



OGC Captains Log ~ Full Moon 18th October 2024

A lot can happen between full moons and this lunar month has been no exception!

I have just got back from OGC start week and am a little late with this newsletter. But how cool was the full moon on 18th October! Next full moon will be a 'super moon' on 16th November.

OGC Start Week 14th to 18th October:

And what a week it was! For three years in a row now the OGC start week has heralded the start of the gliding season in Omarama. It is a time when the snow retreats and sun warms the McKenzie Basin. Thermals strengthen and fluffy white clouds gather above the mountain tops. The westerly winds build creating ridge lift and wave.

It is a time when gliders are rigged, test flights are made, caravans are pulled out, annuals completed, BFRs done, and friendships rekindled.

The 10am morning briefings started with acting CFI Terry Jones at the helm. Milan did a good job with the weather and some nice flying was had. Brian Sharpe's winter of planning was set into action and the summer soaring season was off to a fantastic start.

For five days in a row the winch was operated by Phil Plane and Peter Turvey. They also drove the cable retrieve vehicle. Aerotows were done using the Fatman OMA with tow pilots Rob and Angus. Keith Essex's Carbon Cub saw some action too. Welcome home Keith and Marju!

And a very warm welcome to our new instructor Michael Kapp from Germany. He can't believe how cold it is in the mornings in Omarama (Hovering around zero most mornings). I had the privilege of being his first student. He is awesome to fly with ~ more on that below. Our president Alex Boyes turned up after a relaxing Greek holiday. He had three flights in GOD to get his winch rating up to speed. Brian Savage, Justin Wills, Kelvin Flavell, Mark Squire and several others all flew during the week.

Milan and G Dale had several flights in DD and FF (Felicia). Angus was flying his self-launch Arcus. Our commercial operator members are looking forward to a busy season ahead.

Even Grizz was seen at the airfield several times sporting his new knees without crutches!

And Wednesday night potluck dinners at the camp kitchen started with a high standard ~ yum!

Heros of the week:

Peter Turvey and Phil Plane: winch operations for 5 days straight.

Brian Sharpe: Launch control.

Terry Jones: CFI for the week.

Grizz: for standing!



Hot tubs and Omarama Gliding Camp



Omarama township from the air



Après Flying in the Terminal

What is winching like?

With a light Southerly coming up the valley there was not much lift over the airfield. Those getting away were hugging Cuthbert. I was scratching my head wondering how best to progress my XCP rating. With only 19 hours solo I am hungry for more and then moving into flying my Hornet 206. The aero tow rates have gone up again in Omarama and launching with the Sky Launch Winch has become a very economical option. Brian rang and asked if I would like to be Michael Kapps first student on the winch. At that point I realized getting up to speed and going solo on the winch was my goal for the week. Michael and I had a total of 6 flights together over two days in Duo Discus GOD. He was very patient and on the last three flights Michael had no control input on the launch or landing. I gave him a fly for a while and when he lost lift, I heard “Shiza!” from the back seat! On day three Terry Jones and I fitted a new tube in Oscar Rabbit’s front wheel and towed him out to launch. Terry said I can go solo when he is happy with my flying. I did a nice first flight and felt sure he would send me solo, but no! One more please and at 500 feet ‘BANG!’ ~ he pulled the yellow knob! A nice rollover and a decision to land ahead earned me Terry’s trust and my next flight was solo! I had a perfect launch, caught some light lift over lower Buscot followed by a nice landing. What a blast! Michael took some videos of my launch and landing on one flight in GOD. They give a very interesting perspective of a winch launch. I have loaded them to my ‘highflyrod’ YouTube channel. Check them out in the links below.



Launch:



Landing:

Where is the Wave Bar?

We are currently waiting for permission from Omarama Airfield Ltd. Clive Geddes says that once the sections sell some money will be available to give the Terminal Building a makeover. The OGC, OSC and OAL will meet in early November within the terminal building to discuss future plans. In the meantime, we have asked if we can give the Wave Bar idea a trial for this season. The wing and 10 comfortable bar stools are in Omarama, so fingers crossed we have a positive outcome. It is sure to be popular during the Regionals in November and the Nationals in January 2025.

Captains Log will be posted as a link in Grizz’s weekly “What’s happening in Omarama” email now. I hope this finds you ready for a superb summer of gliding in Omarama.

Happy Landings

Rod Stuart

OGC Club Captain

rod.tropicool@gmail.com

REMINDER: The Omarama Gliding Club Annual General Meeting is being held on Sunday 27th October starting 8pm in the Terminal Building. Please make an effort to attend, there is plenty to discuss.

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 ~ 16th to 23rd Nov 2024

Nationals ~ 2nd to 11th Jan 2025

Join our club 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.

Get our weekly email newsletter: <https://www.pilots.omaramaairfield.nz/Pilots/OmaramaMailing>

Download the Omarama App: Search for Omarama App in Google Play or Apple App Store



The Skylaunch Winch is a weapon!



Phil Plane in the OGC Hangar



Felex's caravan has power!



Potluck dinner in the camp kitchen