



OGC Captains Log ~ Full Moon 18th September 2024

Omarama Chainsaw Massacre!

Who would have thought that in a serene and peaceful mountain village like Omarama lurks a fervid chainsaw wielding lumberjack! The Omarama Soaring Centre had declared war on the towering poplar trees around the Gliding Camp. It was a damp, dark and gloomy Saturday afternoon in Omarama. The thermometer was hovering around zero with the odd snowflake floating down amongst the roar of chain saws and petrol powered mulchers. High up in a basket at the end of a tele lifter boom glider pilots Neal and Peter were trimming branches. Power lines on one side of them and chalets on the other. Totally safe, what could possibly go wrong? Craig, Aaron and Rod were unloading a trailer load of fire wood for a couple of poor old pensioners in Black Peak Road, when the town alarm started sounding.

Craig said "I hope no one has fallen out of a tree!"

When we got back, the camp was alive with flashing lights. First responders, fire brigade and an ambulance were in attendance. The first responders were gathered around the kitchen with Neal getting a bandage applied to his right arm. The first responders asked Neal how he was feeling.

He replied: "Like a bloody idiot!"

At that point we all knew Neal was OK. He had survived a chainsaw massacre!

I interviewed Peter Turvey today and asked: "what exactly went down in the cage 8m above us?"

Peters reply:

Fiction version: "I thought Neil was not working hard enough, so I took a swipe at his throat with my chain saw. He put his hand up to defend himself and I got him!"

Fact version: "We shouldn't have been doing it! I finished a cut, and the branch was falling, Neal tried to deflect it and contacted my chain saw. It all happened very fast!"

Neal took a trip to Timaru for 20 odd stitches. Peter then drove to Timaru to collect him and they got to bed at 1:30am. Neal helped out on the last day with reduced capacity ~ well done man!

But seriously, the Omarama Soaring Centre tree topping event was very productive, grueling and enjoyable all at once. A true example of how a team can work in harmony and get a BIG job done! Everyone found something to do topping trees, collecting mountains of firewood, mulching the 'slash' or catering for the lumberjacks. We all worked hard for three days straight. On the first day it was bitterly cold and snowing. Craig asked us to make a start, do our best and come into the kitchen if you get cold. We made great progress and started a huge pile of firewood in the trailer park. A post was put in 'Omarama Shenanigans', the towns local Facebook page... "Free Firewood" The locals soon started coming to collect our wood and I am sure this has created a lot of good will in the community.

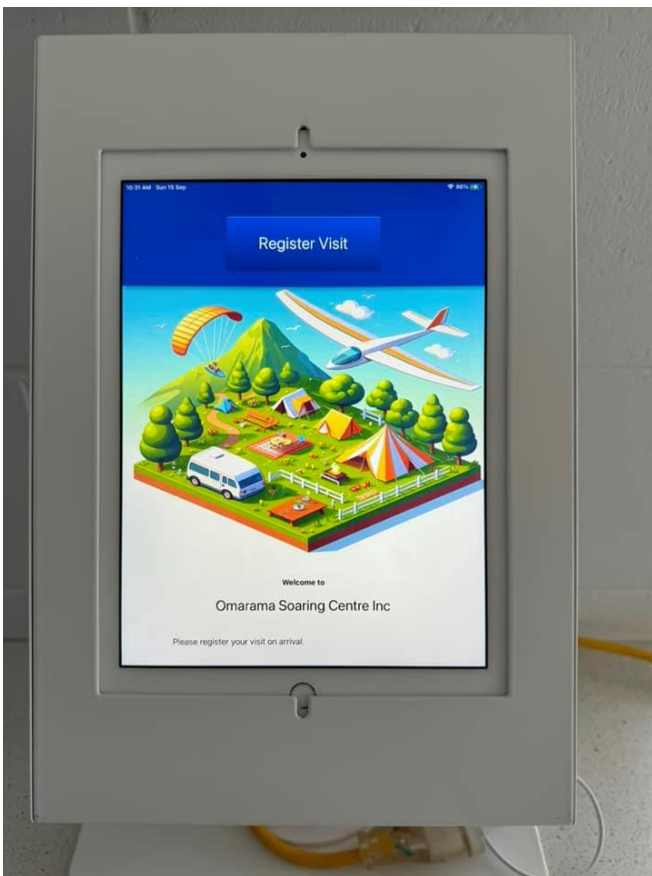
2.

A BIG thank you to: Jan Buckland, Craig Keenan, Aaron Clapham, Warren Dickinson, Nigel Davis, Rod Stuart, Wendy Delore, Abbey Delore, Neal Allison, Neil Irwin, Karen Morgan, Terry Jones, Brian Sharpe, JR, Paul Mashall, Marney Holthouse, Mike Epton, Peter Turvey, John Smith, Hadleigh Bognuda, Tony Collins. Apologies if I have missed anybody.

I will let the pictures tell the rest of this story:
Photo Credits to Wendy, Abby, Tony and Rod









Events coming up this month:

Youth Glide: 28 Sep to 1 Oct

OGC Start Week: 14Oct to 18Oct

A great way to get current for the summer. Instructors available. Do you need a BFR?
Please book a club glider if you intend flying.

[Click here to view the OGC planner](#)

Youth Glide: 26 Oct to 28 Oct (Labour Weekend)

Potluck Wednesdays:

During the tree topping exercise, I got a first-class taste of how incredibly well equipped the OSC Gliding Camp kitchen is. Brian has asked that I promote '**Potluck Wednesdays**'. Which were a huge success last summer. These are open to any gliding folk regardless of where they are staying in Omarama. Simply supply or create a dish in the camp kitchen and join in on the fun. I am told the meals and atmosphere are amazing. Potluck Wednesdays will start during start week with the first one on 16 Oct.

OGC Planning Meeting:

This week I attended an OGC planning meeting in the terminal building.

Brian, Griz, Pam, Milan, Terry, Andrew, Phil and Rod were present.

The following subjects were discussed:

~ Daily OPS: Briefing and End Day Report.

~ Information for visiting pilots.

~ Mountain Soaring Course.

~ Competition Course.

~ Duty Instructor duties.

~ Launch Point Controller duties.

I won't go into detail but rest assured there is a lot going on in the background to ensure a successful season of world class gliding in Omarama.

The much anticipated OGC Survey Results are here: <https://omarama.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=58021945133c04f456fef550d&id=dfc053c307&e=4b59b5c711>

Link to Last Full Moon Captains Log in case you missed it:

<https://gliding.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/OGCAug24.pdf>

New Camp Booking System: There is now a tablet in the camp kitchen to register your stay. It is easy to use. You will be sent an email and pay online. Paperless and cashless. A pic of the tablet is above.

Good luck to Griz who goes in for a double knee operation soon. Terry will be CFI until Griz is back on his feet.

One Glider Flight: I saw Angus flying his Arcus this week ~ great to see some aviation in all the snow!

Happy Landings

Rod

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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.

Download The Omarama App: Now available for Apple users

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