

SkyWords – Apr 08

The Newsletter of the DHPC

Mode S

About half a dozen DHPC members went down to the consultation at Pocklington last Friday night.

It would appear that there is **no prospect of manufacturers producing a lightweight transponder** suitable for us. So under the proposed legislation we will not be able to:

- Fly in controlled airspace.
- Fly above FL100 (about 10,000')
- Fly in Transponder Mandatory Zones (TMZ)

None of which appears to be a big deal, or does it? The CAA already has the powers to establish TMZs but to date these powers have been used sparingly and the only TMZ is in the Scottish TMA between 6,000' and FL100. However it is being suggested that '**greater use of TMZs may be required to address specific safety and airspace efficiency issues such as airspace with high levels of infringements**'. There is a very real risk that TMZs will be added around existing airspace further reducing the areas that we can fly in.

There is no formal procedure for establishing a TMZ at the moment and all pilots are urged to encourage the CAA to adopt a formal procedure similar to that used for establishing controlled airspace. In that way, at least we all get consulted about future changes.

The BHPA is due to publish guidance on the consultation process shortly but, if this is published in the May issue of Skywings, there is a very real danger that members will not respond in time to meet the deadline of 31 May 08.

Have a look at the information about Mode S on the CAA website at: www.caa.co.uk/modes and please take the time to submit your views via the on-line response form, which can be found at:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/application.aspx?catid=7&pagetype=65&appid=37>

Be careful because if you try to view the consultation document whilst completing the form. It will overwrite the form and you will have to start again (at least that is what happened to me – twice!).

I made the following comments:

Impact of no change: If a mid-air collision occurred public support for draconian restrictions could signal an end to the sport of paragliding.

TMZs: Applications for TMZs should be considered within the Airspace Change Process.

TMZs: TMZs should not automatically be used as buffer zones around controlled airspace. This would further limit non-equipped aircraft without preventing infringements. Don't create new restrictions because the existing ones don't work.

For all the other boxes on the form I put 'no comment.'

Additional comments:

Para 4. Environmental pressures may force governments to tax aviation fuel. This could limit the predicted increase in air transport significantly.

Para 16. Hang-Glider and Paraglider pilots are mostly defending their hobby rather than their business. As such many will not be able to find the time to wade through the consultation document and make comment. We all belong to a National Association who we trust to represent us. Please give added credence to the views expressed by the BHPA.

Aircharts

The latest 1:500,000 VFR Chart for Southern England (edition 34) was released on 10th April 2008.

The next Northern England 1:500,000 Chart (edition 30) will be published on the 10th May.

Prices seem pretty consistent at around £15 with £2 p&p.

Aerostationery <http://www.aerostationery.co.uk/> is probably as good a place as anywhere to get one, or you can find a list of other suppliers at: www.caa.co.uk/charts

Text Alert Service

Did any of you read the article on page 7 of this month's Skywings? It sounds fantastic: subscribe to a group and if one of the group sends a text you all get it – for free. Messages such as '**it's on at Wether**', or perhaps even more useful, '**it's blown out already**' could be very useful (or annoying?).

The committee thinks that it is a great idea but we are all a bit busy to set it up at the moment. (I would do it if I wasn't writing this newsletter!) Would anyone out there like to set it up? Details can be found at: www.3jam.com

Pilot Exam

Congratulations to Kate Rawlinson and Richard Shirt for passing their pilots' exam. That should at least offset the £7 increase in BHPA subscriptions!

Club Nights

Over the summer months fewer folk tend to come to Club Nights: either they are struggling to get back from that epic XC flight or they have other better things to do such as BBQs, etc. For that reason there will be **no formal club nights until September**. Members are still welcome to turn up for a beer and a chat on the first Thursday of the month at the Riverside Hotel in Ilkley at around 8pm but there will be no organised activity. Kate will be there with the library, which now includes Pilot Exam Revision Packs, so why not pop along and keep her company ☺.

Harness Hanger

Now that the new season's upon us you might have realised that your harness or speedbar could be set up a little better. The club has its own harness hanger that you can borrow. Contact Pete Logan on 07720 425146 for details.

For Sale

Red Airwave Sport 2 - LTF 1-2 rated with 40 hours on it. XL size 110 - 140kg all a up range. Call Pete on 07720 425146. Serious offers considered.

Woody Valley Naylor hang gliding harness. Not suitable for a giant as I am modestly sized at 5ft 6 ins. All the usual pockets and facilities. Fair condition – a bargain at £100. Trevor Birkbeck 01765 658486 or 07836 342312.

Advance Omega 7 (28) 90-116kg. Steel (blue) with gold leading edge and winglets. DHV 2-3, 8th in 2007 UK XC league. Weight loss forces sale - I am too small for it now. Make me an offer! John Ellison. 07791 887693.

If you have anything you want to buy, sell, announce or question then I am more than happy to include it in the newsletter. Send it to me at mrbaxter@hotmail.co.uk

Martin Baxter

Club Coaches

The jump from school to club can be intimidating. If you are a recently qualified CP, haven't flown a site before, haven't flown for a while and are a bit rusty, want some advice, or just need a reliable companion to fly with then please get in touch with a Club Coach. These good and trusty people have volunteered to help new pilots to our club.

Name	Available	Location	Phone
Hang Gliding Club Coaches			
Trevor Birkbeck	Various	Ripon	01765 658486
Kevin Gay	Weekends	Ripon	07973 293707
Alistair Irving	Various	Huddersfield	01484 844898
Steve Mann	Weekends	Kirby Moorside	01751 433130
Paragliding Club Coaches			
John Ellison	Various	Gargrave	07791 887693
Noel Whittall	Various	Leeds	01132 502043
Steve Mann	Weekends	Kirby Moorside	01751 433130
Liz Addy	Weekends	Settle	01524 251682
Pete Logan	Various	ShIPLEY	07720 425146
Peter & Sara Spillett	Weekends	Skipton	01756 760229
Tony Pickering & Zena Stevens	Various	Otley	01943 466632
Sean Ogi	Various	Howarth	01535 642304
Kevin McLoughlin	Weekends	Lancaster	07767 652233
Martin Baxter	Weekdays	Skipton	01282 841060
Ronald Green	Weekends	Hartlepool	01429 864229

Sites News

We haven't had any official requests from farmers relating to lambing, but it's that time of year. If a farmer does ask you not to fly then please comply and let me know so that I can pass the message on to everyone else.

Cumbria Soaring Club – SITES NEWS

A number of CSC sites have nesting birds of prey and this time of year is particularly sensitive. If you encounter any nesting birds please avoid further contact and find that elusive lift SOMEWHERE ELSE. Sites that are affected are Carrock, Whitbarrow Scar, Humphrey Head, Cautley Spout, Barkin Fell. Some of these sites are not CSC sites but are particularly sensitive. There will be others so please be aware.

Bewaldeth is **CLOSED** until further notice – The farmer has new stock on the land and has requested that we do not disturb them. Normal flying activities at the site will be resumed very soon and will be posted on the CSC website.

Carrock Fell is closed except Saturdays from 1 April until 30 June (inclusive) due to nesting peregrines. On Saturdays do not fly near the cliffs shown on the site guide map.

Wolf Crag is closed from 1 April until 31 May (inclusive) due to lambing.