



# Scottish Airsports Club

## Latest News

Issue 12, March 2004



---

### Contents

Forthcoming Events  
**Page 1**

Welcome to our New Members  
**Page 2**

Resources Available  
**Page 3**

Coaching Course Report  
**Page 1**

Web Site Revamped  
**Page 2**

Fame At Last  
**Page 3**

---

### Forthcoming Events

#### 9th - 12th April - Easter

Let's hope for some good weather for the Easter weekend. Just remember that as part of the planning agreement, no flying is allowed on a Monday, although Sue's working to get that overturned.

#### The near future - coaching courses.

More coaching courses are planned to help the hang gliding members get further ratings. Let Donald know if you're interested.

#### April - new tug.

As soon as all the money has come in, we'll be going shopping for a new Tug. Following Scott's e-mail to the Aerotow membership, please ensure your subscriptions have been increased in time for the April payment and if you pledged money for the tug, please ensure this gets to Scott before the end of March. Thanks for your support of the club and come and get your money's worth by using our excellent facilities.

---

### Coaching Course Report

The recent BHPA coaching course held at Thornhill Community Centre on the 6 & 7th of March was a great success. Four Hang Glider Pilots from the club attended (Andy, Al, Scott and myself), and we were joined by around 20 paraglider pilots from all over Scotland. Although the course was primarily aimed at improving our skills for helping relative newcomers to the sport in the club environment, there was a lot of interesting and useful information to develop our own skills as pilots.

The course was run by Mark Dale and Dave Thompson, both from the B.H.P.A. and who were both excellent at putting the information across. Mark in particular had lots of cautionary tales of what not to do as a pilot or coach. His "Box of Death" was particularly sobering with many examples of hardware which had failed to do their job with tragic consequences. They included a very expensive but very poorly designed helmet, failed tow releases and a reserve parachute which exploded on opening. His advice was "Always assume that any piece of flying equipment has been designed by a complete idiot with your death as their primary objective".

As ever in a course of this sort, there were plenty of mnemonics to help you remember the material such as ALOT (Assess, Listen, Observe, Think) and SHITE (Student, Hairstyle, Instructor, Tools, Environment). OK maybe not Hairstyle.

Every course has at least one delinquent trouble maker, and this one was no exception with Al caught practicing his artistic skills when he should have been paying more attention to the course. The drawing of Donald and Andy caught in a compromising situation was felt unlikely to win a Turner award, but was clear enough thanks to the labels "Donald" and "Andy".

The one downside of the course was that the weather that weekend was perfect for flying. However it meant that the weekend was also a good opportunity to advertise the joys and benefits of hang glider aerotowing to our well-meaning but misguided paraglider friends. They were all able to watch in envy as Rob released from tow 2000 feet over and directly above the Community Centre just as we were all coming out for a coffee break. Some of them came down to the airfield after the course, and one took a dual tow with Al (and loved it!). Hopefully this may lead to more new members in the not too distant future.

All in all it was an enjoyable, interesting and informative course. Thanks to Donald and Cliff Smith for helping to organise it and to Mark and Dave for running it.

---

## Welcome to our New Microlight Members

With the opening of our fabulous new hangar, the number of microlight members has increased significantly. New members include Richard Cook, Les Johnston, Scott MacMillan, Leon Kirk, Colin MacKenzie and Chris and Russell Upsall. Sincere apologies for any other new members I've missed out.

We'd all very much like to welcome all the new members to the Scottish Airsports Club. Although this club encompasses the separate Scottish Aerotow Club, the airsports club is very much a club for all users of the Thornhill airfield, and many of us hang glider pilots are also qualified microlight pilots. This newsletter is intended to cover the entire membership. If it seems a little biased towards hang gliding, it's simply because I'm primarily a hang glider pilot. I would very much welcome news, articles, information or whatever from the microlight members for input into the newsletter. I get bugger all from the hang glider pilots so hopefully you guys can do better.

By the way Andy, where is your article on your epic XC in Lanzarote? Did it really happen, or was it dreamed up in your imagination during the taxi ride you took after bombing out just behind take off?

Please send any material for the newsletter to myself at: [allan@allanphillips.co.uk](mailto:allan@allanphillips.co.uk).

---

## Web site Revamped

The Scottish Airsports Club website has been revamped to make it a bit more up-to-date. Seek it out at [www.scottishairsports.com](http://www.scottishairsports.com). Once again I welcome any material, suggestions or comments.

---

## Resources Available

I have a number of Hang Gliding resources available which I'm more than happy to lend out to people. These include:

### Hang Gliding DVDs:

- Starting Hang Gliding
- Speed Gliding: Tear Up the Skies
- Hang Gliding Extreme

**Hang Gliding Videos:**

Born to Fly

**Books:**

The BHPA Pilot Handbook  
Towing Aloft

**Other:**

Promotional CD for South African Microlight Safaris

Just get in contact if you want to borrow any of them.

---

## Fame At Last

They say everyone gets 15 minutes of fame. Well I've clocked up about 2 seconds so far. Aerotow.com have put a couple of short promotional videos on their website ([www.aerotow.com](http://www.aerotow.com)). One's of their opening week in 2003, and the other's promoting their Demo Camp in June 2004, (but also shot during their opening week in 2003). Anyway Yours Truly is in both of them. Unfortunately it's the same clip each time, taken from behind as I pop up out of the trolley on take-off flying the Icaro Relax, and lasts around 2 seconds. There is one other shot of me in the background as another glider takes off, but my own mother would be hard pushed to pick me out. Oh well, better than nothing.

By the way, what are the boys at Aerotow.com playing at? It's already nearly Easter and as at 19th March there is NOTHING on their website about 2004 except for the video which hints at this Demo Camp. Even then, all it tells you is that it will be somewhere in France sometime in June. Get your act together lads. I wish them all the best, but if it's going to be a success they need to get it all planned out and advertised much earlier than this. By now most people have got at least the first half of the summer planned out. I'd love to go but I'll be in Whitby in June. Super.

---

Scottish Airsports Club, Easter Poldar Farm, Thornhill, Stirling, FK8 3QT  
[www.scottishairsports.com](http://www.scottishairsports.com)