

## SPRING 2007 NEWSLETTER

### OUR NEW DISCUS HAS ARRIVED!



**Our new Discus CS, with its highly distinctive Cobra trailer, arrived in Canterbury this week and the picture above shows it at Drake Aviation having just been unloaded from the container. A BIG WELCOME TO “Yankee Foxtrot”.**

Firstly though to conclude our acquisition of a new Cobra Trailer for the DUO – all accounts are now to hand and inclusive of Navy personnel disbursements, on road registration and WOF the total cost to the club has been **\$3,562.24!** A brand new Cobra trailer will never again cost less than that many thanks to Pub Charity, Tim Cosgrove and the Royal New Zealand Navy. *It is definitely one for the record books!*

**It is important to note the bigger Cobra trailer works differently to the smaller single seat Cobra trailer. The rear jacks MUST be used and the angle of the rear door needs to be closer to a 45 degree angle - not straight up and down. Check the angle – if it is not correct the fuselage of the DUO on roll out will connect with the trailer and cause damage. If you are unsure please seek advice.**

#### **New members**

A **BIG WELCOME** is extended to new members:-

Paul Ramsay

23 Centre Road

RD2, Dunedin

Email [paul@agriservice.co.nz](mailto:paul@agriservice.co.nz)

Phone 03 454 5117

Jerry O'Neill  
18 Pentre Terrace  
Cashmere  
Christchurch  
Email [jerryo@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jerryo@xtra.co.nz)  
Phone: 03 332 2276. Cell 0274 867 537

## **Flock Hill camp**

Canterbury Gliding Club has kindly agreed to OGC members joining in their annual Canterbury Gliding Club camp at Flock Hill being held from 18<sup>th</sup> to Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October (incorporates Labour weekend). This is a really nice gesture on their part as it is not a site that can accommodate big numbers of gliders. We will have at least one OGC single seater at Flock Hill from Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> to Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. At this stage it is most probable the timing will suit having the Discus CS there however if there is sufficient interest we can have the LS6 there as well. If you are interested in attending please let Yvonne know [loaders@clear.net.nz](mailto:loaders@clear.net.nz) the dates you wish to be there and the amount of flying you would like to do **within the next seven days** so we can best meet members' requirements between those wishing to fly at Flock Hill and Omarama. All flying will be under the supervision of the Canterbury Gliding Club CFI, Geoff Soper, or his appointee, and Roger Read has agreed to take care of OGC pilots. All pilots will be required to do a check flight as flying takes place from a basic farm paddock and a briefing is mandatory.

All attendees will need to make their own accommodation arrangements with the Flock Hill proprietors [www.flockhill.co.nz](http://www.flockhill.co.nz).

**This is a great opportunity to experience a “ripper” of a soaring site and really get to enjoy the best of club social activity.**

## **Our new Discus**

We couldn't have purchased a new glider at a better time with regard to the high NZ dollar! The glider cost EUR40,500 and was purchased at a rate of 0.57722 which equated to \$NZ70,799.45. Shipping, plus the cost of instrument conversion, CAA certification etc will bring the cost to close to \$85,000. We have only achieved this upgrade by the sale of the Hornet OL to Youth Glide Trust and a \$53,000 loan from Gliding New Zealand as well as the club having to find \$15,000 approx from its own resources. In addition in the next month or two we have to pay around \$15,000 annual insurance premium. This means **we are facing a critical short term cash flow situation.**

**PLEASE COULD ALL MEMBERS PUT EXTRA FUNDS IN THEIR ACCOUNT ASAP!!**

Your Executive, and especially our Treasurer, would be ever so grateful for every \$\$\$\$!!!

We would like to specially acknowledge the involvement of Peter Robinson in securing the Discus for us. Peter is fluent in German and had offered to keep an eye on web sites for us. When this one came up for sale Peter carried out negotiations direct with the German Gliding club seller and we understand from all accounts “it looks fantastic and was a great deal”. We acknowledge the acquisition of a new glider involves a lot of time and effort – **our very grateful appreciation and thanks to Peter.**

We would also like to acknowledge the involvement of Bruce Drake, who expertly handled documentation and shipping, and Albert and Agnes Spindleberger, owners of the Cobra Factory, who raided their bank account on the Friday to facilitate the purchase being made as quickly as possible enabling us to take advantage of a last minute container space cancellation the Discus could occupy and that is the reason it has arrived so quickly! There was someone else who was

very instrumental in making it all happen by providing bridging finance who wishes to remain anonymous and we will respect that request but take this opportunity to pass on our very grateful thanks.

**Pre Paid Scheme and rate for Discus** – The pre paid scheme cost will need to reflect the higher value and costs associated with owning more expensive single seater gliders than last season and as soon as the new pre paid rate has been established we will let members know. The Executive are working on 2007/2008 charge out rates and at this stage we expect the Discus will be the same rate as the LS6 which is currently \$1.00 pm/\$60 per hour with a maximum per day of \$240.

**Web-based "On line" booking system.** Members being able to pre book gliders 'on line' for the first time this season is a very exciting development and a real leap forward for the club. Steve Green has worked hard on getting this operational and is now working on individual log-ins for all OGC members which will be advised soon. If you have any bookings you wish to make prior to the official launch please let Yvonne know.

*Special thanks to Steve for his efforts.*

***Phil is setting up a computer in the OGC office that will be able to access the OGC website but we need a new monitor. If anyone has one they are willing to donate we would be very grateful.***

**Maintenance** - It is that time of the year again when we need to ensure our gliders are ready for the season. The DUO has been de-rigged, placed in its new trailer and is currently at Drake Aviation having had a new brake drum fitted. Don Howard will be carrying out the Annual inspections before it is returned to Omarama for the season.

We are not sure when the Discus will come on line but we are aiming to have it flying by Labour weekend at the latest.

Don Howard is planning to do the annual inspection on the LS6 this month.

**AGM** - We are planning to hold the AGM at Omarama on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November at a time to be advised. Further details will be advised. (This is the first weekend of the SI Regional contest). Once again we will be looking for enthusiastic members willing to serve on the committee and contribute to the ongoing running of the club. If you would like to be nominated for office just let us know!

#### **Season reminder**

Phil Plane has accepted the position of Club CFI replacing Hugh who has taken up a full time position with Glide Omarama. Don Mallinson will also be around and is willing to provide assistance to members around his involvement with Southern Soaring.

Any maintenance issues should be referred to Don Howard in the first instance – new cellphone number **0272-081-783** or [emailhowarddxx@netscape.net](mailto:emailhowarddxx@netscape.net)

**Finally** - our club needs new members. We have a fleet of modern very beautiful gliders just waiting to be flown!

Best regards to all - **Yvonne**

