



OGC Captains Log ~ Full Moon 14th January 2025

Easterly conditions have made flying quite different in Omarama this summer. 09 has been the dominant take off and landing direction. The normal strong westerlies have been almost nonexistent! The south and east facing ridges have been working. To the west we have experienced great cloud bases and reliable thermals with outrageous convergence on the West Coast. The flats of the Mackenzie Basin have been often working reliably. There has even been Easterly wave setting up! Kelvyn took these pictures flying in easterly waves a week before Christmas.



Looking up the Two Thumbs



Easterly wave over the Hunter Hills

For the last two weeks there has been so much good flying around Omarama. Perfect flying conditions for the NZ Gliding Nationals competitors, visiting pilots holidaying in Omarama, student pilots and Youth Glide.

2025 Gliding Nationals:

And what a huge success they were with 7 tasks flown over a possible 9 days. The flying was superb, the task setting was perfect and there were no accidents or injuries. Thank you to Director Bob Henderson, tow pilots, grid workers, score keepers, task setters, organizers, family, friends, support crew and most of all the competitors for making these nationals a spectacular success.

8 pilots flew in Open Class

10 pilots flew in Racing Class

7 Pilots flew in Whio Glide. (more on the Blue Duck competition below)

Congratulations to the overall place getters!

Open:

1st Dane Dickinson

2nd Michael Oakley

3rd Nick Oakley

Racing:

1st Alexander & Dale

2nd Davy & Wallace

3rd John Smith

Open Unhandicapped:

1st Michael Oakley

2nd Dane Dickinson

3rd Nick Oakley

Link to results:

https://www.soaringspot.com/en_gb/new-zealand-national-multi-class-gliding-championships-2025/

I have posted quite a few fun pictures taken during the nationals on the OGC Facebook page.

Here is a link to our fb page ~ check out my posts: <https://www.facebook.com/Omarama.gliding>

Below are a few of my favorite pictures:



Gavins cub makes a perfect sun umbrella while we wait for the thermals to kick off.



John Smith ~ 'Make America Glide Again'



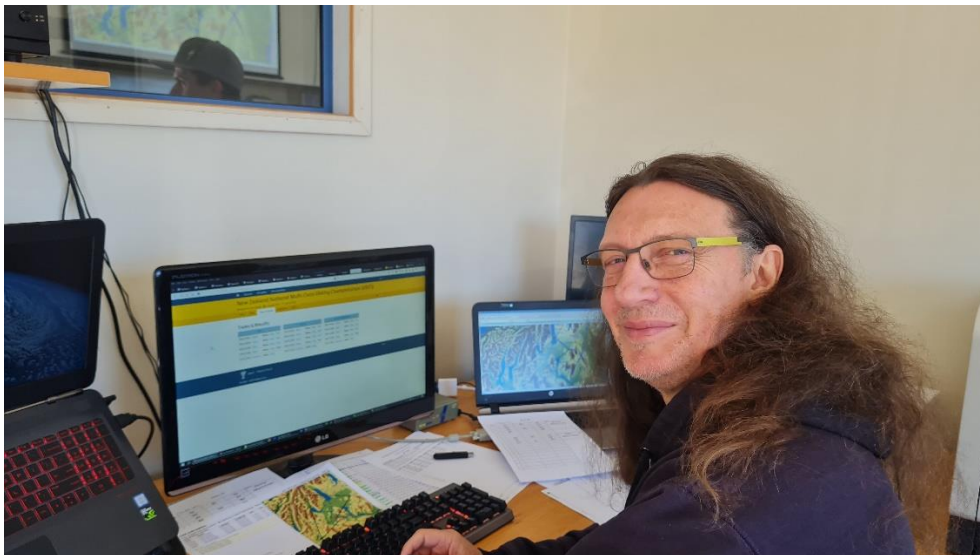
Benni and Solomon from the CGC who brought a DG1001, an LS4 and a Dynamic tow plane to OA.



Phil and Dave, our visiting instructors from England ~ top men!



The Oakley girls watch their grandfather flying in Open Class.



Lex ~ score keeper extraordinaire



Pam and Brian in the OGC office. They call themselves 'doers' ~ doer one and doer two.
Thank you for all you do 'doers'.

Whio Glide:

Thank you Phil Plane for an amazing initiative to introduce budding pilots to flying competitively in the Omarama area. The Whio is our native NZ blue duck and Phil has named his little competition after this beautiful bird.

Phils description:

Designed to introduce pilots to contest flying in the Omarama area. Tasks are designed to be safe and fun. The tasks will be set so that they can be flown within easy glide of well-known airstrips. This allows new or visiting pilots to easily learn around ten land out airstrips to cover the whole contest area. The task will be set each suitable thermal day before 9am.

Here is a link to Whio glide: <https://whioglide.nz/index.html>



When a competitor completes their first Whio Glide task they are given a blue rubber duck. I managed to complete a 100km task on 5th Jan and was so proud to receive my blue duck.

Link to Whio Glide Entries with their IGC files: https://whioglide.nz/list_logs.html

If you click on Rod Stuarts IGC file a map comes up and after a while a little blue duck flies the task and quacks at each turn point. So utterly cool to watch!



Phil Plane ~ the mastermind behind Whio Glide.

OGC Hangars and Gliders:

Some wise words and common sense from our maintenance engineer Phil Plane.

Hangar doors

- Numbered near the inside edge, and matching numbers are on the upper support rails.
- Meet directly under the roof beams.
- Please return to their correct positions after the gliders are removed from the hangars.
- Always close when not needed.
- Avoid slamming the doors together as this can damage the latches and pins.

Gliders go in the hangars

- Carefully.
- On the marks.
- Water ballast dumped.
- No tail dollies.
- South wing down.

Before flying

- Canopy cleaned with clean water and clean microfiber cloth, inside and out.
- Dust wiped off wings if required.
- Batteries checked and installed.
- Spot tracker turned on and tracking started.
- Replace wing tape if it is detached or split.

Tow Out

- Tail dolly, wing walker and drawbar attached carefully.
- Tow at walking pace.
- Maintain constant lookout for wingtip clearance and tow out equipment coming loose.

After flying

- Leading edges wiped clear of bugs.
- Batteries removed and put on chargers.
- DI book updated with flight time and launches.
- Spot tracker turned off.

Always use clean water to wash the glider.

Throw out dirty water immediately when finished cleaning.

Do not leave buckets of dirty water in the hangar.

Only use clean clothes to clean the canopy.

Do not leave cleaning clothes in buckets.



Ensure the door numbers match the support rail numbers and meet aligned with the roof beams.

Flying Santa Lolly Scramble:

An old tradition held during the Omarama Soaring Center Christmas camp. Gavin Wills flies his cub in front of the kids and Santa drops lollies on the runway. The kids then run out and collect them. Too much fun!

Here is a link to a short YouTube video of a lolly drop:

<https://youtu.be/vcFBZj2YeVQ>



Bella Fisher (5) is excited to meet flying Santa (George Wills) at Omarama Airfield.

That's all from me until the next full moon due on 14th February (Valentines Day!)

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.

Check out the OGC Planner: [Click here to view the OGC planner](#) See when club gliders are available. You can book on our website or simply text Brian Sharpe on 0272481780.

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

