

Towlines

The Newsletter of the Albuquerque Soaring Club

July 2010

President's Notes

By Bob Hudson

I am pleased to be able to say we had a safe and sane three-day celebration of our great country's birthday! Yep, three days of fairly decent, but hot, weather and some really respectable flying. I want to say at the start thanks to Deor Jensen for donating Monday (the 5th of July) so that we could fly a bunch of folks on their day off. I also want to thank the instructors and Operations people who gave their time on a holiday to see that we could have a productive flying schedule. Good on y'all!

One of the good things about a holiday is you get a chance to see good friends. It was especially nice to see Stan Cooper on Sunday, the fourth. Stan, as most of you know has had a rough time lately. He suffered a small stroke earlier in the year that has caused him to take a break from the club and then recently he lost his wife Vicki. Well, on Sunday, Stan dropped by the Operations Tent with Vicki's sister Renee. They just came out for a little while and instead stayed for most of the day. Besides being great to see Stan, we have successfully enticed Renee to take a demo ride in the near future.

On the evening of the fourth, a small group of Club members gathered for an impromptu bar-b-que and fireworks demo. The food was good, the fellowship was good and the fireworks were good - except the Two Fingers of Death...you will have to ask. [*Hint: Ask about which way up fireworks are supposed to be placed before lighting the blue touch paper and retiring immediately.* - Ed.]

On another note, we have replaced the batteries in the golf cart and this has caused a change in our charging process. The old way of charging was to plug in the cart at the end of the day and just let it charge. Well, this was actually "cooking" the batteries. Now we have the charger on a timer so you plug the cart in and you will not hear the usual charger hum as the timer is set to go on at seven pm and off at ten, only on Saturday and Sunday. What this means is do not ever unplug the charger from the timer nor unplug the timer. If you use the cart during the week then it should be okay on the weekend, unless you really work it hard. If that is the case then push the on button on the timer and please send me a note, or call, so that I can arrange to turn the charger off.

These simple instructions were ignored almost immediately they were introduced by a member or members, and the new batteries were discovered the next day to be as dead as a very old board and the charger appeared to be toast. So please do try to read and then follow the instructions; they are simple enough. If we follow these steps the cart's batteries should last us several years.

In last months *Towlines* I discussed the upcoming Cross Country Camp, part two. We need to start formulating the assignments as well as figure out who wants to attend. So far we have Mary Hawkins to arrange lecturers and to act as Operations Officer. Diana Roberts will fulfill the role of arranging the meals (menus, cooking, etc.) and Carol Roeske will handle the accommodations and cleanup details. This means we still need a volunteer to handle gifts

(for the hosts), a person to arrange the equipment and organize the planes, and one to be the overall camp director...the Big ASS. Don't all line up at once.

We have a new club member in Bart Tate (below). Bart has a DG-500M motor glider, call sign Mike Romeo. Right now Bart is residing in his hangar, #31. Stop by and give him the official Club greeting.



Barton Tate, who will be the owner of a JS-1 when it has finished being used in the upcoming second half of the World's.

Continuing the good news, new solo student Kimmine Perce recently “upgraded” into the 1-26.



As she proudly said after the flight, both parties involved (herself and the glider) were reusable after landing.

Well, that is all for now, so I will see you around the air field and as always, fly safe!

Print this poster

And stick it to the mirror you look at in the morning. That was the advice from the head steward from the International Gliding Commission at the section of the World Gliding Contest (covering PW-5s, Standard and Club class) held at Prievidza in Slovenia. Roland Stuck, the top IGC guy, was clearly exasperated at the way the contest's early days had turned into a terribly dangerous performance.

At one of the morning pilots' meetings Stuck let the assembled company have it.

"During the four first days of this competition we had one fatal accident, one mid air collision and yesterday morning we were very close to having another collision. We have also several gliders damaged during outlandings. [One bad outlanding resulted in the pilot being hospitalized.]

"This is definitely the worst safety record we ever had in a World's Gliding Contest!

"Is this only due to bad luck?

"I do not think so

"Every day we have pilots reporting dangerous flying, complaining about other pilots making silly manoeuvres before the start, entering into gaggles in a wild way, flying in clouds and so on, and so on."

He concluded by saying "only YOU [meaning the pilots] can improve the situation." Nothing, no award, no win, is worth putting your life or the lives of others at risk, he said.

That morning's paperwork for the pilots included the following poster, with the request that the teams print it and tape it to the mirrors that pilots look at first thing in the morning. The message is one that we can all accept. Safety begins with each pilot, and there is nothing that

we might gain, from records, OLC awards, badges, even just bragging rights, that justifies risking our necks or especially those of other Moriarty pilots.

The person you are looking at is responsible for your safety!



The organizing team is kindly asking you to fly safely.

While we are talking about safety

Remember that rule about not having your wingtip over the line that defines the edge of the runway when staging for a take off?.

You know, the rule that is so often ignored. Well the picture below shows just what will happen to your beautifully polished and highly expensive wing when a propeller decides to whack it.



The story behind this picture: A friend of your Ed was in his -27, strapped in, canopy closed, ready to go, watching his towplane landing towards him. (It is one of those sites where take off is downhill and landing is the other way, uphill.)

The towplane was high and fast on approach and instead of going around the tow pilot tried to get it stopped. This turned into a ground loop and the result you see.

Mitch Hudson kindly removed the identification from the glider to protect the innocent.

The point remains. If you don't want your nice toy mangled, keep it away from the edge of the runway. There has already been one incident at Moriarty where a wing was extensively and expensively assaulted. Do not make it two.

Weather forecast?



ASC Calendar

Please put this calendar of events for upcoming Club activities in your personal calendar:

17 JULY-ISOTOPE BASEBALL

14 AUGUST-PANCAKE BREAKFAST

6 SEPTEMBER-PANCAKE BREAKFAST

25 SEPTEMBER-OKTOBERFEST

23 OCTOBER-OLC CELEBRATION

13 NOVEMBER -PANCAKE BREAKFAST

11 DECEMBER-ANNUAL MEETING; LOOKING FORWARD

1 JANUARY-PANCAKE BREAKFAST

5 FEBRUARY-OLC CONFERENCE AND ASC GALA

ASC Operations Schedule

| Date | OPS 1 | OPS 2 | Instructor | Tow Pilot |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Jul 24 Saturday | McKNIGHT P | HUSS J | WIER J | TICHY T/ |
| Jul 25 Sunday | BOYCE J | Roberts D | | HAWKINS T/ |
| Jul 31 Saturday | BLOCH J | KAWAL D | MORRISON B | WRIGHT R/ |
| Aug 1 Sunday | RESOR B | BUENAFE C | | Bryan T/ |
| Aug 7 Saturday | BROTHERS L | REED R | DAFFER J | BUSS P/ |
| Aug 8 Sunday | KOENIG C | HAWKINS M | | HAWKINS T/ |
| Aug 14 Saturday | OKANDAN M | Pierce K | | HILL W/ |
| Aug 15 Sunday | MARTINEZ J | Talarczyk R | TAYLOR K | STOGNER M/ |
| Aug 21 Saturday | CUMIFORD Jr. J | Sapp J | WIER J | Jenson K/ |
| Aug 22 Sunday | HUDSON R | BIELEK K | | TICHY T/ |
| Aug 28 Saturday | PHILLIPS C | BANKS H | DAFFER J | WADSWORTH H/ |
| Aug 29 Sunday | HARMONY D | Roten C | | WRIGHT R/ |
| Sep 4 Saturday | | | MORRISON B | Raburn V/ |
| Sep 5 Sunday | | | | Bryan T/ |
| Sep 11 Saturday | | | ROESKE S | HAWKINS T/ |
| Sep 12 Sunday | | | | HILL W/ |
| Sep 18 Saturday | | | | Jenson K/ |
| Sep 19 Sunday | | | TAYLOR K | Raburn V/ |
| Sep 25 Saturday | | | WIER J | TICHY T/ |
| Sep 26 Sunday | | | | WADSWORTH H/ |
| Oct 2 Saturday | | | | WRIGHT R/ |