



OGC Captains Log ~ Full Moon 20th August 2024

The Omarama Gliding Club executive and members decided to elect their first ever Club Captain in mid-2024. They asked Rod Stuart if he would like this prestigious position, and he humbly accepted.

“I couldn’t possibly do any worse than the last guy!” What were they thinking? Why would they ask an old hang glider pilot to be OGC club captain? Who are ‘they’ and what are ‘they’ expecting of me?

I am still coming to grips with my appointment and duties, but rest assured I will do my best to help make the OGC a great club and Omarama a world class destination for glider pilots. Club president Alex Boyes gave me the following list to focus on as a starting point.

- ~ Better integration of youngsters into the club.
- ~ Improving Club communications.
- ~ Thanks to the local community and landowners for use of their airstrips.
- ~ Organizing work bees.
- ~ Expanding our profile with other New Zealand clubs and visiting pilots.

No doubt other duties and responsibilities will come my way. I see the OGC has not posted any monthly newsletters on the GNZ website since Nov 2020. I am hoping that my Captains Log published every full moon will become our newsletter going forward. Why the full moon, you ask? Because hang glider pilots know that the best flying is often around the dates of a full moon.

Introducing Rod Stuart?

Retired small businessman, mad inventor, electric car nut, hang glider pilot and now a glider pilot.

First entry in logbook: Aug 1980, Blanik L13 HV, Alexandra, Instructor Howard Hinton, 18 mins.

Last entry in logbook: Aug 2024, Gob102 MQ, Springfield, 24 mins.

First solo: July 2000, Twin Astir PR, Wigram, 13 mins.

Most memorable flight: Dec 2023, Duo Discus OD, Omarama, Instructor G Dale, Cook and back, 2 hrs 21 mins.

Currently an active member of OGC and CGC. 210 flights, 119 hours total airtime, 18 solo.

This is my third attempt at completing my glider pilot’s license. I hope to gain my XCP rating this summer.

I recently purchased my first glider, a Hornet 206, registration GJK and am planning to test fly it in Oct 2024.

I live in Kirwee with my wife Marney, and we have a small crib in the Omarama township, a place we both love and visit often. For over 40 years I have enjoyed flying hang gliders in the mountains around Omarama. I now feel very privileged to be learning how to glide in this world class mountain flying destination.

Omarama Organizations in a nutshell:

Understanding the organizational structure in Omarama takes time! The following is my best attempt to explain how it all works as simply as possible. I may not have it 100% correct so please let me know if I need to correct, add or remove anything important.

The Omarama Airfield was the vision of **Billy Walker**. Around 1990 he and a group of other gliding enthusiasts saw Omarama as an ideal place to hold the 1995 World Gliding Championships.

Omarama Airfield Ltd (OAL) was formed, 50% owned by the **Waitaki District Council** and 50 % owned by the **Omarama Soaring Centre (OSC)**. The OSC comprises of all the South Island Gliding Clubs and the Wellington Gliding Club. There are four directors of OAL. Currently our directors are **Clive Geddes** and **Terry Jones**. The Omarama Airfield was established with an enormous 2km long runway facing directly East West. Over time a terminal building, camping ground, chalets and several hangars have been built. The Gliding Worlds were a great success, and the Country Time Hotel was used for many of the functions during this event.

OAL leases land for the various hangars, buildings, camping ground and chalets. They charge landing fees, supply avgas, maintain the grass runway, campground and surrounds. The terminal building is partly leased to the **Omarama Gliding Club (OGC)** who use an office and a briefing room. The famous Omarama 10am morning briefings are held in this terminal building. Visiting power pilots and other airfield users often use this space too. OAL also leases out the building currently used by the Pink Glider Café. The three glider hangars are set up as three separate hangar companies. Pilots own their space and pay an annual body corporate fee to a hangar company. OAL is also responsible for subdividing and selling the sections opposite the campground. The Omarama Soaring Centre (OSC) has the responsibility of running the camping ground and leases for the independently owned chalets. This year the camping ground will have a part time caretaker/cleaner. From 13th to 15th September, we are trimming the camping ground trees. This is a BIG job! Anybody from any club or associated with the Gliding Camp are welcome to help out.

The Omarama Gliding Club and its people:

The (OGC) run the Omarama Airfield Operations (SOP) and I feel this is a very logical role for our club since we are the only club with members residing in Omarama or nearby towns. All visiting pilots are urged to contact the OGC and attend morning briefings when flying in Omarama. Our local tow plane, Fatman (OMA) is privately owned but operated by the OGC. We also have a close relationship with Youth Glide and use their Sky Launch winch as a reliable and cost effective launch alternative.

Gavin Wrigley (Griz) is our CFI, and he has done an amazing job keeping the club on track and flying for the last two years. We all love his weekly emails. Griz tells me we may see a new CFI in training next year.

Brian Sharpe is our club administrator and has been employed by the club to set up systems and promote Omarama as one of the World's finest mountain clubs. He is back for a second season.

Brian Savage and **Kelvyn Flavall** are currently refining the 'Omarama App'. (OA). This is a valuable resource where you can record flight times, find useful information and load flight following while flying in Omarama.

Alex Boyes is our president. He is based in Queenstown and a very personable and capable leader.

Neil Erwin and **Yvonne Loader** make up our accounts team. Neil has assured me we made a respectable profit last year and that we now need another good year to consolidate.

Phil Plane is our local engineer and looks after the OGC fleet of gliders. Currently a Discus b (ZS), two Duo Discus (UO) and (OD) and a Twin Astir (OR). Through Youth glide we have access to another Twin Astir (TU) and a Grob 102 (ND). Through the South Canterbury Club, we have use of an LS4 (MU). Total = 7 gliders.

Peter Turvey plays an important role in club communications.

Youth Glide has its home base in Omarama. **Roger Reid**, **Graham Erikson** and their team run an amazing training program for youth from all over New Zealand. Many have gone on to become valuable club members. This year we will have two university clubs joining in the fun.

Instructors: The OGC has several overseas instructors staying in camp to run training courses this summer. Local instructors and senior pilots are also available to help you. A big thank you to **Malcolm Wright**, **Dan McCormac**, **Phil Penny** and many others.

If I have missed any important people here, that was not my intention, sorry.



WAVE BAR

Where pilots meet

When I first accepted the position of Club Captain, I did some thinking and realized that The OGC does not have a club room as such. The last two years Griz has encouraged after flying socializing in the terminal building. I am currently working on creating the Wave Bar. Here are a few ideas: Omarama Gliding Club home base. Can be used by all aviation folk visiting Omarama Airfield. A relaxing place to meet and greet. Several small zones encouraging conversation. A leaner bar with stools facing the runway and mountains. We are looking at using a glider wing! Self-help and self-serve kitchen. Cold filtered water on tap. Ability to boil water for hot drinks. Refrigerated cabinet for drinks. Coffee machine. Dish washer. Glassware and kitchenware to serve 100. Promote outside BBQ area for snack cook ups. Let OSC and OAL know our intentions. Ensure the area is cleaned regularly. Keep it simple, well designed and low cost. Self-funding ~ users deposit min \$10 into a bank account to start. All funds are used to improve the Wave Bar. Give good ideas a go. Select a team to make the Wave Bar soar!



Captain Rod Stuart in his shed testing out his 'wing bar' idea using GKJ

4.

Commercial Operators:

There are now two commercial operators in Omarama keeping busy giving tourists a first class taste of the beautiful Southern Alps in a glider.

Kahu Soaring owned by Milan Kmetovics ~ <https://kahusoaring.nz/>

Glide Queenstown owned by Angus Tapper ~ <https://glidequeenstown.com/>

Canterbury Gliding Club (CGC): The CGC traditionally travel to Omarama for their annual summer camp around the Christmas and New Year period. Many members of the Canterbury club helped create the Omarama Airfield and camp and love their holidays in Omarama. Several CGC members own chalets, camp or have caravans stored permanently in Omarama. The OGC welcomes our Canterbury friends each year. A time for socializing, family activities and gliding all in one place. This season there are also pilots from North Island clubs visiting. There may also be a small group of hang glider pilots staying in camp from the 5th Jan 2025 attending a local competition. So, please make all our visitors welcome and enjoy mixing it up socially. The camp BBQ area and the Wave Bar are sure to be popular places.

On Tuesday 20th August Marney and I will travel to Omarama to deliver 'Oscar Rabbit' (OR) from the CGC to the OGC. A full moon and a fitting way to start my job as OGC Club Captain.

Until the next full moon.

May all your flying dreams come true!

Happy Landings

Rod

rod.tropicool@gmail.com

Links:

Check out our website: <https://www.omarama.com/>

Check out our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Omarama.gliding>

Check out our Airfield Calendar: <https://www.omarama.com/general-8> Here you will find flying weeks, course dates and competition dates. SI Regionals are 16th ~ 23rd Nov and the Nationals are 2nd ~ 11th Jan

Join our WhatsApp group: Omarama Gliding Club ~ All current members can add others to this group. Text your first name to Rod 0274344822 ~ ask and I will join you. Please keep your posts and pics on topic.