



Scottish Airsports Club

Latest News

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Forthcoming Events

Lanzarote hang gliding trips Winter 2005 - 2006.

Bob is organising a 2 week trip in November, leaving Glasgow on 3rd November at 1030hrs. Flights are with Thomas Cook and they will carry gliders for a fixed charge of £30 each return. The return flight is 17th November, arriving Glasgow in the evening, and the cost is £250 per person (+ glider). If you want to go, you'd better speak to Bob soon!

Andy will be organising the usual one week trip in early February 2006. Details to follow. I've also heard rumours of a possible trip in December too, but I don't have any details yet.

A Minor Mod for your Atos?

The photograph below of a motorized ATOS VX was taken on 4th August 2005 at an aerotow flight park near Berlin. It shows some Gerry called Rheinhard on his "Silent Glider M" with ATOS VX wing, shortly after take-off. It even has a retractable landing gear. Nice! Expect Gordon to have one soon!



Scottish Aerotow Open Competition 2005

The Scottish Aerotow Club hosted its first ever Open Competition on the weekend of 19th - 21st August 2005. Although we had been hoping to have a practice afternoon on Friday 19th, only one tug pilot was available and heavy showers came rolling in. Saturday dawned with glorious weather and a gentle breeze blowing down our 1200m grass runway. Plenty of room to land straight ahead after take off if necessary! A briefing was held for the twelve competitors at 11.30am and the challenge was set: the winner would be whoever flew the furthest open distance flight over the weekend. Competitors could have as many tows and attempts as required between the hours of 12 noon and 4pm each day. Although the Scottish Aerotow Club is lucky enough to have two tugs, a Quantum 912 and an XL 462, the XL was out of action due to a delaminating propellor. However, the 912 was able to haul the gliders up to 2000 feet and then come spiralling down for the next tow in no time, meaning that everyone got as many tows as they wanted.

Despite the glorious weather and inviting cumulus clouds, there was in fact an inversion preventing the lift from becoming established. As a result, despite the many tows only two retrieves were required. Bob managed to fly to Doune, and Colin Harrison landed slightly shorter, a mile or so from the same village. As the sunshine continued on into the evening, some of us had a barbeque at the airfield while others headed to the Bridge Inn in Bridge of Allan for a more sophisticated meal.

On Sunday the weather was overcast but still warm and definitely flyable with only a very gentle breeze down the shorter 800m runway. Had Bob done enough to secure the trophy, or would a large bribe to the tug pilot and ensuing tow to 4000 feet enable someone to stop the cup going North to Aberdeen? In the end there were plenty more tows, but the lack of sun on the ground and the poor quality of bribes offered meant that Bob had done enough to secure the trophy. By around 5pm the rain came in, but we'd all packed up by then anyway.

All in all, it was a very successful and enjoyable competition. Although there was a distinct lack of lift, we were still very lucky with the weather and there was plenty of flying to be had with no hills to climb. There were no incidents, and only two entertaining landings. The first was a trademark belly flop from Henry "Captain Scarlet - he's Indestructible!" Blackshaw. If you've seen the footage of Henry writing off a rented hang glider by flying into a stone wall yet walking away uninjured, you'll understand how he got his nickname! The second piece of entertainment was Allan Huntly bending an upright after failing to slow down his ultra-high performance and really-tricky-to-land Discovery Sky-floater. Maybe you want to try a drogue 'chute with that beast Al!

After the club's modest but successful first Open Competition, we plan to hold the event annually. The details of the winning flight will be engraved on the cup, but only if it exceed the previous best flight, so we're grateful to Bob for setting such a low standard this first time round! In fact since Doune is only 5 miles from Thornhill, anyone with a calculator will realise that it's easily reachable on a single glide from a 2000 foot tow with a modern hang glider! Come and join us next year and see if you can do better!

All competition photos taken by Gordon Ross



The competitors gather under fair skies and in front of an exceptionally fine looking Atos (mine!)



Andy "Me First" McLaughlin ready to take the first tow on Sunday



Ross "Dollies are for girls" Paterson shows off some typically fancy footwork on launch



Bob "Who needs a Thermal?" Dunthorn enjoying the fruits of his glide to Doune.

LLSC Tinto Box and Old Gliders

The following e-mail was received from Steve Brown:

The Club has (had) a hang glider storage box on Sorn Fallow Farm. We have been asked to clear it out following a fire in the shed it is next to. Mike and I did that today. I now have 3 old hang gliders in my garden, and I have no idea to whom they belong. The gliders are:

A Magic 4 177
A black glider, possibly a Typhoon
A single surface ancient thing, probably from Scot Kites

There was also a Magic 4 177 in bits, which has gone to the dump already.

So if any old, bold hang glider pilots are reading this and think they could help with tracking down the owners, or just want to take the gliders off my hands, then please call on

01698 427981
07986 085403

Failing that, the gliders will be scrapped, (or sent to the HG museum, but transport is a problem)

Steve

Mid Week Flying

Not all of us work 9-5 Monday to Friday and are only available to go flying at the weekend. So, rather than resigning ourselves to the fact that we only aerotow at the weekends, let's get together and organise some mid-week flying every so often. If organised in advance, it shouldn't be too hard to get 3 or more people up to the airfield on a nice day during the week. Although I do normally work Monday to Friday, I'd certainly be happy to take the odd day off to go towing. So if you want to fly mid-week, get on the phone and let's sort something out!

Free Coffee and Biscuits (sort of..)

Visitors to the hangar will see that instead of paying for coffee and biscuits, Sue is asking that you make a donation to the charity CancerBACUP. CancerBACUP's mission is to give cancer patients and their families the up-to-date information, practical advice and support they need to reduce the fear and uncertainty of cancer. For more information, visit www.cancerbacup.org.uk.

Is That Glider Following Me?

In his continuing quest to open up the hills of Scotland to hang gliding, Dave Greenlee has knocked together a wheeled glider carrier to take some of the effort out of getting your hang glider and gear up that hill. The current version is the Mk1, and it's first proper test came on Saturday 3rd September when Dave took it up Dumyat. (Dave has managed to arrange personal permission to go up the track from the land owners). Previous to that, initial testing had been carried out in the less-than-demanding environment of outside Dave's house. Presumably Dave's neighbours are becoming used to his strange "antics".

Despite the well known saying "Never fly the Mk1 version of anything", Dave's contraption proved remarkably effective even if I was giving him a hand up the hill, and it only capsized once! Although the wind seemed light on the way up, there was a healthy 18-20mph breeze on the lower launch, and Dave had a very enjoyable 80 minute flight. His glider, high above the Ochils, was visible from central Stirling as verified by Dave's wife who was out shopping. Of course the only problem with Dave's Mk1 device is how to get it back down the hill. Fortunately Dave had me on hand to provide buggy collection and retrieval services! I'm sure it won't be long before a Mk2 version with automatic homing device appears from Dave's workshop!



Website Update

If you pay a visit to the club website www.scottishairsports.co.uk, you'll find I've updated some of the airfield photos as well as adding some pictures from the recent aerotow competition. Don't forget that if you have any photos or anything else you would like to see on the website, e-mail me at allan@allanphillips.co.uk.

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