



Scottish Airsports Club

Latest News

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Forthcoming Events

Scottish Aerotow Club Open Competition 19th - 21st August 2005

The Scottish Aerotow Club will be holding an Open Competition on the weekend of 20th-21st August 2005, with a practice/familiarisation day on Friday 19th August. For non aerotow rated pilots we may be flying from some of the local hills in addition to towing, and there may be basic aerotowing tuition available. Tows will be available from 1pm on Friday 19th.

New Glider for Tim

Tim's new U2 glider has finally arrived, all the way from the U.S.A. Unbelievably it has even more performance than Tim's previous super-hot-ship the "Disco Fever" Discovery. A slightly nervous Tim was wondering if he could handle it for it's maiden flight as he went through his pre-flight checks on the dolly. Apart from a bit of yawing as he got the hang of it's razor-sharp handling, all went well and Tim made it look very easy to land in the light winds. A very happy Tim looked much more settled for his second tow, and after his recent trip to Iceland I understand Tim is extremely pleased with his new purchase.



Tim checking to see if he's taken off yet.



Gordon tries to sneak up and steal the glider while Tim's attention is elsewhere.

Fab Flying at Thornhill

Sunday 10th July was a great day at the Airfield. The weather was superb and there was lots of activity. Scott McMeekin had his first successful aerotow, performing faultlessly on his ultra-high-performance Discovery behind the 912 tug flown by Allan Huntly. Gordon Ross got his best ever flight on his Atos of around 1 hour 15 minutes, landing back at the airfield only because his arms were knackered. I smashed my previous best flight of 1 hour 38 minutes with a 2 hour and 14 minute flight, again landing back at the airfield. I managed a fair bit of the flight without turning, working my way upwind under a cloud street and spending most of the time at or near cloudbase (3000 - 3500 feet). Bob Dunthorn and Ross Paterson also got some great flights in.

Saturday 23rd July was another great day. Tim got his best flight ever on his new U2 of around an hour, although we're not sure if he went cross country or just landed a bit short on his return. I managed a flight of 1 hour 12 minutes, Andy flew to Lake of Menteith and Gordon also got a good long flight in on his Atos.

Thanks to Allan Huntly and Andy for all their hard work at the controls of the tug. Lets hope we get plenty more days like these! If you have a good flight from Thornhill, hang glider or microlight, tell us about it!

Celtic Cup in Iceland

A few of our members including Allan Huntly, Tim Richley and Bob Dunthorn recently went to the Celtic Cup hang gliding competition in Iceland. It was a great success with good flying, good weather and spectacular scenery. Scotland came second behind Iceland and ahead of Wales, with Allan Huntly bagging 3rd overall - nice one! Allan might have won the first task and the competition if he hadn't made a tactical error. He knew there was a sea breeze kicking in, but he was floating along nicely at cloudbase in the lead with the goal field in view. Then another glider came up well below him so he decided to pull the bar in and head for goal to stop the lower glider overtaking him. This took him down into the headwind of the sea breeze and both gliders got decked before the goal line. However despite this headwind lower down, the clouds were still showing a tailwind straight towards goal. If only he'd just stayed at cloudbase, he could have drifted in and been first in goal! (At least that's what Allan says!)

Hopefully someone will send me a more detailed report and some photos for the next newsletter!

Tow your Socks Off

There should be a tug pilot and an aerotow coach at the airfield every flyable weekend for the rest of the summer, so there's no excuse for not getting plenty of flying in. Give either Andy, Allan Huntly or myself a phone, find out what's happening, and get yourself down to the airfield for some towing!

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