

North Wales Hang-Gliding & Paragliding Club

Newsletter - November / December 2011



Flying conditions soon to come!

From the Chairman / Editor

Ladies and gentlemen, this could be the last Club Newsletter in this format. We've been through it all before – our excellent Club Website is the best and quickest means of making announcements and sharing news among members, so this supposedly quarterly Newsletter has slipped to three often late issues this year (just about scratched this one together!) and is fast becoming a thing of the past. Who knows if it will survive into next year? Its future is to a great extent up to you: I can report gossip and news from the committee and the like, but if you want longer reports of peoples' flying experiences, holidays, etc., then you have to write them up and send them in!

The autumn has been very disappointing in terms of weather for flying: too much wind, rain and clag! I've managed a few outings, but the flights were nothing to write home about. The success stories for the autumn were first, Dave Edwards' return to the air on 6th November. What pleasure he must have felt to be airborne again after being laid up for so long! We hope to see you regularly in the air in future, Dave. Second, Carl Wallbanks' report of being at 4000ft ATO over Llangollen! I'm surprised you didn't fly XC from there, Carl!

At the October Club Night, we had a very interesting talk/display by two instructors from the Parachute School at Tillstock. We all know that paragliders evolved from 'jump 'chutes' and while there remain many similarities, they have some amazingly neat ideas and applications of technology. I wish my wing and harness could be packed so small! Although it could have no place in paragliding with our continuous ups and downs during the course of a flight, I really liked the air pressure sensitive emergency parachute release which, so long as it is set before take-off, pops the reserve at about 700ft in the event that the parachutist was unconscious. The November club night showed us what Brian and his mates got up to at the Air Games in Olu Deniz, in October, Looked like a lot of fun!

Future Club Nights: 30th January 2012 - Steve Nash will tell us all about his preparation and participation the Red Bull X-Alps event last summer. Nothing yet for February (I shall be away that month) and the March Club Night will be the occasion of the 2012 AGM.

I read that 'Ozone' has made the lightest wing ever, a single surface 19m² wing weighing merely 1.4kg! No plans to go into production, but something to watch in the future. For us oldies, any weight saving is desirable. Maybe it will be available when I decide on my next wing ...?!

Finally, Seasonal Greetings to you all, with best wishes for lots of airtime next year!

News

Parachute Repack

Our Annual North Wales & North West Repack will take place at the Airbus Social Club on Saturday 28th January. The usual absolute bargain at £10.00 per head, and the Application Form can be downloaded from the Club website home page. Please do not leave booking until the absolute last minute in case it is a flyable day!. If you can't remember when you last opened, aired and repacked your reserve, you and your reserve 'chute should attend!

Pat Dower's XC Development workshops

Pat is a long-time member of Derbyshire Soaring Club, and also a member of NWHGPC. He has been flying for 21 years, going XC for 20 and developing and coaching other pilots for the last 10. He has competed nationally and internationally (including PWCs), achieving many high competition and XC league finishes. He has been leader of the British team and specialises in developing pilots of all levels post CP. Pat has worked with and flown with many of the UK's top pilots. Pat reviews gliders for Cross Country Magazine and lost count of the number of different gliders he has flown once he passed 150. Pat recently received a BHPA Order of Merit for his coaching of other pilots.

Pat is now offering to run day-long XC Development Workshops at a cost of £30 per head and I have suggested to him the NWHGPC could probably host one at the Airbus Social Club, if there is sufficient local demand. All the key ingredients needed to be a successful XC pilot will be explored. The sessions will be highly practical as this is often the best way to learn. Each pilot should go away with:

- A deeper understanding of how thermals behave and how to climb efficiently
- An appreciation of the main aspects of mental and physical preparation
- An improved understanding of XC flying in general
- A better understanding of his/her own strengths as a pilot
- An understanding of his/her own skills in need of development and how to address them.

No date has been fixed yet but I would be interested to know how many might wish to take part in such a Workshop during the next quarter. For more information about the XC Workshop, please contact Pat Dower – Tel: 07977 491723 or Email: pat.dower@isaacsuk.co.uk

What's on?

Monthly Club Meetings assemble from 7.30 onwards at Broughton Wings Social Club at Airbus UK, Broughton, Chester CH4 0DR. Talks or whatever start at 8.15pm.

Monday 30th January	Club Night at BWSC - The Red Bull X-Alps Challenge – Steve Nash
Monday 27 th February	Club Night at BWSC – No speaker planned yet. Come for a beer!
Monday 26 th March	Club Night at BWSC – Club Annual General Meeting
Monday 30 th April	Club Night at BWSC - To be arranged

If anyone can suggest subjects or speakers for any of our future meetings, let me know!

Club News and Information; contact details for all Club Officers, and a Membership application form, can be accessed on the Club Website at <http://www.nwhgpc.org.uk>.

All paid up members of the club who provided a valid e-mail address at renewal time should also have received an e-mail invite to join the "members only" area. If you have not received an invite and you feel you are eligible, please e-mail webmaster@nwhgpc.org.uk.

Contributions to this Newsletter are welcomed from any member. Ideally, please submit copy as a Text File or MS Word File on CD to Jerry Hazzard, Mill Cottage, Mill Road, Bronington, Whitchurch SY13 3HJ or by Email / Email attachment to jerry.hazzard@btinternet.com If you are unable to provide text in these formats, the editor is willing to type up your scripts from longhand! The editor reserves the right to correct grammar, syntax and spelling, and to trim articles to fit page layouts.

This Newsletter is published quarterly, on/about the 1st of February, May, August and November. Articles / copy for inclusion in a Newsletter should reach the Editor two weeks before publication date.

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