

CLUB RADIO FREQUENCY 143.850Hz

Skywords

email katerawlinson@hotmail.co.uk if you wish to submit anything for next month's mag.

Katex

Club Night

The Black Horse
Otley LS21 3AS
7th March – 8pm start



Ian Curren

Northern Paragliding

PG Safety & First Aid

At last First Aid specifically aimed at
Paragliding/Hang Gliding incidents

Club Night

The Black Horse
Otley LS21 3AS
4th April – 8pm start



Dean Crosby

And possibly Steve Nash

Pyrenees Hike & Fly (2012)

The pure spirit of Hike & Fly paragliding; that is, carrying a wing however far, to the next launch site with the promise that it will carry you in the air in a much underestimated mountainous area; all within three weeks!

Inside this month's issue:

- Chairman's Chat
- DHPC Re-pack
- Ed's Coaching Column
- Noticeboard
- Ratho Re-pack
- BP Cup – Reg Open
- Photography and Video Comp
- DVD Review
- Coaching Contacts



Chairman's Chat

We've lost a sites officer! I received an email from Dave Bradwell earlier in the month explaining that he was unable to continue in the role. This rather puts us on the back foot when it comes to negotiating new sites such as Fremmington Edge. Officially we'll try to replace Dave at the AGM, but that won't be until December. In the meantime Dave Brown from Ingleton has offered to help see us through the summer months, although nothing is firm yet.

If you have read my recent attitude article in Skywings you will know that the BHPA have emphasised that we can't accept non-BHPA members into the club. At last week's committee meeting we had a long chat about non-members; mercifully few in our area. We know of 2 experienced pilots who, amongst other reasons, just don't want to pay the BHPA fees. But, perhaps more worryingly, I met a pilot on the hill the other day who hasn't yet completed all the tasks required for CP. He was intending to fly without an instructor present, thus invalidating his (BHPA training membership) insurance. He also put me in a difficult position as a coach - if I offered advice or assistance, and it all went horribly wrong, I wouldn't be covered.

We don't police our sites, and no-one is likely to get physically ejected. Non-members are welcome to come to club nights and Skywords is freely available on the website. Our policy is one of education and gentle persuasion, although coaches should be aware that they are only authorised to coach fully qualified club pilots. As a BHPA affiliated club we try to comply with their rules so that we (club, committee, coaches, farmers and members) benefit from their insurance – which is invaluable.

If you do meet a non-member and the subject comes up in conversation it's worth pointing out the benefits of BHPA/Club membership. At club level insurance (for all of us) is the main one, but you might want to point out that you are subsidising them - it costs money to maintain our sites, run the club, and to provide a website.

Fly safely,

Martin Baxter
Chairman

DHPC Reserve Repack 2013

9 MARCH 2013 (11am – 3pm)

St Marys School Menston, Leeds.

Brilliant value, just £10

When was the last time you checked your reserve? Manufacturers recommend repacking your reserve every six months. Bill Morris from the BHPA is coming to do a reserve repack day with the Dales club.

All welcome – no need to be a Dales Club pilot.

To book email Peter Spillett at pete@petensara.com or see details on website under events.



DHPC - SHPF Zip Line Ratho Repack Saturday 2 February 2013 – Edinburgh

World Class Zip-line Dynamic Deployment

Kate Rawlinson – Tony Pickering – Zena Stevens – Mark Morrison – Phil Dale

Simon Goodman and David Headly



Me (Kate) and 6 brave (or completely mad) Dales pilots set off in the early hours of Saturday morning 2nd February to drive up to Edinburgh for the reserve re-pack at Ratho. We arrived at 11.45 and made our way up to the 5th floor just in time for the staff to take a lunch break, no probs we were first on at 1pm.

We decided to have a bit of lunch (with our 10% off voucher) in the centre café, after having a look at the launch platform on the 6th floor...oooo bad idea....the platform was 100ft up and the temporary rope zip line looked terrifying, we watched as the last pilots before the lunch break slide or jump off, dropping 30 feet before they zipped along, hand glider pilots had to go off head first!!

Lunch was a sombre affair all of us felt quite nervous, over lunch I decided to volunteer to go first, I didn't want to be standing around panicking any longer than I had to! After checking my harness for the 50th time I was clipped in, I sat (no way was I doing a standing start) and slid to the edge, "just roll off" the guy said, just humph, so after a deep breath off I went, after the shock of the drop I remembered why I was throwing myself a ridiculously high platform over a concrete floor and reached for my reserve handle. Everything was perfect my reserve came out easily and opened fully breaking me slightly before the bottom of the Zip, I was well impressed. Once you stop you are still about 20 feet up and are lowered down where you unclip, pick up all your bits and carry the hanger back up to the platform. Having to walk up 5 floors in your harness isn't easy and I missed nearly everyone else going off, returning the hanger in time to see Phil JUMP off and vanish.

We all absolutely loved it and went to pack our reserves quickly so we could have another go. A large room is provided loads of reserves can be done at once with help from experienced re-packers. We all helped each other and made our way back up to the platform, feeling worryingly nervous again, we tested our packing skills, all our reserves opened fine again. Back upstairs we managed to repack on our own, confident now in our ability to pack our various types of reserve correctly.

I can't think of a better way to test and get a real feel for throwing your reserve, absolutely brilliant experience. All 7 of us will be back in 2014 although we will travel up on the Friday night so we can spend the whole day there and all have at least 4 goes each!!!

At 5.30pm, in the centres theatre, Julian Robinson and Daniel Gravier presented their summer 2012 paragliding adventures in Pakistan. They discovered the Hunza valley, flew the North face of the 7788m Rakaposhi, travelled 300km West by paraglider to the border of Afghanistan, thermalled to over 23,000ft and much more. The pics and vids were fab.

In the evening we checked into the West End Travel Lodge before making our way to the Social, a curry at Mother India in the centre of Edinburgh. After rather a lot of wine, which I'm sure Zena must have forced down me, and a couple of drumstick lollies (a reward for eating up) we went to pub for last orders, can't remember much from this point, only singing, but my son and Martin said my texts were seriously un readable, and having looked back at them I have to agree lol.

All in all a very well organised and well run event, thanks to the SPHF for all their efforts.

In the morning some of us walked up to Princess Street for breakfast others had breakfast in the hotel. On the way back we called in at Tinto where in a 60mph wind Tony walked us up to the North take off and gave us a quick guide to the site, a brilliant end to the weekend.

I will be organising next year's trip, keep your eyes on the website around November for details.

Kate x

P.S. – the inside high wire adventure is also 100 feet above the ground, we are booking in advance for that!!!

What it Costs Us

Re-Pack £25 (should have been 30 but 5 off for booking early)

Key Note Speaker **FREE** (should be 5 but free if booked early)

Travel Lodge £19 per room (offer on in Feb)

Fuel £20 each

Curry £17 each plus drinks.

Total cost £81 complete bargain!!!!



Ed's Coaching Column

Over recent weeks there has been an unfortunate spate of accidents throughout the Dales and Cumbria – some minor and some requiring hospital treatment. Without going into detail, and accepting that each accident/incident is different, I would suggest that early season rustiness, both in terms of piloting skills and judgement, had a part to play. We are still just in the pre-season period; that is - before the thermals get started for real and combine with cold springtime air to provide some rougher rides. Many pilots may not have had their glider out since last autumn - that's quite a lengthy break, now is a good time to get reacquainted with your wing, awaken those dormant skills and get yourself prepared for the spring thermal time. I say a good time because the air (may be cold) but it's also likely to be smooth and relatively laminar without the disturbance that thermal activity brings.

You may wish to consider doing some of the following:

- If your wing has not been inspected (only six went up to Aerofix) since your last flight some months ago, then it's quite possible to do a number of pre-flying checks yourself. I used my village Scout building which had a room large enough to lay out my wing and check lines, sail, ribs, maillons etc. – and it was a warm heated building so I was prepared to take my time and linger. Village room hire is very cheap – in fact mine was free!
- If you're checking the wing – then check the harness too. Look at the stitching, any wear around the hang points, the reserve closure system, the run of the speed system lines. It may even be possible to do a hang in it.

- If you are able to do a reserve re-pack then that can be added to the list. **Don't forget we have a repack day at Menston booked for 10th March – contact Pete Spillett.**
- Find some clean ground (moorland grass is ideal), free from rocks, walls, fences etc., and have a good ground handling session. A wind speed of about 8 – 12 is ideal – avoid stronger winds initially. Rather than just aimless ground handling – try to have a pre-planned set of exercises that require different skills. Explore the full set of riser controls – to give fast, slow and asymmetric inflations. Try different hand positions. Move around with the wing through a pre-determined route, touch tips to ground, turn over the wing so its leading edge is on the ground, turn it back etc. In other words gain a feel for the wing and master control of it. Other ground based exercises can to some degree simulate spin and asymmetric collapse control. Finally, when you bring it back to ground, the quickest way to 'kill' the energy of the wing. There is a good video link on the coaching section to illustrate the range of exercises that can be carried out.
- Choose a decent day and site for those first flights. Avoid over confidence at first, a simple soaring session will suffice until you're sure you have tuned in to those well-honed skills of last year. Show extra caution if scratching, avoid wing overs or any over dynamic manoeuvres and certainly not near the ground. During your flight aim to get the turns at the end of each beat smooth; if height allows practice your 360's in both directions. Explore the pitch and roll handling of your wing with being too radical. Feel for the reserve handle position – OK, it's where you left it, but everything has to become second nature again. Set up landings a bit earlier than normal and expect to land without quite the same precision as you did at the end of last season.
- All of the above applies if you ever change wings, regardless of when that is. For example -in my own case I've just changed gliders and need to explore the feel of the brake pressure, length of travel, response time to brakes, pressure before stall and spin point, inflation speed, pitch/roll coordination (quite a long list so I won't go on) - in other words I need to tune in quickly to a new glider's characteristics to fly safely and efficiently.
- Finally, post-ground handling or flight; reflect on those things you feel you need to improve on and how you might do so. As well as the actual flying skills – did you feel emotionally OK in the air, or perhaps a little nervous? It would be normal to feel a bit uneasy at times as that is all part of the mental acclimatisation after a layoff.

To sum up I would simply say, ease yourself into the new season, start that process sooner rather than later and expect a short re-learning and acclimatisation process.

JOINT COACHING DAY – 10th March

(Hawkshead Brewery, Staveley, near Kendal)

A reminder about the Joint Coaching Day with the CSC. I think we currently have around 20 people attending – the limit is 25, so there are a few places left. Cost is a

mere £5 for the refreshments as the clubs are paying the other charges. Rather than going through the programme for the day I've put up my second slide which provides most of what you need to know. We are aiming at those pilots who feel ready for their first XC or who wish to improve on early XC attempts. That said it could be of benefit to any pilot regardless of where they are on the experience curve. All are welcome.

If you have your name down then expect an advance questionnaire from Rick Livingstone, please bring your GPS/vario and this year, even if it is flyable, we will not be going flying! There – said it!

Programme (approx)

Start - 10:00: Welcome, Introduction and programme for the day
RL - 10:10: Group profile

The day will break down into approximately 4 x 1 hr slots with shorts breaks around 11:15, 12:45 – 1:30 lunch, 2:30 and finishing 4pm

The bulk of the day will be jointly covered by DA/EC and will focus on the following areas:

- Why fly XC?
- When are you ready for XC?
- Mental blocks/concerns to going XC?

} Discussion topics

Going XC – the essentials

a) Reading the weather – choosing the right day	l) Effects of wind and sun
b) Selecting the best site – Dales/Lakes/Pennines	m) Making effective use of instruments
c) Planning your flight	n) Airspace considerations
d) Equipment – instruments, radios, cameras	o) Planning your landing out – when/where
e) Mental preparation	p) Judging terrain, slope and wind direction
f) Thermalling skills and flying with others	q) Emergencies – use of 112
g) When to leave the hill	r) Getting back!
h) Choosing best lines – finding the second thermal	s) Post flight reflection
i) Observational skills	t) Using flight information – tracklog/photos
j) Reading and using clouds	u) Improvement strategies
k) Reading and using terrain	

PLENARY

DHPC Coaching Group and Coaches.

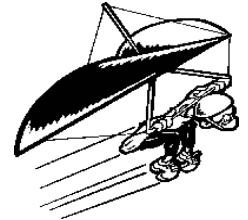
Thankyou to those who have returned coaching registration forms and are now registered for coaching days and other coaching activities. This does not commit you in any way, but those activities are now open to you.

The **coaches list** within this copy of Skywords has been checked by the BHPA and if you are on the list then you hold a current coach rating. However, unless you let me have photograph and a very brief profile by 20th April then you will not appear on the official DHPC coaches list from that date either in Skywords or on the website. Some DHPC members are obviously coach rated, but their coaching activities may be primarily carried out within another club which they regard as their home and main club. If you wish to be regarded as a full DHPC coach then I simply need a photo and that very short profile.

A small number of people requested copies of DFC – which I duly sent. Payment would be appreciated please.

Safe flying and watch out for those Spring thermals

Noticeboard



<http://bpcup.co.uk/events.php>

Isle of Wight 4 days 3-6 May Peak District 9 days 24 Aug - 1 Sep

Entry for 2013 BP Cup is open now!

Costs are £40 for a four day event and £55 for the nine day event.

Registration and entry are separate. Once registered you will be able to logon to update glider details, contacts etc.

Note that if you entered for any year between 2008 to 2012 you will not need to register for 2013.

If you're not sure if you registered or not click login, then forgot password. Enter your email address. If it says 'Email isn't registered' you will need to register.

DHPC Photography & Video competition 2013

DHPC are proud to announce the inaugural annual free flight photo and video competition. The contest is open to all DHPC members, with a provisional closing date of 25th March 2013, assuming the trophy night will take place on the April club night. Entries will be judged and the winners announced during that event. A year's free membership and mystery trophy will be awarded to the overall winner together with additional prizes for category winners.

See the forum for more details.

The latest BHPA Club Bulletin is now available.

Click on this link to download the PDF

http://www.bhpa.co.uk/members/clubs/index.php?issue=cb195_feb_2013.pdf

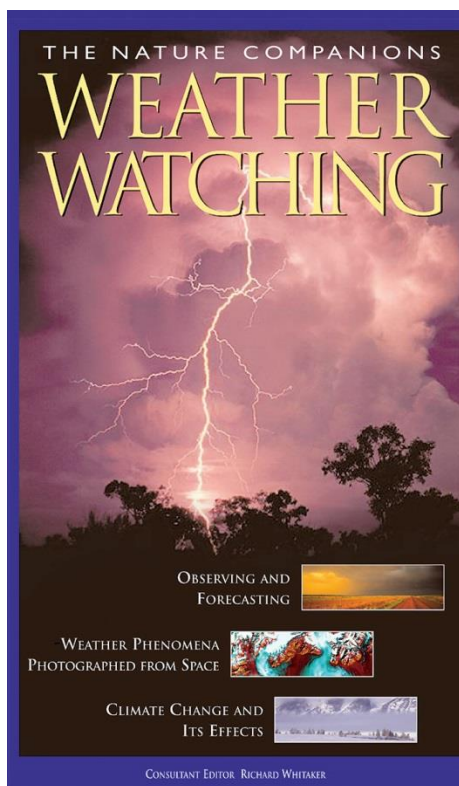
Library News- Melise Harland



The library catalogue and back issues of Skywords are on the DHPC website. To Access them go to the homepage and you'll see the library listed in white lettering on the blue band at the top of the page. If you click on "Library" it will take you to the catalogue so you can have a look, see what we have and have a wish list ready for the next club night.

We now have a copy of Ed's fantastic book "Defined Flying Challenges" in the library, if you haven't seen it yet it is well worth a look. Many thanks to Martin for this month's review.

If you would like to pre-order any item from the catalogue feel free to send me an e-mail (Melise_Harland@yahoo.co.uk) and I will reserve it for you. If you have any suggestions for things you would like to see here let me know.



Weather Watching

Reviewed by Martin Baxter

Written in 2003 and re-printed in 2006.

This large book is roughly A4 in size with 480 pages.
Our copy is hard-backed.

£19.99

What the Blurb Says

Learn to identify cloud formations and other weather phenomena. Discover how weather affects our health and wellbeing, the economy, and the creatures, cycles and habitats of the natural world. Weather Watching examines the latest research on climate change around the globe, and discusses the mechanics and limitations of weather forecasting.

First Impressions

My first impressions weren't that good. A lot of the subject material and maps focus on the USA. It's a bit like a children's encyclopedia – something a poorly informed relative might buy you for Christmas. I soon found myself flicking through the photographs and captions rather than reading all the text. I also had the suspicion that it wouldn't have that much relevance to hang gliding and paragliding.

The introductory chapters give a general overview of what weather is and how it affects planet earth. I suppose that a couple of pages each on the atmosphere, seasons, global winds and ocean currents do no harm. (Can you explain why jungles grow on most of the land at the Equator whilst desert conditions exist 30 degrees north or south of it?) The book

then moves onto the more relevant topics of frontal systems, clouds and precipitation, again with a couple of pages on each.

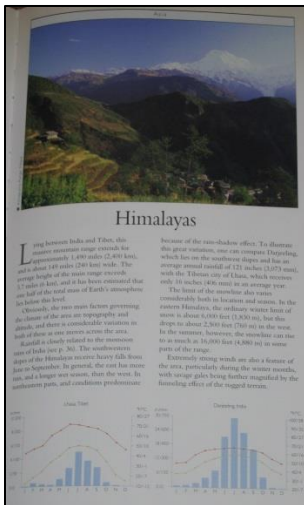


History and Climate Change

The next few chapters deal with the history of weather watching leading into a rudimentary description of forecasting today. I admit that I skipped most of this. A photo of a hang glider caught my eye on page 96, but there wasn't much else of interest. The next section talks about climate change and how humans and animals cope with its effects. The book was struggling to meet my low expectations.

Weather in Action

But then I hit the section on 'Weather in Action' and things improved. Every type of cloud, including some you have never heard of, together with the different types of precipitation, get a page or 2 of stunning photographs, diagrams and useful text. And then we move on to the exciting subject of Storms, including the different types of lightening, tornadoes and waterspouts, dust devils, microbursts and dust storms. This section is well worth reading. And then I reverted to 'scan mode' for the chapter on Optical Effects: rainbows, auroras and the like.



Weather for Travellers

The next 65 pages describe weather for travellers. I can't imagine anyone reading every page, but it could be useful if you were planning a trip to, say, the Himalayas. Find the right page and it will tell you a bit about the area and its weather. Detailed graphs show monthly rainfall and maximum and minimum temperatures. Nothing you couldn't get from t'interweb.

Images from Space

The final 100+ pages of the book form a collection of stunning images taken from space, along with a short, and fairly addictive, description of each.



Summary

This book is a useful encyclopedia of weather phenomena, and it would look quite good on your coffee table; but don't pay hard cash for it. If you sign it out from the DHPC library, marvel at the stunning photography over a leisurely coffee, and read the captions where something catches your eye. Read the section of 'Weather in Action' (pages 192 – 269) especially if you are studying towards an enhanced rating, or just feel the need for a refresher.

This DVD belonged to the late Dennis Wray. It was kindly donated to the club by his daughter Alex.

Dales Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club – February 2013

Sites Officer North: Dave Bradwell-01765 698656
 Sites Officer South: Pete Johnson-07968 759422
<http://www.facebook.com/DalesHangGlidingParaglidingClub>
 Twitter - @dalesflyer

Hang Gliding Coaches

Name	Availability	Location	Email	Contact Telephone Number
Trevor Birkbeck	Various	Ripon	trev.birkbeck@gmail.com	01765 658486
Steve Mann	Weekends	Kirkby Malzeard, Ripon	steve.andbex@btinternet.com	01765 650374
Kevin Gay	Various	Ripon	kgay@talktalk.net	07794950856

Paragliding Coaches

Name	Availability	Location	Email	Contact Telephone Number
Ed Cleasby DHPC Chief Coach	Various	Ingleton	xcflight@gmail.com	07808394895
Rob Burtenshaw (senior coach)	Sun+various	Oxenhope	burtenshaw@fsmail.net	07747721116
Peter Balmforth	Weekends	Leeds	peter.balmforth@ntlworld.com	07714213339
Steve Mann	Weekends	Kirkby Malzeard Ripon	steve.andbex@btinternet.com	01765 650374
Noel Whittall	Various	Leeds	noel.whittall@googlemail.com	01132 502043
Alex Colbeck	Weekends	Harrogate	alexcolbeck@hotmail.com	07717707632
Pete Logan	Various	ShIPLEY	pete@logans.me.uk	07720 425146
Tony Pickering & Zena Stevens	Various	Otley	anthonypaulpickering@hotmail.com	01943 466632
Kevin McLoughlin	Weekends	Lancaster	Kevin-mcloughlin@hotmail.com	07767 652233
Martin Baxter	Weekdays	Wetherby	mrbaxter@hotmail.co.uk	07775785479
Ronald Green	Weekends	Hartlepool	ronaldgreenpilot@hotmail.com	07403068944
Fred Winstanley	Various	Higher Bentham	fredwinstanley@sky.com	0777041958
Richard Shirt	Weekends	York	rshirt@advaoptical.com	07786707424
Simon Goodman	Various	Leeds	simon.goodman @talktalk.net	07720061200
Andy Bryom	Weekends	Keighley	andy.active@unicombox.co.uk	07796 421890
Dave Couthard	Weekends	Leeds	d.coulthard2@ntlworld.com	07595895149
Sean Hodgson	Various	Haworth	sean@ogi.me.uk	07999606084
Kate Rawlinson	Weekends	Laneshawbridge/ Colne	katerawlinson@hotmail.co.uk	07976510272

Club Coaches are pilots who have expressed a wish to help less experienced or new pilots find their feet in the club environment. It could involve site information/briefings, developing practical flying skills, assisting on coaching days or helping pilots prepare for exams or invigilating exams. All coaches have been endorsed by the club and undertaken some BHPA led training – they need to undertake some coaching each year to retain their rating.

They are there to help you – please use them.

