

WEEKEND REPORT - 10TH AND 11TH FEBRUARY, 2007

By Ed Verpraet.

The weekend really started on Friday the 9th February with Rob driving out to Nadini to collect Bruce and Peter Clemence who had landed their Sabre on Dirk Uys' runway as clouds on the mountains blocked their path to Worcester. It always puzzles me that pilots who fly with engines want to fly from Johannesburg to Cape Town when a cold front approaches the Western Cape! No self-respecting glider pilot would undertake such a flight without proper meteorological planning. Give them an engine and they just go! Strange!

Saturday morning was heavily overcast with raindrops on the tin roof inviting a cosy lie-in.

By 09:00 Jerry Betbeder and Frank Dorey as duty pilots and Frans du Toit as tug pilot were present and also Dalene Pestana from Bloemfontein was there with hubby, Tim, to measure upvarious lidars for canopy covers. A little later Nicky arrived with William Whittaker with friend, Stuart Lawson.

The one and only flight was an air experience flight for Stuart flown by William. They had to land because of rain and that put paid to flying on Saturday. Herbie spent the day in his hangar building on the bathroom. Mike Allen and Heather gave their caravan a good clean-out and stayed for the night.

The winch was taken out by Tom and parked on the downwind side of the winch runway. After the first shower, Tom, Rob and Nicky spent most of the day, between showers, to repair both winch cables until they ran out of ferrules. Are we really going to see some effiecient winch launching in the near future?

Sunday morning dawned heavily overcast. The first people to arrive were two visitors from Lithuania: Valdas and Mantas Pestenis, and also a visitor from Nympsfield (U.K) Peter Walker. Then also Ryno Ooshuisen and Gareth Foweday (duty Pilots) arrived as well as Alan Procter (Tug Pilot).

When I came back from town, Boet Coetzee (instructor) had arrived as well as Nico Le Roux and Sven Olivier, as well as Rudi Schurkes who had trailed in GHB's fuselage and Helmut von Michaelis who as keen as ever to fly GUC! Kevin Mitchell brought in two walkie-talkies for use in the winch operation : they will be tested out and integrated in a more efficient ground operation.

Although Rob Kakebeeke had taken to the air in his Carat, GZG, just before 10.00am for a 40 min flight, the first launch for the day was GUC, flown by Gareth Floweday who disappeared in the direction of Swellendam. Boet Coetzee took charge of GOK and flew with the visitors Valdas, Mantas and Peter. In between Rob flew the Carat again, Kevin

Mitchell his DG400 for the longest flight of the day, 94 min, Rudi Schurkes in his Astir GWN, after releasing early for a 5min aerotow, raced under cloudstreets and along convergence lines with airbrakes out to stay out of the cloud.

A good time was had by all!!

Around 13:45pm Ryno was phoned by Gareth that he had landed out near Drew, between Bonnievale and Swellendam. I tok over the phone from Ryno and suggested to Gareth that he hitchhike back to FAWC and organize his own retrieve. After a second call from Gareth providing the co-ordinates of the landing spot and a check that a car (with trailer) could reach the glider without problems with middelmannetjies and gates, Helmut with sportsmanlike determination decided to retrieve Gareth and sweet-talked (I think) Sven (who was re-wiring his glider?) to lend his Suzuki to retrieve Gareth (for the 3rd time). No other club member was willing to give up his/her leisure/pleasure time to again accommodate a person who cannot get his act together:

1. No towbar on car
2. No arrangements made for retrieve
3. Duty Pilot goes cross country
4. Pupil goes cross-country without permission from duty instructor
5. and this ins now the 4th or 5th time!

I trust the flying panel/Committee will do something to sort out this unacceptable, a-social behaviour.

In defence: Gareth has promised to do Helmut's duty in two weeks time....we will see!

This weekend report was compiled by Ed (who else with such tone) in the absence of Alison who took a deserved weekend off.

Let's have responsible fun!

ED VERPRAET