



Scottish Airsports Club

Latest News

Issue 23, April 2005



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Forthcoming Events

Richard Meredith-Hardy on his flight over Everest, Monday 25th April 6.30pm

Definitely not to be missed! Hear from the man himself at the Dominion Cinema in Edinburgh all about his amazing expedition to fly over Everest while towing a hang glider. Tickets priced £7 from the Dominion Box office on (0131) 447 4771.

Celtic Cup trip to Iceland 19th - 26th June

This year the annual Celtic Cup (an informal hang gliding competition) is being held in Iceland and several of us are planning to go. Let Andy know a.s.a.p. if you're interested. £200 for return flights including free carriage of hang gliders (nicely negotiated by Andy!)

Aberdeen Club trip

We're planning to go up to Aberdeen and fly some of their many sites this summer. Details to follow.

Sand dune soaring

We're also planning to find some nice coastal sand dunes, probably at Gullane sands and go low-level soaring. This should be great fun and also give the sport some good PR. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter for more info.

FLPA expedition

Another event on the planner is an FLPA expedition to Strathaven airfield from Thornhill, cleverly avoiding all the controlled airspace on the way. As will the other events, details will be published once we've picked a date etc.

Tugs Update

Both our 912 and XL tugs are now signed off and fully permitted ready to fly, Richard Cook did some of the flight tests. We also discovered that the 912 has never been signed off as a tug and was being flown in an uncertified configuration with the rear hang point drilled slightly too far back. That's all been fixed now with Simon Jeffrey from Perth fitting a new keel and re-doing the flight tests.

A great deal of work has gone into our two tugs, especially the 912, which has been resprayed, powder coated, stripped down, rebuilt etc etc so that it's now in pristine condition, fully permitted and properly set up for towing. We need to give a very big thank-you to Big Al and Ross for all their time and effort over the winter - they've done a brilliant job. At last it's now fully up and running for the new season.

We do of course also have a very reliable and serviceable backup in the form of the trusty old XL, which has performed well over the last few weekends towing while the finishing touches were applied to the Quantum. There are not many clubs in the enviable position we are in, two tugs, with a wonderful airstrip and hanger in the perfect setting.

So once again a big thank you to Ross and Al and get your backsides down to the club and get flying!



Ross hard at work.



Nearly finished, and it looks like new!

Hang Glider For Sale

Amour 159, very good condition. 66 hours, yellow leading edge, red underside. C & AJ front opening harness and large Harley chute, vario, etc. £650 the lot. Retiring very sadly due to advanced arthritis.

Contact Arthur on:
01250 874 533
arthurlo1137@aol.com

BBC Scotland at Thornhill

BBC Scotland are planning to come to Thornhill some time this summer to do a feature on hang gliding for a Gaelic children's program. Allan Huntly will be taking their female presenter for a dual aerotow flight, and Gordon Ross will be ensuring that all the camera angles are covered. These minority groups get all the best programs!

We Have a New QFI

Congratulations to Richard Cook, who recently gained his Qualified Flying Instructor rating. If you want to learn to fly microlights, you know who to contact! You just need to get your Hang Gliding Instructor rating now, Richard!

New Glider On Its Way!

Congratulations to Tim who has recently bought a brand new U2 glider directly from Wallaby Ranch in the U.S.A. Tim decided not to go through the UK dealer Chris Dawes, since his customer service has been very poor in the past. The cheque has been cashed, so the glider should hopefully be making its way across the pond in the next few weeks. In the meantime you'll just have to be patient Tim. Still, you were wise to change - that Disco Fever glider of yours has way too much performance for you to handle!



The Wills Wing U2, appearing soon at Thornhill!

Website Updates

A few new photos have been added to the website, including a couple of Tim moments before crashing his Doodlebug! (No injury to pilot, thankfully!)

Sand Dune Soaring at Gullane

I recently paid a visit to Gullane (east of Edinburgh, on the way to North Berwick) to check out the suitability of the sand dunes for soaring with a hang glider. You can see the dunes in the photos below, very suitable for a bit of fun with a hang glider in a North Westerly. The dunes curve round and would take anything from just North of Westerly to just West of Northerly. There's easy access from the free public car park, and there are public toilets if the excitement gets too much for you. The new online weather station on the East of Scotland Microlights website (www.eosm.co.uk) should give us a good idea of whether the conditions are likely to be suitable before we make the trip. Due to the weather requirements, this trip is likely to be organised at very short notice, but should be great fun, and may well be something we repeat if it's successful.



Gullane dunes looking North



Gullane dunes looking West.

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