

Skywords

Monthly Newsletter of the Dales Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club

Www.dhpc.org.uk

May 2009



From the Editor, Dennis Wray

Just returned from Algo – had a great week with excellent weather, flying almost every day! Even managed an XC of 18km from Montellano take-off to Villamartin, which I was pleased about as I don't have much XC experience!

Here's a boring bit though - some "Guidelines for authors"! When you send something for publication in the Newsletter (and I hope you'll send lots about your adventures), don't bother taking time making all kinds of beautiful formatting, as I'm trying to put everything in some kind of uniform format for the Newsletter. Ariel 10 is good in a Word file. Easier that way for you and me! Also, please don't embed your pics in a doc file, please send separately as jpg files. Thanks!

Happy flying!
Please send your contributions directly to me - my email is d.wray@leeds.ac.uk

Club Nights

Club nights continue on the first Thursday of the month at the Black Horse, Otley, meeting at 8pm, notices at 8:15, and events starting at 8:30.

Next club night – May 7th

We have a PowerPoint presentation of an amazing trip made by Steve Dean and others with Beyond Extreme led by famous climber Simon Yates up to the top of the highest mountain in the Andes and then flying down in their paragliders!!!

Presenting this trip ("Ascent of Aconcagua") will be Melise Harland who went on the climb but didn't fly down with the others. She is actually a CP paraglider pilot now, though, living in Leeds and is planning to be flying Dales sites, so I'm sure you'll be pleased to meet her and offer advice and encouragement.

Melise will also be bringing along other members of the trip, possibly even Steve Dean (who put the talk together), if he can get time off work. So far, besides Melise, there will be Sam Buckland who will also be speaking. Sam flew off the mountain and almost right out of the national park, and it will be great to hear about his experience.

Don't miss this **great club night!**

Martin Baxter writes:

Whernside - lambing

Please don't land in fields with livestock in them around Bruntscar Farm until mid May. A couple of pilots recently landed short of their intended field, scattering the sheep. I have had a word with the farmer who has asked that we avoid all fields with livestock around Bruntscar Farm (that is the one at the top of the tarmac road leading from the Hill Inn on the 3 Peaks walk). Scales Moor (the landing field in the Sites Guide by Ellerbeck) is clear, so it is probably best to stick to this option for the next month or so.

DHPC Sites Guide amendments Issue 2

It is inevitable that, between hard copy prints of the Sites' Guide, changes will occur. The following paragraphs will be issued as a document with all 'old' Sites Guides. The most recent changes are highlighted **in bold type** so that members can keep their trusty Sites Guide up to date.

No attempt is made to correct farmers' contact details in this amendment. If you need to contact a farmer, go through the sites DHPC representative who should have up to date information.

Addleborough

Guide issued in Nov 06 Skywords. **Shooting rights. Ring Jack Ellerby 01539 727651 for permission to fly between Sep - Nov.**

Brant Side

Following improvements to the track we now have permission to drive along the track and to park just short of take-off, as long as we don't block the track. Just short of the third gate there is just about enough room to turn around. About 100m short of this it is possible to park a few cars on the uphill side of the track.

- **Do not block the track.**
- **Do not block the turning area.**
- **Turn around before parking.**
- **No more than 6 vehicles.**
- **Keep the gates closed.**
- **Give priority to Hang-gliders.**

Unfortunately you can't see the parking area from the road so you may be wasting your time if there isn't room. If it is flyable then it is normally possible to fly back to the road anyway.

Humesett

This is no longer a DHPC flying site.

Whernside

Vehicles are no longer permitted to drive up the bridleway to Ellerbeck Farm. Please park on the left below the 'PRIVATE ROAD, ABSOLUTELY NO MOTOR VEHICLES' sign and walk. **Be wary of the grassy area on the right hand side of the track - take a look over the wall and you will see why!** Alternatively you can park in the church car park in Chapel-le-dale (except Sunday), on

the left before you enter the hamlet. Feel free to make a donation.

Another option is to get dropped off/picked up at Bruntscar (SD 739790) and walk up the obvious path to Whernside. **A steep climb brings you onto the shoulder. There is a perfect take-off about 50m to the left. Whernside can be subject to strong compression but if you walk another 100m there is another lower area, which may make launching easier.** The best landing field is the one just short of the 'Private Land No Parking' sign but, if you can't penetrate that far, the first field that you walk through on your way up is flat near the bottom; just watch out for boulders and pot holes! Please, please do not park anywhere on this route. It is used by literally hundreds of walkers each day and if they see one car parked there they all think that they can do the same. The Hill Inn car park is for 'patrons only', but there are a couple of lay-bys just above it. **Walking from here takes about an hour.**

Windbank/Knipe Scar/Hawkswick

Delete all reference to the £1.50 daily flying fee. The £1 per car per day parking fee at Windbank remains. If the honesty box is on display then it is probably easier to use that rather than trying to track down Mr Dibb, the owner.

Don't worry about trying to remember the code for the combination lock – it is long gone. Although the gate is wired up it is easy enough just to step over.

Walter's spot from the Airmiles collection:



Trevor Birkbeck writes:

The British Open Series Hang gliding competition, March 22nd to 26th

The national hang gliding competition series (which used to be called The League) is having its local event on the above dates.

The event will be held on suitable sites in the Dales, or on Model Ridge on the North Yorks moors should the wind be Northerly.

We will be based at the Green Dragon Inn in Hardraw during the event. On the day you can find out which site we have gone to for the day by contacting the Museum in the Station car park behind the Ropemakers.

See you there.

Kate Rawlinson writes:

Airwave Club Challenge Derbyshire Round 29th March 2009

The day looked really promising early on, with blue sky, light wind and sunny. 16 eager Dales pilots met at the Gliding Club and chatted while the comp organisers decided the day's task. At 10:30 we left for Eyam Edge with the task of getting to goal, which was the other side of the M1, with a minimum scoring distance of 5km.



The hill looked like something from a BPCup; there must have been at least 50 pilots squashed onto the hill, and every available take off point was taken, 4 or 5 deep in some places! After a site briefing and some top tips from John Ellison and Hamish Tsai we waited for it all to kick off. After watching a few test flights, a lone paraglider caught a thermal, and

20 pilots launched themselves into the air; this was the first group to go over the back. Some time later, a smaller group of around 12 pilots went over. Hamish went over with one other glider and landed in Loxley, near Sheffield in a cul-de-sac (!!), where he somehow managed to get a homeowner to make him a cup of tea while he waited for his retrieve!!



My Skygod for the day was Paul Whiteside, who after a break from flying for 6 months got off with the second gaggle and landed just west of Sheffield with 15.48km. This was his first UK XC; fantastic, Paul, well done☺



All of the low time pilots who stayed on the ground should know that it was really quite a tough place to get up from. It was very difficult to ridge-soar with such a light wind and so many pilots trying to core the small thermals. The decision for most to stay on the ground was a good one as we did see one or two near misses. This comp is all about fun and safety first and foremost, but even when we don't fly we gain experience from site/weather briefings and watching the more experienced pilots fly. However, we all had a great day; a few pilots stayed till things were better later in the day and got a flight.



Thanks to Kev, for being the A team captain, John for retrieves, and a big thank you to everyone who attended and anyone I have forgotten (or did forget, sorry Rick). Keep your eyes open for the next round.

If any pilots would like to take part in future rounds please email me at katerawlinson@hotmail.co.uk with your rating, hours flown, glider make/colour, email and mobile phone number.

NB Next Airwave Club Challenge: Dales Round

This takes place 2/3 May: contact Kate for details.

News from the committee

Sites

Great Whernside

This site is still under discussion; no flying at this site in the meanwhile.

Ilkley

The question of shooting rights is still unclear

Sites guide

The aim is to publish an up-to-date downloadable version of the sites guide on the DHPC website. This will include a wind rose and detailed mapping. In the meanwhile, 50 copies of the Sites Guide have been printed, and an addendum of recent changes has been prepared.

Coaching

The club now has 25 people listed as coaches, and there are 12 people registered to come along to the first coaching session of the season on 18/19 April. Two first aid kits were purchased for coaching and comps events. Coaching armbands have been purchased and distributed.

A BHPC member contacted us. He will need to take the CP exam and be witnessed flying and his logbook reviewed for appropriate experience.

Competitions

The possibility of the club organising a spot landing comp day in the Dales was discussed. Alternatively, this might be a combined event with War of the Roses and/or CSC. It might be called the "Dales Northern Bash Fly-in".

Club nights

Although previous plans were for talks to be organised for September to April only, the committee felt it would be a good idea to have presentations all year round if at all possible. Besides the talk in May already planned (Ascent of Aconcagua), possible events might include (if confirmed with the speakers):

June - ATC Leeming visit again.

Sept - Aiden Toase

Oct - Harewood House Red Kite release programme.

Nov - AGM

Dec - Another comedy YouTube night.

Jan & Feb – pickup then return gliders from Aerofix.

March - Jake, Dave Smart XC guru night (perhaps combine with site familiarisation night with Memory Map of sites).

Other possibilities include an archaeological talk on the Dales, a talk about conservation in the Yorkshire Dales park authority, a talk by John Ellison on his recent XC 163km flight, a sailplane glider night, and/or a talk by Aerofix.

Membership

Instead of helmet stickers being issued to members on an annual basis, the possibility of issuing membership cards instead is being investigated.

Trophies

Dean Crosby will be consulted as to who would be likely people for the award of the Active Edge Cup for the best first XC.