



OGC Captain's Log Full Moon 5th December 2025



Merry Christmas!



The Dunstan Wave taken by Kelvyn Flavall 14th November 2025
Looking North from a point somewhere south of Alexandra. He spotted Santa!

The South Island Gliding Championships:

The SI Regionals is a well established and popular gliding competition held at Omarama each year. This year 20 pilots took part from 15th to 22nd November. A total of 5 days were flown with only 3 tasks scored. The two days before the competition produced some excellent wave days and most pilots enjoyed some awesome air and long distance flights.

Richard Johnston did a great job directing the competition holding lively morning briefings at 10am each day. Captain Rod Stuart gave out model aircraft and spitfire badges to acknowledge the many helpful people involved and a few crazy acts like landing out!

Task one was slow and low scoring with many not completing the tasks. Grae Harrison won Open Class and Roland van der Wal won Racing Class.

A nice try at holding task two on day two but it was too stable! Racing class took off first and gave it their best, but all soon landed back without starting. Open class was held on the ground and then cancelled. Quite a few decided to fly anyway, and some had nice flights, especially the motor gliders. It turned into a very social and fun afternoon on runway 09.

For three days the weather did not play ball. A lot of extra curricular activities took place and a comment from one of the NI pilots summed these days up. "This is the most relaxing and enjoyable competition I have ever attended despite the lack of flying". The new Glider Café is a real asset to the Airfield and enjoyed by all. An awesome potluck dinner was held at the camp kitchen one night. A good number of pilots flew after the competition pilots. One day I counted over 30 gliders on the grid. Phil did set a few Whio Glide tasks and Peter Turvey completed one.

An epic day in the skies for task two was held on the 20th Nov. Grae Harrison held onto 1st place in Open Class and Terry Jones moved into 1st place for Racing Class. The total scores remained close for both classes! A successful task three was held on the 21st Nov. Another wave day with a three-hour task set covering 400kms. Take off at Omarama with turn points at Tarras, Mt Cook, Two Thumbs Range, Stone Man near Danseys Pass and landing back in Omarama. Open class day winner Derek Kraak covered this distance at an average speed of 138kms/hr.

A gallant attempt at a fourth task was attempted on the last day. Everyone flew but the conditions were tough, and not enough people covered enough distance to make it a scorable day. Hero of the day was Roland for completing the Racing Class task! The results stayed the same as the day before.

Here are the overall winners of the South Island Gliding Championships:

Open Class:

1st Derek Kraak

2nd Equal: Max Stevens and Grae Harrison

Racing Class:

1st Terry Jones

2nd Wes McIver

3rd Davy & Sly

A lively prize giving was held at the Glider Cafe with excellent food, and a jolly time was had by all. The famous 'gravy boats' were given out to acknowledge glider crews and a solid number of youth competitors. Thank you to everyone that helped make this such a cool competition.

If any of you wish to study the results in detail, then please check out Soaring Spot on this link:

https://www.soaringspot.com/en_gb/south-island-gliding-championships-2025/

Many thanks to Lex McPhail for being our score keeper.

Pictures by Reece Fisher:

Reece took lots of awesome pictures during the SI Regionals. Below are few of my favorites.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, here are 80,000 words! Can you find yourself?

Please click on this link from our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1HCu7giwUf/>

Thank you for your effort, Reece!



Ben, Taylor, Tuulianna, Charlie, Amy and Brayden



Peter and Terry

4.



Nigel, Max, Nigel Maxey, Brian and Grae. (No typo!)



Taylor, Tuulianna, Maju, Keith, Kelvyn and Hugh.



Tuulianna, Charlie, Taylor, Terry, and Karen

5.



Shem landing XYX Thank you to the Canterbury Club for helping with tows.



Charlie, Richard, Tony, Griz, Karen, Andy, and George.



Peter Turvey

6.



Warren, Amy, Tony and Grae



Neil on wing, Wes launching, Charlie on tow hook.



Prize giving at Glider Cafe

7.



The Glider café rocks!



Roland cleaning up the silverware



Grae and Max second equal!

8.



Derek won Open Class



Terry won Racing Class



Jenny from the Glider Café presents Charlie with free coffee!



The runway flower people ~ Phil, Terry and Neil

New Glider Booking Calendar:

A new glider booking calendar has been introduced. Log into the members area on our website:

<https://www.omarama.com/> . and then click on Glider Booking Calendar.

<https://www.pilots.omaramaairfield.nz/Bookings2/GliderBookingCalendar>

- 1. Browse Availability:** Use the calendar to view available gliders and time slots.
- 2. Request a Booking:** Click on the 'glider booking' green box and complete the booking form.
- 3. Approval Process:** Your booking will be marked as "Pending" until approved by an office manager.
- 4. Manage Your Bookings:** Use the 'My Bookings' section to view, modify, or cancel your reservations.

I recently used this booking system and can assure you that it does work. A quick call to Charlie, our manager is well worth it to find out more detail about what is happening with bookings and instructor availability.

Random HEX codes:

Omarama Airfield Limited use your glider unique HEX code to determine who to invoice for tows. They recommend that all your tracking instruments on board all use the same code. Recently a flight over Omarama was noted with 9 different HEX codes. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen, and Rudolph. The owner of this 'aircraft' has been asked to land immediately and unload all their freight at the Omarama Airfield terminal building!

Christmas wishes and all the best for the New Year to Everyone!

As 2025 draws to an end we can reflect on the year gone by and be grateful for all the good things that have happened. The OGC is so lucky to fly at one of the best mountain gliding sites in the world. We are a small club that looks after all our members and hosts many visiting pilots from New Zealand and the overseas. We work closely with Omarama Airfield Ltd and the Omarama Soaring Centre to create a unique experience for everyone that visits Omarama. There has been a lot of change this season and many people are putting in a lot of work in to make these changes worthwhile. 2026 promises to be a settling year where gliding in Omarama reaches a newfound peace. It is in all our interests to work towards building a safe and fun environment where everyone enjoys "A great day on the airfield!"

Happy landings

Rod Stuart

OGC Club Captain

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PS: In next Month's Captain's Log I intend attempting a 30th anniversary edition of 'Forty Five South', the official newsletter of the World Gliding Championships held in Omarama January 1995.

Links:

Email: flying@omarama.com

Omarama Gliding Club: <https://www.omarama.com/>

Omarama Airfield: <https://www.omaramaairfield.co.nz/> **NEW!**

Gliding New Zealand: <https://gliding.co.nz/> and <https://gliding.net.nz/>

Whio Glide: <https://whioglide.nz/>

Omarama Airfield Calendar: <https://www.omarama.com/general-8>

Here you will find flying weeks, course dates and competition dates.

OGC Glider Booking: <https://www.pilots.omaramaairfield.nz/Bookings2/GliderBookingCalendar>

Omarama Gliding Club Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Omarama.gliding>

WhatsApp group: Omarama Gliding Club. Current members can add others.

Please keep your posts and pics on topic and friendly, Admin.

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



Reece tries ND for size.