and current with today's demands. As an interim measure Simone has been very diligent in carrying on the really hard work Graham did, and Dion has also been putting in hours of work during this transition. In a way this has shown our President just how frustrating and time consuming the treasurer job can be. However, the possibility to improve and add to the Xero platform is huge and Keith intends to utilise this cloud-based system. His ideas include a better way to bill our members and make it easier to reconcile the payments against clients. Please be patient and expect to be invoiced if there is doubt to a

payment or a historic debt. We are trying to capture both historic and current amounts as on record – if we are incorrect, we apologise, but it is all to ensure the good financial health of the club going forward. This is the same for the bar tabs. These were getting more onerous for me to do in a timely analogue fashion, so I have utilised Xero's abilities to invoice and reconcile payments. Bar tabs are acceptable to Keith, but they will be reconciled and charged at the months end by Xero. So, in summary, please expect change as we try to further reduce the accounting workload and at the same time achieve even more accuracy and efficiency. It should also be noted that our Secretary is now Diane Edwards. Diane has lots to bring our committee and we welcome her to the team.

Glider Status

At this date (29/03/21) all gliders are airworthy and expecting to get flown during the Easter break. XY has a modern LX S100 vario in front and rear seats which compliment the same vario in BI and DX. XF's S7 vario is also very similar with some differences – however they are all glide computers with navigational abilities including GPS and Flarm inputs. Manuals can be found at <https://gliding.lxnav.com/lxdownloads/manuals/>. A laminated quick reference guide is also in each glider. A Flarm sourced from BI will be installed in

LW, hopefully by Easter. Peter Himmel is the appointed glider fleet co-ordinator - it is important that problems with the gliders are relayed through Peter (021 0768805) and put on the blackboard. This ensures that some control surrounds the glider maintenance and that we avoid the aircraft being unavailable.

Airfield Status

We are due for a working bee to carry out general maintenance. I will get a date sorted and advertise this as soon as I can. With losing Maurice Honey, who moved to the sunny North (Paihia), we also lost someone who achieved a huge amount on non-flying days, and as such, not noticed by many members. The amount of work to keep our field mowed and looking great, including around the hangars and clubhouse, cannot be understated. There has been a group of individual members who have been getting on the mower and ensuring the grass is kept down and the place looking acceptable. However, don't let that deter anyone from introducing themselves and getting a rating on the various tools we use to keep the place operable and tidy.

Ground Fleet

We have decommissioned one of the Fergusons and now use the Land Boss Utility ATV. This should increase safety and decrease running costs (as it is diesel). We need someone to take ownership of the glider trailers and ensure the WoF's and Registrations are current. This need not be too onerous and could be shared by having a member look after each trailer. Feel free to volunteer and do not be surprised to be

solicited for this job, so we can spread the load. Even better if you expect to be utilising the glider/trailer combination yourself next season.

ZK-CEB & Winches

The Pawnee has been very successful in providing reliable aerotowing for the season so far. We are a bit short on suitable tow pilots. However, in the most part everything has performed well with very little incident. Some credit must go to Wayne Thomas who is the current Chief Tow Pilot. CEB is receiving an important inspection requiring the wing struts to be removed this week but should be available before Easter. The committee have had several discussions about the longer-term use of CEB as the main tow option. However, there is nothing solid to report at this stage regarding aircraft options.

Paul Knight, Maurice Honey and John Baylis

Since I joined the AGC in 2002 Paul (who is now in Taupo), Maurice and John have been invaluable members and have always exceeded the call of duty with their contributions. Their input, if detailed, would fill these pages and it is sad that they have all moved away. But we cannot expect that level of input forever and we will always get by. It is very important that we show our gratitude them, and that the efforts many have made in ensuring we all enjoy this fantastic facility. When it suits, I also want Paul, John and Maurie to make sure they drop in as much as they can. I ask that we, as members, go out of our way to make them feel totally at home and welcome.

Jonker Sailplanes JS2 Revenant Flies for the First Time

Submitted by Russell Thorne

In this video, Uys Jonker gives a walk-around prior to test flying the new JS2 Revenant 18/21m glider at Potchefstroom, South Africa.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NzIq3JXIIHk&list=PLAS7FiExOGvgdVz7oFVEnva6OeYfPQCq>

Drone operations at Drury South over Easter

Submitted by Russell Thorne

A drone can be expected to operate over the subdivision just north and east of the Ramarama Interchange over the coming weekend.

Maximum altitude will be 400ft and gliding operations, although unlikely at this altitude, should avoid this area.

The contact is Rodney Pilbrow on 027 4979717.



X-ray time for our Pawnee CEB

Wayne Thomas

It's that time again for the six-yearly x-ray inspection of the Pawnee wing spars.

Thanks to Christian Derold for making his hanger space available for the work to completed. The x-rays are being carried out at Ardmore and hopefully with a pass, we'll be able to reinstall them on Thursday, for flying on the Easter weekend. Huge thanks to Steve Cronin and Ian Williams who have committed a lot of time to get this work completed for the club.

Also, for those-eagle eyed members, you would have noticed the windscreen is missing. Thanks to Steve again, who has taken the opportunity to install the new one that we had delivered from the States.

This is definitely not an easy or fast job!



For sale/wanted

Ventus 2a: S/N 10 Equipped with LX9050 with Flarm and control column unit. Maughmer winglets - Refinished in 2008. Imported ex USA - no major damage history. Dittel FSG71M com and Trig TT21 Mode S (ADS-B out capable). Aluminium top Cobra trailer, wing wheel, tail dolly and tow-out bar. Re wired with LiFePo4 batteries.

My partner Malcolm wishes to sell his share as he is no longer based in Auckland. I will either keep my 50% share or sell outright (#2 choice). This aircraft is one of the best performing gliders in 15mtr class yet is a delight to fly, even when tanked, and exceptionally easy to handle. They land short and rig in minutes. MY PARTNER IS VERY KEEN TO SELL HIS SHARE. Contact me - Ross Gaddes - for more details.

Gliders for sale: On the GNZ website there are at present no less than 10 single seat gliders being offered for sale – take your pick.

Thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition, especially the various committee members who have provided interesting details. If there is anything you would like to share with the members via this newsletter, text or photographs, please e-mail me. I will be grateful for any contributions, whatever they may be.

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