



FLYWIGHT



NEWSLETTER OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING CLUB (www.flywight.co.uk)

JUNE 2008

The 2008 Club Committee

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Spend more time in the air & less on the road!!

You might have read in the April Skywings about a service called 3jam - it's a free SMS text messaging service with a "reply all" facility. The Dover & Folkestone Club have developed it as a free group alert service. Any member of the "group" can send a message for the cost of a single text to all members of the group. So if you're out flying you can let everyone else know with a single message. Alternatively, if you're thinking of going flying you can send a message asking if anyone in the group is out and where's the best place to go.

Apart from getting messages saying it's flyable when you're stuck at work (!!)

there don't seem to be any drawbacks to the service. You don't get hit with SMS adverts and for the time being it's free. Usage should be strictly limited to sharing information about flying conditions and not be used for personal jokes or winding each other up - the last thing most people want is an inbox full of nonsense!! If you don't want to get the messages there are options to exit the service temporarily and then opt back in later.

The main benefit of the service is the immediacy of the information - you can make decisions about going (or not) based on real-time information that is being received by all members of the group. No more wasted journeys!!

Club member Mark Luscombe has set up an initial Island Group on 3jam. **If you're interested in joining the group drop him an email on mark@plumjam.co.uk**

PARKING AT CHILLERTON

The farmer has complained to the Club about pilots driving through his field to reach the parking area in the chalk pit at the end of the track. Whilst parking at the pit is ok, you **SHOULD NOT** drive through the field to access the parking area - you **MUST** stick to the main track all the way to the gate leading into the chalk pit. The farmer receives a grant to leave an uncultivated strip at the edge of the field to encourage wildlife. The Club has a good relationship with the farmer and we don't want to jeopardise use of this site. **PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH THE FIELD** - either stick to the main track or park at the entrance to the track as indicated in the Site Guide.

HELMET STICKERS

- STICK 'EM ON!!

Just a little reminder - having gone to the lavish expense of issuing helmet stickers to Club members it seems that some of you are reluctant to use them. Go on - live life on the edge -they're in funky colours so stick 'em on!!

If you have any suggestions for articles for future editions of FlyWight or, better still, can be coerced into writing something, please contact John Bentley (07970 009642) or email johnbentley765@btinternet.com

PADDY'S TIPS *(Should that be tipsy? - Ed)*

Some flying tips from our Club Coach - Paddy Court...

Mid-summer is nearly upon us and, as per usual (!) it's been a disappointing year for flying so far. Here are a few tips to make the most of the summer :

- Get to the hill early - this often pays off !!
- Keep a pair of binoculars in the car if only to see who's flying at the next hill.
- Have a bottle of water in your harness. You need to stay hydrated when flying and keep that brain sharp. It also helps for that walk back up the hill after that one "pop and drop" flight!
- Keep some spare batteries with you for your vario, camera, etc
- Having got to the hill early formulate a flight plan. It maybe to practice side landings, fly to Calbourne or getting dragged through the gorse. Try not to fly around too aimlessly - just trying to get high is cool but change the plan from time-to-time. Challenge yourself!
- Put any valuables in a zippered pocket. Lose those car keys and you could have a long walk home.
- On a good day it's great to have no other commitments that day so get rid of the wife *, kids and job by breakfast
- Back to the car. Make sure you listen to some great music on the way to the hill as this often runs through your mind all the time you are flying. It will really ruin your day if The Birdy Song is the last thing you hear as you drive to take-off! **
- Don't give up on the day because conditions are too strong or light when you get to the hill. Sure, it may get worse, but it will often get better. I've scored some great flights on the Island after other pilots have left for home.

And a final thought - pilots show good judgement as a result of much experience and much experience is gained as a result of poor judgement (*Zen or wot - Ed*)

* Yes - I know this is sexist and, try as I might, impossible!

** It's the wife's tape - honest!

Accident protocols

There have been some changes in the way fatal flying accidents are investigated. This is now done directly by the Air Accidents Investigation Bureau (AAIB) and not through a BHPA Board of Inquiry. If you witness a fatal or potentially fatal accident you **must** report it immediately to the AAIB on 01252 512299. If you witness a serious but non-fatal accident you should report it immediately to the BHPA on 0116 261 1322. Finally, if you witness a less serious accident or incident, please fill in a BHPA Incident Form and send it to the BHPA as soon as possible -forms can be downloaded from the BHPA website. For all accidents and incidents you should also let Mike Rouse (Club Safety Officer) know - there is a form in your Site Guide. If you are in any doubt as to whether or not an accident has been reported - do it anyway!! Don't assume someone else has done it. Most importantly - fly safe....

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...

- **CLUB SOCIAL - 8pm, June 6th** at the Countryman Pub in Brighstone. Paddy will be giving a talk on "Clouds & Cloud Identification."
PS. Club Social's are held on the first Friday of each month.
- **SOLSTICE CUP - June 21st / 22nd**
Contact Butterfly Paragliding for further details (tel. 01983 731611 or email butterfly@paraglide.uk.com)
- **CLUB SUMMER BBQ - June 28th**
(7pm onwards) at Compton Farm. Bring a beer, burger and guitar for a mellow time. (It's got to be drier than last year!)

SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER

Thanks to those that have paid and a reminder to those of you that haven't quite got around to it. Membership fees for 2008 are as follows :

Full member : £30

Full Member (under 21 / over 60) : £15

Associate Member (for mainland residents) : £15

Temporary Member (valid for 1 month) : £10

Cash or cheques please (payable to IWHGPC) to : John Bentley, 28 Denmark Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 7SZ. If any of your personal details (address, email, etc) have changed please let me know - membership forms can be downloaded from the Club website (www.flywight.co.uk)

Homegrown Festival returns...

The Homegrown Festival returns on September 12-14 to the gorgeous hills of mid-Wales. Offering late summer flying, rocking music, talks and seminars, orgasmic food, a Tipi field, trade tent and lots of activities for the children.... where else would you want to be (apart from the Isle of Wight)?!!

The first Homegrown Festival took place in the hills of mid-Wales in September 2006 when over 800 families and flyers gathered at Fforest Fields. There were talks by world champion Bruce Goldsmith, Louise Crandal on flying with eagles, John Silvester on his Himalayan adventure, and flying seminars by Jocky Sanderson, Bob Drury, Mike Campbell-Jones and others. Acro shows, balloon flights, towing and paramotor displays filled the skies.

The 2008 event will again be compered by Jocky Sanderson and the organisers aim to have some of the most interesting people in the sport coming to give talks and show films, plus of course a legendary music line-up. There will also be a chance to test fly the latest gliders from all the UK's leading paragliding, hang gliding and paramotoring brands. The festival site is situated a 15 minute walk below Aberedw Ridge, a fantastic, massive flat-topped hill that takes three wind directions. The three-day festival opens on Friday 12 September at 12:00noon, and tickets will include camping on Friday and Saturday nights. Check out the web site for further details about ticket sales, etc. (www.homegrownfestival.com).

ANYONE SEEN BARNEY??

Next time you're flying at Afton or the Wights why not drop in on Barney at the Freshwater golf course and say "hi - is it true you've given up flying for golf?

....and then run like hell 'cos the chances are you'll have a 2 iron flying in your direction!...

Next newsletter : we give Barney a right of reply.....hear the real reasons!!

Club Coaches - it's free!!

The Club is keen to improve the coaching network on the Island - this is particularly important in developing the skills and confidence of new and occasional pilots.

If you would like to attend a BHPA Coaching Course the Club will pay the course fee for you to attend. Yes - absolutely free!! You'll have to pay for your own beers, though!!

Contact Paddy Court for info (Tel. 760882)

XC Magazine

Have a look at the new on line XC magazine - it's in a faster, slicker, more user friendly format which is super fast and much simpler to use. All the latest paragliding news from around the world. (www.xcmag.com).

My fave video clips of the moment...

Not that I'm a saddo with nothing better to do than spend endless hours on the internet...well, ok maybe I am, but have a look at these anyway!

Rollover jump off a bridge in France

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBJGa3mzHtl>

Paramotor doing death spirals

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYhYkrQ18_Y

Extreme Alpine speed flying

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=TuetDfQ-1nY>

FLYING IN NEW ZEALAND WITH ELEVATION PARAGLIDING

The beautiful alpine resort of Queenstown and its surrounding mountains have tremendous potential for cross country flying or just spectacular flying within the area. Enjoy a fun, relaxed atmosphere with experienced instructors, who will take you to some of the most stunning sites in New Zealand. Tours are organized from November to April, when flying conditions are at their best. We will pick you up from Queenstown International Airport. Queenstown will be our base for the 14-day tour. We will spend most of our time thermaling and soaring in the Queenstown area, over the southern lakes. The views over Wakatipu basin are overwhelming.

Pilots of all levels can enjoy this tour. We have experienced instructors who will be looking after you and picking the best sites for the day. Our tour guides are all instructors, with years of experience at all of the sites. This tour is not just for pilots, if you have a friend or partner who does not fly, don't worry, we can fly them tandem for the tour. With one of our friendly tandem pilots it is the same price and no experience is necessary. If you don't want to fly every day, we can arrange other activities. Queenstown is rightly known as the Adventure Capital of the world. Check out www.itag.co.nz. Each tour is limited to 14 pilots. Reserve your spot on the tour while spaces are available. Special tours for smaller groups can be arranged at any time. If you don't want to bring your own paraglider we have gear for hire, or we have gear for sale and we can have a brand new paraglider or harness waiting for you when you arrive.

Price: NZ\$ 4000 (Approx £800 per week). Includes accommodation, most meals, transfers and some side trips. Doesn't include flights, kit hire, insurance, drinks and the occasional meal out.

For further details contact Keith Clapson, who teaches with High Adventure - Keith worked with Elevation Paragliding last winter and can provide further information and arrange bookings. Contact Keith on 07793 818875 or email keith.clapson@btinternet.com

NEWS FROM BUTTERFLY PARAGLIDING

MANTIS

We are very excited at Butterfly Paragliding, about the recent arrival of our Airgate Mantis paramotor unit from the Czech Republic. It has a unique, patented, articulation linkage which allows the pilot to recline in the harness, just like on a paraglider. With ordinary PPG geometry there is a distinct feeling of being sat up and pushed along - the laid back Mantis allows proper weight shift paragliding flight. Remember those light days on the hill when you can see active air up high but there is no way to connect with it? Now there is a way! Call up or call round to check out the Mantis.

WINCHING

Our winch launch capability is up and running nicely now. In addition to tow conversions, club flying and ab-initio training we will also be training our BHPA PPG pilots using the tow as a first introduction to flat field take off and circuit planning.

EQUIPMENT

For new kit enquiries our pricing policy remains: We match any genuine offer you can show us, like for like, any brand. We will price-match if we possibly can. For instance, we offer Gradient wings, like the Avax xc2 which is making all the headlines just now, and you won't find one cheaper on the net or in Europe! We also have a number of used harnesses and wings for sale in the school which may be of interest as the strong euro pushes prices up.

TRIPS

We have a trip to Italy pencilled in for September/October, with a manoeuvres safety clinic section at Lake Garda. If the weather goes bad on the Island in the early summer (like it did last year) we might well grab the opportunity and zip off down there for a quickie. Any IW pilots interested in gentle, progressive skills and experience development, please let us know on 01983 731611 so we can organize it fast if needs be. Prices will be industry standard as usual.

FREE TIBET

I will give away, free of charge, a string of small Tibetan prayer flags to any IW pilot who asks. The flags are intended to be strung out in the breeze and they remain there until they are worn out. They are not made in China. They do flutter when the wind blows... like a windsock but nicer...

Meteorology for Pilots

Fed up wading through complex text books? Well, have a look at this new powerpoint self-learning training package now available to Club members at a discount. Developed by Brian Essex a qualified flying and meteorology instructor and examiner with 10,000 hours flying experience, the CD aims to give a practical understanding of the principles of meteorology. The CD contains 10 lessons and over 560 animated slides covering atmosphere, cloud formation, weather fronts, wind theory, jet streams, turbulence, wind shear, thunderstorms, etc. Normally retailing for £15 the CD is available to Club members for £12 plus £1 p&p. To order simply email iowstratus@gmail.com (annotating your email "Met...Simply for pilots" and including your address). For more information visit www.weatherbuff.webs.com.

You know you're a paraglider pilot when...

...the smell of bug spray, horse manure & sheep shit makes you think of paragliding...

...you analyze every flag you see in terms of it's too windy/not too windy to fly...

...you have no idea what else is happening at the weekends in your neck of the woods...

...your favourite TV show is the weather forecast...

FLYING IN AUSTRIA

Mayrhofen Experience have contacted the Club offering Club members a 5% discount on Summer Paragliding holidays in the Austrian Alps. The Zillertal boasts superior flying conditions to many other areas in Europe. In partnership with Kelly Farina, GB paragliding squad member, Haus Luxus is able to offer great deals on accommodation and flying courses in Mayrhofen, Austria.

Paragliding courses:

X-Country Course €560 for course, plus an extra 5% discount on accommodation.

Thermal Course - 520 for course, plus an extra 5% discount on accommodation.

Glacier Week - 560 for course, plus an extra 5% discount on accommodation.

Our privately run guest house, Haus Luxus, is situated in Mayrhofen, in the Heart of the Austrian Alps. We run the chalet on Bed & Breakfast or Half Board basis. The guest house can hold a maximum of 10 guests, with ample secure storage space for bikes. We also have a bike wash down point and maintenance area. Each bedroom has TV, DVD, Stereo with mp3 adapter. The lounge had TV, sky TV, DVD, Xbox, Apple PC, games and books. For further information contact Rob Blackwell or Mandii Weaver Tel. +(43) 05285 78465 or email enquiries@mayrhofen-experience.com. See the website as well www.mayrhofen-experience.com and www.activitychaletmayrhofen.com

THE X-LAKES!

The Cumbria Soaring Club is holding a new X-Lakes competition on July 4th - 6th. Inspired by local pilot Chris Scammell's mammoth bivi flight across the Alps in 2001, and the more recent X-Alps competitions, the X-Lakes will be a sprint version of the X-Alps - a flying, running and walking race around a 54km Lake District course. Starting from Keswick at 6am on Saturday July 5th, pilots will be routed around the Lake District on a triangular course. Taking off above Keswick, they will head south to the first turnpoint at Scafell Pike (at 3,206ft it is England's highest peak). Competitors will then turn east for the 3,116ft summit of Helvellyn before heading north for the final turnpoint of Skiddaw, standing over 3,000ft above Keswick. Pilots will then descend to the finishing line and the events base at Fitz Park in Keswick. The course is 54km as the crow flies, but the actual distance travelled will be nearer 70km and include around 16,000ft of ascent.

To walk the whole route would take around 22 hours based on Naismith's Rule [an hour for every three miles forward, plus half an hour for every 1,000ft of ascent]. To gain the turnpoints there will be endless possibilities for flying parts of the route, and the choice of walking options will be equally diverse. Competitors will be allowed 35 hours to complete the course, and there will be numerous prizes for various age groups and distances flown. The race will close at 5pm on Sunday July 6th. Minimum qualification is BHPA Pilot rating; the entry fee of £20 (£30 on the Friday) covers free camping at Fitz park and a route map. If you feel brave enough, or simply fancy a unique personal challenge in a beautiful area at your own pace, check out: www.cumbriasoaringclub.co.uk/events.