



OGC Captains Log ~ Full Moon 11th June 2025



Brian at the OGC club dinner at Ohau Lodge April 2025

Farewell Brian:

I bet they serve cold Guinness up there at 6pm!
In a little bar looking out on a gliding airfield with mountains as far as the eye can see.
We will all miss your smiling face, your enthusiasm and your wit, Brian.
You have become the father of a new way of doing things in Omarama.
Manager of the Omarama Gliding Club for two seasons.
You put your heart and soul into the job and created a legacy.
The seeds you have sown and the ideas you have put in place will live on.
We owe it to you to continue the beautiful work you started.
Creating a world class mountain gliding club.

“Have a great day on the airfield in the sky!”

We love you Brian ❤️



Brian in The OGC office sporting our club shirt ~ always smiling. :-)

From President Alex Boyes:

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Brian Sharpe.

Brian served as our club manager in Omarama for the past two years, bringing incredible passion and dedication to gliding and our Omarama operations.

Throughout his tenure, he worked closely with the executive committee to help reform and shape our club's vision and future direction.

Brian's tireless efforts to improve and grow our sport and strengthen our club will be gratefully remembered. His commitment to excellence and his enthusiasm for gliding touched all who worked alongside him.

He will be deeply missed by our entire gliding community.

A memorial service for Brian will be held in Hawke's Bay in the coming months. We will keep members informed of the specific details as they become available.

Our thoughts are with Brian's family and friends during this difficult time.

Alex Boyes
President

New OGC Subscription:

By now most of us will have received an invoice for annual subscriptions and yes it is a shocker \$! We were given a heads up by email and at a special meeting in Omarama held at Anzac weekend. I asked our president **Alex Boyes** to write a few words to explain why it is necessary and how the volunteer discount works.

Here are Alex's words 5th June 2025:

"The club didn't take the decision to increase membership fees lightly, but these changes are designed to deliver the enhanced services that members have been asking for - improving staffing and guaranteed tow operations that will make Omarama an even better place to fly. The brilliant thing about the new structure is that it puts the choice firmly in your hands: if you're willing to contribute six days of volunteer work throughout the season, you'll enjoy a fantastic 50% discount on your next membership, bringing it down to just \$520. Whether that's helping with winch operations, ground support, maintenance, or any number of other vital club activities, your effort directly translates into significant savings while helping build the strong, reliable operation we all want. It's an approach that rewards those who put time and energy into the club whilst ensuring we can provide the top-quality, seven-day service.

It's worth recognising that OGC members and the club do a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes to make the airfield function smoothly for everyone. To ensure fairness and help cover the costs of this ongoing effort, non-OGC members will also be charged a service fee when they fly at Omarama. This creates a level playing field between the membership fees our members pay and ensures that all pilots using our excellent facilities contribute appropriately to maintaining the high standards that make Omarama such a special place to fly."

An Idea from your Captain: Introduction of daily Duty Pilot:

Most clubs have a daily duty pilot and next season the OGC is introducing this important volunteer role. Duty pilots responsibilities are still being finalised but you will know clearly what is expected of you. A roster will be displayed in the OGC office. Please write your name down on a date you can be duty pilot.

Here are a few examples of what is expected of you:

- ~ Be at the grid with a hand held radio and hi viz vest well before the first tow.
- ~ Attach the tow rope and run wings as required.
- ~ Assist with time keeping as required.
- ~ Keep a situational awareness of air traffic at all times.
- ~ Be prepared to make radio calls in the interest of safety.
- ~ Work together with the winch launch point controller.
- ~ Ensure all pilots are accounted for at the end of each day.
- ~ You may fly at the end of the grid but please ask someone else to do end of day duty.
- ~ Being duty pilot will give you one day volunteer discount.

What's been going on in Omarama?:

Griz is currently in England visiting his 103 year old Mum and trying to round up a summer crew for next season. We decided to put the weekly emails on hold for winter and make do with the Captains Log for a few months. A big thank you to **Griz** who has faithfully kept us informed with his weekly emails. Sometimes short and sometimes long, we always look out for his words of wisdom, useful information and expected flying.

The **Omarama Gliding Club WhatsApp group** is well worth joining if you plan on flying during the winter. Any current member can join others to the group. We try to keep it friendly and on subject. If a tow plane is available you will find out on this group. Useful contacts and phone numbers are displayed at the OGC office. Go on! Take the plunge and give social media a go ~ WhatsApp is quite safe and easy to use.

4.

Youth Glide honour the King:

The youth glide members of the OGC had a very successful Kings birthday weekend with 40 winch flights. Many made it into wave. A few keen adult members also took a one minute winch to 2000' above the ground!



Many flights ended up in wave which conveniently set up right in front of The Buscot



The Aoraki Mt Cook milk run was on again in lovely wave. ~ Pics by **John Smith** 1 June 2025

Charlies Angels:

A group of youth pilots calling themselves 'Charlies Angels' will be crewing the Youth Glide Skylaunch winch during the busy months this season in Omarama. Climb 2000' in one minute and release into mountains of lift! I have chatted with Charlie and Amy and they have promised to give all the details for a future issue of the Captains Log.



“Let Charlies Angels winch you into the skies above Omarama”
Charlie and Amy discussing their business plans on a chaise lounge.

Te Toroa Gliding Club:

The news is out: A new gliding club has been proposed in Omarama. To date there are mixed feelings about the forming of this new club. It would reduce the OGC membership quite a bit. Some are trying to understand why further segregation would be beneficial. Costs for administration and airfield infrastructure are better shared. The new club is not a foregone conclusion, as they will need to apply for and receive GNZ approval to operate. They will also need to obtain an agreement from Omarama Airfield Ltd to operate.

Regardless of what the outcome is from this proposal I am sure most OGC members see Youth Glide as a very valuable part of our club. YG offers many benefits to OGC club members through winch use; glider hire and instructing. The OGC wants youth members to feel part of our club, to be more involved in club activities and be part of the Omarama gliding scene. Youth Glide brings a refreshing age balance to our club.

Perhaps a well thought out memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the OGC and Te Toroa Gliding can be put in place. With a few changes to operations and more understanding we can surely learn to live together happily ever after. Let's think this one through and make the best possible decision.



OMA:

Our club executives have agreed to go ahead and buy OMA. Some club funds will be used, and a loan has been applied for by the Umbrella Trust. This is a big step for our club and gives us awesome launch security.



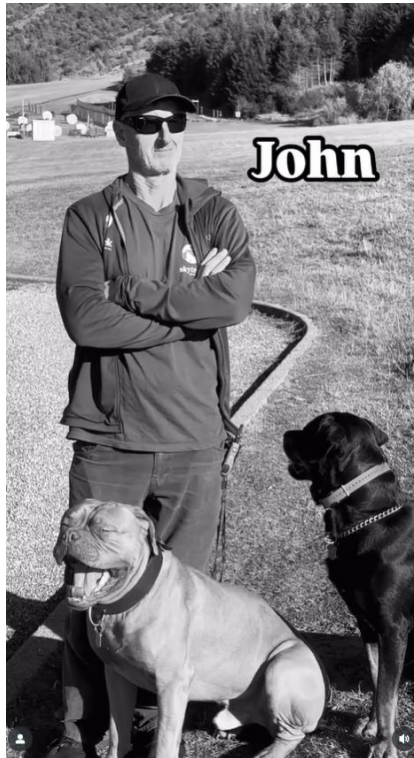
CNC:

But wait... there's more! We have the availability of a second tow plane this season for when it gets busy. This from **Nigel Davy**: "Soaring Equipment Ltd has just bought CNC and can lease it to the OGC as previously done with OMA. CNC has just come out of a full recovering and repaint and is the first Pawnee in NZ with the latest spar mod AD completed and it's got a 260 hp 0540 Lycoming the same as OMA". There are now 17 pilots listed on the insurance for both planes and it looks likely that there will be a full-time tow pilot in the mix. We are planning for 7-day operations this season. How cool!

A cabinet reshuffle:

A big thank you to **Yvonne Loader** for being OGC secretary for many years. Your long service, sharp attitude and dedication to service is noticed and appreciated. No doubt more accolades will come your way. And a big thank you to **Neil Irwin** for being OGC treasurer for many years. You have kept good focus on club accounts and given us confidence to take some bold steps. OR and OMA to name two. Well done! Yet to be confirmed: **Sheena Naughton** as our new secretary and **Karen Morgan** as our new treasurer. **Terry Jones** has been assigned Maintenance Coordinator, taking over from **Nigel Davy**. And just to keep it interesting, Your Captain **Rod Stuart** has recently been accepted onto the club executive. And it is no secret that **Nigel Davy** is destined to be elected as GNZ President this coming weekend. Well done Alex for holding it all together through some big changes!

Who is John Teddy Smith?



Smile Winston! 😊

John with his French Mastiff Winston and Rottweiler Jabba

In September 2022 a black V8 Audi with low profile tires burbled and scraped its way across the east end of runway 27 in Omarama. A big rottweiler was drooling out the back window with a focused looking man in dark glasses driving.

Roger Read asked:

“Who’s that?!”

The man pulled up, stepped out and said:

“Hi, I’m **John Smith** and I’ve come to do some gliding”

Andrew Colby replied:

“Quick, hold him upside down and see how much money drops out!”

John had three winch flights that day with **Malcolm Wright** as instructor and fell in love! ❤️ (with gliding)

A brief history of John’s flying career:

John has been a hang gliding and paragliding instructor and tandem pilot for most of his working life. During the late 1990s John became very accomplished at speed gliding. A sport where you fly at full speed down a hill through gates and around pylons. John was ranked No1 in the world for a couple of years. He represented NZ several times overseas. He came 2nd in the World Speed Gliding Champs in 2000 and 1st in the Red Bull Speed Run in Austria. John was NZ Hang Gliding champion 4 years in a row from 2015 to 2018 and has been on the podium many other times too.

John currently works for Skytrek Tandems <https://www.skytrek.co.nz/> and flies both hang gliders and paragliders. Skytrek is Part115 certified and at the peak of summer employs up to 35 people. Tandem pilots own their own equipment and contract fly for Skytrek. On a good day pilots can make respectable money. On windy days when tandem flying is cancelled you will usually find John flying his LS3 in wave at Omarama.

8.

When did you start flying Gliders?

South Canterbury in Nov 1997. I only had 19 flights. A man only has so much time and money ~ hang gliding was more affordable for me at the time. I started again in Omarama in Sep 2022 and gained my XCP after two years. Competing in the SI Regionals and the NZ Nationals I was very happy with my performance. I was grateful to receive the MtCook Air Services Best Individual Performance SI Pilot trophy. I now have logged a total of 331 hours gliding and love it!

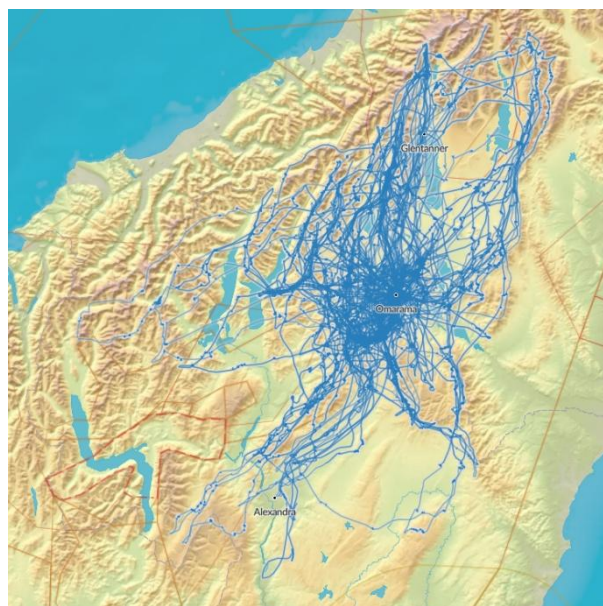


I know you have used Condor a lot ~ how has this helped?

I am sure it has been beneficial to my progress. It has allowed me to experience local terrain in a glider and adjust to the large performance differences from a hang glider. I think the simulation is excellent. Combined with my hang gliding and paragliding experience, Condor is a powerful tool.

We Glide:

John uploads most of his flights to Weglide. He points out that many use Online Contest (OLC). He regularly uses Weglide to analyze his flights and study other people's flights. It shows where the lines of lift are and what places work in different conditions. I like trying to understand why other pilots make decisions during a task.



A Weglide map showing 17,343kms of flying John has done in Omarama over the last year and a half!

Goals for the Future?

I want to “Master the Craft” and become one with the machine.

Do the best I can to explore the South Island and fly longer, faster and further.

I love competitions, they are the best way to progress skills quickly.

I would love to fly at Springfield and Nelson Lakes next season. A trip to the North Island in the future too.



John from Cromwell competing in the NZ Gliding Nationals at Omarama.
Watching on is Pete Helliwell ~ current NZ Hang Gliding Champion.

Closing Statements:

Gliding is a wonderful learning experience, and I can see this will continue for many years into the future.

My Hang Gliding and paragliding friends now notice my new found joy and excitement.

Hang gliding has always been a source for new glider pilots.

No doubt many hang glider and paraglider pilots will join the ranks in the future.

Question: If there was a Zombie Apocalypse, who in the team would survive the longest?

Answer: <https://www.instagram.com/skytrektandems/reel/DGr3rkdpK82/> (Instagram file)

I will leave the last words to Brian Sharpe

Happy Landings

Rod Stuart

Captain

A last message from Brian:

ANZAC weekend 2025:

“I hope that the OGC will find a peaceful path into the future, and I very much hope that next weekend will mark the beginning of that journey ~ too much amazing talent in the room for that not to happen providing everyone listens to everyone else.”

Brian Sharpe



Brian's 81st Birthday in Omarama 29th June 2024

Links:

Email: flying@omarama.com

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

Check out our Facebook Page and 'follow': <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.

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

