

# Skywords

Monthly Newsletter of the Dales Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club

Www.dhpc.org.uk

June 2009



## From the Editor, Dennis Wray

It hasn't been such good weather for flying recently, but with any luck this Bank Holiday weekend should be good!

Please keep your contributions coming in!

Happy flying!

Please send your contributions directly to me - my email is [d.wray@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:d.wray@leeds.ac.uk)

## Club Nights

After closure of the Black Horse in Otley, Club nights are now able to continue at the Ilkley Moor Vaults Pub, Ilkley! This is located just off the A65 at Stockeld Road (LS29 9HD). Club nights will now be held on the first Wednesday of the month (instead of Thursdays), meeting at 8pm, notices at 8:15, and events starting at 8:30.

### Next club night – 3 June

The programme for this meeting has been moved to this date from the cancelled May meeting. We have a PowerPoint presentation of the amazing trip made by Steve Dean and others with Beyond Extreme. The trip was led by famous climber Simon Yates up to the top of the highest mountain in the Andes and then the trip was completed by flying down in their paragliders!!!

Presenting this talk ("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 may 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. Besides Melise, Sam Buckland may 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 too.

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

## Ogi writes:

### Next coaching day

The next Dales coaching day will be on the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> June. We will try to pick the best forecast.

If you want to come to the next one please confirm via Email –saying which days you can come - that is for both Pilots and Coaches please.

### Report from the last coaching day

Well we tried! The easy thing to do would have been to have cancelled the day beforehand and carry it over to the next month. However, if we had done that then we would not have had a full site briefing on Wether Fell and then flown it (scratchy for a couple of hours) and then had a site briefing on Semer Water. A few resisted the pub and had a couple of scratchy flights on Semer in the evening, with a sunset fly down.

Overall we made the best of an iffy forecast in a month that has not rewarded us with much flying so far.

I hope that everyone appreciates at least learning some more about our various Dales flying sites. So far, in two coaching days, we have done Whernside, Wether Fell and Semer water – some of our best.

Here is a photo of some of the group who went on to Semer after Wether Fell; a few of these flew Semer when the wind picked up later.



A very big thanks from everyone to the Coaches who turned up – hopefully some new faces next time to share the coaching around please.

### **Kate writes:**

#### **Dales Northern Bash**



Come and join us for a weekend of flying and fun in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales!

The event will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at the Green Dragon Inn, Hardrow, Hawes, DL8 3LZ.

There will be a BBQ on Saturday night, £6. Tickets will be available from the bar, with a vegetarian option available. Numbers in advance please. Camping will be £5 per person, per night. Please pay at the bar on arrival before pitching your tent.

#### **Dales Airwave Club Challenge round**

The same weekend, **27-28 June**, will also host the Dales Airwave Club Challenge round. If you want to be in the team and not just free flying, get your names in asap. For further information please see the club's website at <http://www.dhpc.org.uk/forum/index.php>

or email [katerawlinson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katerawlinson@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **Airwave Club Challenge, 3<sup>rd</sup> May Derbyshire - Round 2**

Well I had watched the weather all week for our round. Wednesday it looked like it was on, Thursday morning it was looking really iffy, Friday it was a definite no with the better weather further south. So at the last minute I cancelled our round and very cheekily put one team in for the Derbyshire round on the Sunday.



We met at the Gliding Club and it was quickly decided to head over to Bradwell Edge. The task was to get to goal, which was the other side of the M1 with a minimum scoring distance of 3km.



The day was up and down (literally). Hamish and Richard Shirt got off early and soon got to base and disappeared over the back, followed a bit later by Peter Balmforth. Hamish landed on the outskirts of Sheffield, Richard and Peter at Dore just .2km apart. Richard Newman managed a late flight to get us our fourth scoring pilot, brilliant.

Everybody flew; some got more than one XC (Hamish)!! We had a great day; thank you to you all for accommodating my sudden change

of plans. Thanks also again to John for the retrieves.



Anybody interested in taking part in future rounds should have a look at the club's website or email me at [katerawlinson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katerawlinson@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Sites Officer Martin writes:**

#### **Stags Fell - Car Parking**

There have been reports of a pilot driving up the track and parking near to launch. I have spoken to the owner and can confirm that this is not acceptable. Pilots driving up the track put our continued use of this valuable site at risk. Please don't do it!

### **Email from Steve Penfold:**

#### **British HG Open Series Sports Class**



The British Hang Gliding Open Series ran a Sports Class at the first of its 3 competitions this season in South Wales. The event was such a success that the committee have decided to run a Sports Class at the remaining two fixtures – Yorkshire (Hawes) at the late May Bank Holiday 22-26 May, and Mid Wales at the August Bank Holiday.

For those who are not aware, the Sport Class is a fun competition that runs alongside the main competition and is aimed at pilots new to the Open Series. The tasks are short, but it has the advantage of being mentored by the Current British Champion, Grant Crossingham, and has a retrieve service laid on.

The competitors are made to feel welcome and introduced to competition flying in a fun and friendly way, with the absolute minimum of hassle for the new pilots.

The entry form and a load of information about the British Competition Scene can be found at <http://bhgc.wikidot.com/>

For more details, call Steve Penfold on 07770 897419, or see the web site!

### **News from the committee**

Sorry, no minutes available for the newsletter this month!

### **Wills Wings again from Trevor Birkbeck!**

Own a quality built wing from the company that has been providing hang gliders right from the very early days! Every glider produced is test flown at the factory. If you want a top performing wing, then the T2 is the glider for you!



On the other hand, you may want the easy handling and fantastically easy landing of the U2. Ring Trevor for a trial flight. The T2 is available for trial anytime and the U2 by arrangement.



**Contact Trevor Birkbeck on**  
07836 342312 or 01765 658486