

2009 CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



It seems the soaring season has just begun but already so much has been happening.

Yankee Foxtrot was taken to the Canterbury Gliding Club annual Flock Hill camp held Labour weekend in October. Four continuous days of excellent soaring saw many pilots with big smiles on their faces. It was amazing to be soaring the Craigeburn range over skiers making the most of the late season.

Jerry's very popular Mountain flying and advanced X-C course was again an outstanding success with 15 pilots attending. All OGC gliders participated flown by new members Mark Bland and Ian Douglas, Oliver Winkler, Peter Robinson and Yvonne Loader. OGC private owners included Brian Savage and CJ McCaw. Jerry O'Neill, Ivan Evans and Max Stevens led separate "flocks" on tasks which included runs along the Hawkduns, Kakanui's, Shag Point, Hunter ridge and many other interesting areas to fly to. Excellent soaring conditions included thermal, convergence, ridge and a very good southerly wave day making flying down the Waitaki a "breeze".

S.I Regionals

9 Omarama Gliding Club members competed in the SI Regional contest.

CONGRATULATIONS TO



Trevor Mollard – winner of the 15 metre class and winner of the most meritorious flight after a 6 hour 'marathon struggle'.

Theo Newfield – winner of the Open class at the South Island Regionals. Superb performance!

Dave Speight (accompanied by Yvonne Loader) – 4th placing in the Open Class

CJ McCaw – 4th placing in the 15m class

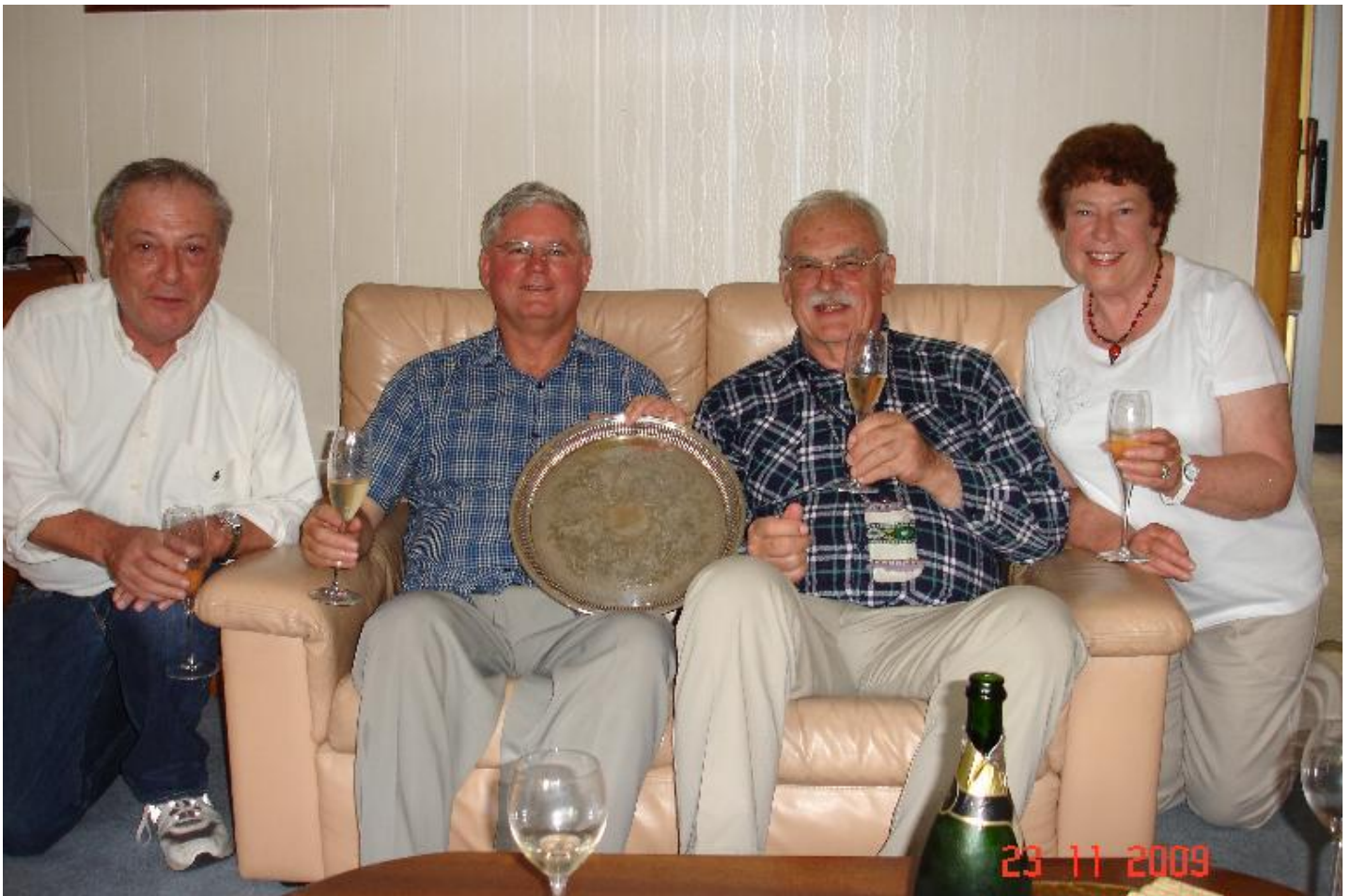
Chris Streat – 5th placing in the standard class

and to Brian Savage who, after attending Jerry's X-C course, entered the club class and flew his first completed task to win the day. A great effort and a joy to see!

I consider myself extremely lucky to have been invited to occupy the back seat in Dave Speights ASH25M. During the week we flew to Lake Coleridge, flew a wave task turning only at the four turn points, just managed to squeak back on to Benmore on two days and was amazed by the skinniest final glide I have ever flown - passing by low as three gliders landed at Clearburn. I learned that even when the wind isn't blowing and there has been no sun on the mountain for some time there will still be small pockets of warm air – "just enough" to get you home! All very exciting and a wonderful experience it was for me to fly with such an experienced competition pilot.

Mike Oakley, with Jill McCaw, editor of SoaringNZ, in the back seat, flew one task at a blistering 192kph – an amazing inspiration to all!

Six days of awesome flying and congratulations to Jerry O'Neill and his team for excellent task setting.



Bud Pratt, Trevor Mollard, Don Mallinson and Yvonne Loader celebrating Trevor's SI Regionals win

New Members - A REALLY BIG WELCOME to

Martin Katschner from Austria

Martin has been a regular visitor to Omarama for several years now and this year is working for Glide Omarama so make yourself known to him when you see him around the airfield.

Bill Walker of Queenstown – well known 'Omarama personality' to everyone who flies from Omarama. To those who don't know Bill was the inspiration and responsible for the development of the Omarama airfield as we know it today and also for bringing the 1995 Worlds to Omarama. We have a lot to thank him for!

LESSON TIME!!



MID AIR COLLISION AVOIDANCE

On the 23rd November two GO gliders had a very close call indeed while flying along the Dunstan wave. They knew each other was in the vicinity and had communicated with each other, both gliders were fitted with Flarms but one flarm gave no indication of the other's presence. When one glider got a flarm alert he instantly pulled up as the other glider flashed by so close he "felt" it and hit the slipstream. The pilot felt that had he not got the flarm alert and

pulled up a collision would have occurred. Now that is very close and on looking at the traces the "miss" could be measured to be within 5 to 20 feet. The three pilots involved all got a tremendous fright.

Something to be aware of when flying in strong wind offsetting drift, the alarm may be giving you a head on position but the traffic could in reality be 30 degrees off.

Things to remember:

When flying above 13,500ft set altimeter to 1013mb.

Remember to fly North at odd thousands of feet and south at even thousands of feet (NOSE).

When giving position and distance reports give your distance as number of nautical miles from Omarama.

An important lesson in the reason we need to ensure glider trailers are braked and chocked securely! This happened during strong winds at Omarama on the 25th November causing substantial damage. Yes that is WC trailer fortunately not too battered around.



MUST DO PLEASE – You may know the friend you are flying with but we don't. When flying with someone who is not a member of the Omarama Gliding Club in the DUO please have them complete the Day membership form and leave it on the desk in the club room during the flight. Details requested are name, address, next of kin contact details – the basic information we would need to supply to the authorities in the case of a search and rescue being activated.

The DUO recently experienced a wheel collapse on landing after both pilots thought the wheel was down and locked. Check the lever is put into the slot and slide across as far as it will go. To be fully locked the handle itself needs to be hard against the cockpit side. Any space between the lever handle and side of the cockpit can result in a wheel collapse.

Please remember it is your responsibility to ensure that OGC has a copy of your current BFR and medical details even where these are held by another club.

FLIGHT FOLLOWING PROCEDURES

Do not "assume" someone is watching your SPOT track unless you have specifically arranged for someone to do it! Glide Omarama, understandably, have indicated they are not providing an automatic service to "all comers". Both commercial operators will provide a SPOT following service (especially if you take a tow behind their tow plane) by prior arrangement. It is expected that OGC pilots will arrange flight following for each and every flight. You may intend to stay local and think that nothing will happen but it is a fact that at least seven accidents have happened "while flying locally" in recent times.

CHANGES TO THE OPERATION OF "SPOT" UNITS

OGC are now paying for the full tracking service. This means the SPOT unit needs to be operated differently than using the "help" button as we have done in the past. Please get a briefing on the correct use of SPOT before your next flight.

PORTABLE LOGGER

The portable Cambridge logger has been put in a more durable container with a bigger battery many thanks to Richard Hanschu for the excellent job he did on this. Pilots using this piece of equipment need to be aware it is now quite heavy and would need to be securely stored in the glider as it has the potential to become quite a "missile" in violent turbulence. Please ensure the switch is off, it is charged and stored in the club room following use. There will be a charge of \$20 per day for non members who wish to use/borrow it as it is a valuable piece of kit.

Overseas Visitors - feedback

Kitty Vigo from Mt Beauty Gliding Club (Australia) flew with Don Mallinson early November.

I can't thank everyone enough with the Omarama Gliding Club for your generosity in helping me do some flying while I was in New Zealand. I owe particular thanks to Don Mallinson for giving up his time and being so endlessly patient with me. It was a fantastic experience and it revitalised my interest in gliding. I am looking forward to visiting again next year. You were all wonderful.

Cheers

Kitty

and Ian Douglas also from Mt Beauty sent this email "Just wanting to say thanks again for all your help to us Aussies. The flight I had over Cook with Trevor was the best flight I've ever had in anything. We are already planning our next trip over. Hope to see you then".

Mark Bland (also from Mt Beauty) is talking about bringing a group of Mt Beauty pilots to fly at Nelson Lakes and Omarama next year. We look forward to their visit.



Chris Streat, Yvonne Loader, Trevor Mollard, Richard Hanschu and Oliver Winkler

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - To be held Monday 28th December 2009 in the Terminal Building, Omarama Airfield, commencing at 8.30pm.