

**OMARAMA GLIDING CLUB
AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2009**



It is that time again when the leaves are falling, the temperatures have dropped and we prepare ourselves to get through winter while making our "soaring plans" for next season.

NELSON LAKES Annual Gliding Camp

At least eight Omarama Gliding Club pilots escaped from Omarama and were "caught by the camera" below attending the Nelson Lakes Gliding Camp.



**Some of the OGC members present at Nelson Lakes in February
From left Ian Dunkley, Chris Garton, Oliver Winkler, Yvonne Loader, Dave Tillman (CGC), Jenny Wilkinson, Kerry Jackson (our Aircraft Engineer), Ian Grant and Davie Speight. Jerry O'Neill was "somewhere else" being his usual busy self**

Unfortunately the weatherman wasn't told we were there and the weather during the week was unusually overcast but we more than made up for that with some wonderfully memorable social activity and made the most of the superb "club atmosphere" that makes Nelson Lakes a very special place. If you haven't flown at Nelson Lakes you are really missing out on a week of soaring in a very spectacular and beautiful

part of New Zealand that has mountains, lakes, awesome scenery and much else besides. Everyone is made very welcome. If you think you would like to experience soaring at Nelson Lakes *plan* on being there next February.

Modern communication technology ensured that while milling around on the Nelson Lakes airfield we received the bad news that YY had crashed on the nursery slope at Omarama via telephone calls and a host of text messages causing immediate concern as we all realised it was highly likely we knew at least one of the pilots involved. It was devastating to hear our favourite "weatherman", Lemmie, was one of the pilots involved and initial reports were that his condition was "critical". I am sure it was a result of all our thoughts and willing him to survive with the best possible outcome that Lemmie is now recovering well for which we are very thankful and our best wishes are extended to Lemmie for a full recovery.

FLYING CHAT



We understand those who spent Easter at Omarama had good soaring and a very pleasant wave day on the Saturday saw Oliver Winkler fly YF to Mt Cook achieving a "first" for him. Oliver was so excited he put a video capturing this momentous event on http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vacLuzrVNg&feature=channel_page.

It is worth a look – the vario sounds as though it went "off the clock" on the approach to Mt Cook and it captures the thrill of gliding very well! Oliver wore a wide smile for many days afterwards! Visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/0w/> for some awesome photos.

New Members - A REALLY BIG WELCOME to

Scott Finkboner from San Diego

Scott is an ex US Navy F4 pilot and has brought one of the chalets on the field so will be more than a casual visitor.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE



We are almost at the end of the financial year and you will be receiving your OGC membership renewals soon for the new financial year beginning 1st July. For the most part the fees will be the same as last year with only two changes and for your information these are:

Membership Fees

- 1) The annual club membership for full flying, secondary, Junior and social members will remain the same as this season. *BUT*
- 2) The joining fee for Temporary visiting pilots (up to three months) not affiliated to Gliding New Zealand will be increased to \$200 club membership plus the \$60.00 Gliding New Zealand visiting pilot fee = \$260.00.

(Temporary visiting pilots will not eligible to join the club at the pro rated membership rates for annual membership).

Flying Fees

We have established a new flying rate for the DUO applicable to club instructors flying with visiting pilots who are not affiliated to Gliding New Zealand or members of the Darling owns Gliding Club (with whom a reciprocal club rates agreement is in place).

The DUO rate has been set at \$90/hour plus landing fee and 5% Omarama Airfield levy applicable to:

1. Visiting pilots who want to fly with us but do not want to fly solo
2. Trial Instructional flights (normal club activity as undertaken by clubs throughout NZ)
3. BFR's/check flights for pilots who are not members of the OGC or Gliding NZ affiliated.

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR MEMBERS TO NOTE: Club members taking personal friends, family, other NZ club members or NZ based people they want to introduce to gliding can do so at club rates).

The intention of the changes is to have visiting pilots contribute more to the club and the Omarama facilities.

JERRY'S CROSS COUNTRY COURSE - November



This very popular, club orientated, cross-country course is held every year the week before the S.I. Regionals (mid November). Up to 18 pilots joined in last year. It is a great opportunity for those wishing to gain more crosscountry confidence and experience to further their skills in this exciting area of soaring at normal 'club flying rates'. Time is taken to visit and "walk" the strategic land out strips such as Malvern Hills, Delrachny, Longslip etc. Briefing/chat forums take place. Groups of three to four gliders fly together a predetermined task, finding lift for each other and generally helping each other along. Two of the participants achieved their first 300km and one or two others came very close but there is no pressure to complete the course and you can head home whenever you feel like it. If this sounds like something you would like to do *plan* to be there.

ADDRESS LIST

Nearly everyone agreed to the inclusion of their details in a club address list to be circulated to all OGC members. Before circulating this I need to find the time to individually check each member's details are correct. I am planning on this being one of my "winter projects".

"PICCIES"

As winter approaches thought you might enjoy these two photos of Oliver flying YF at 10,000ft on his way to Mt Cook. Alex McCaw, Youth Glide Canterbury member and Son of the photographer, is flying the Single Astir NG in the background.

These awesome photographs were taken by John McCaw. (Check out www.mccawmedia.co.nz)



Oliver flying Yankee Foxtrot - Easter 2009

Over winter the DUO and the LS6 WC will remain at Omarama while the Discus CS YF will be at Hororata. OGC members who would like to fly at Hororata (about 40 minute drive from Christchurch) have the opportunity to do so as the Canterbury Gliding Club operate every weekend subject to weather and ground conditions being not too soggy or wet. To check conditions you can ring (03) 318 0059 after 9.30am. (The web cam is not operating currently due to an upgrade of the CGC website but hopefully this will be operating again soon on glidingcanterbury.org.nz).

AREN'T THOSE PHOTOGRAPHS REALLY SOMETHING!!

ENJOY AND MAKE THE MOST OF WINTER

YVONNE