

WEEKEND NEWS 3RD AND 4TH MARCH, 2007

Not much to report this weekend. Saturday the team arrived to do their duty and Alan was on time to brief interested parties in the Clubhouse on the expected weather for the day. He predicted an early blow-out and he was correct as, by the time Nina was ready to take the tug to the launch point, the wind was rough and gusty up to 60kph. The rain arrived in the afternoon and that put a dampner on everyone's spirits.

Various members helped the "birthday boy", Otto, (60 – no less!) to de-rig his glider as he flies north for the winter tomorrow. Farewell and see you in the spring!

Johan Gericke, Jacobus and Jerry worked on the installation of the transponder to GUC which should be completed by next weekend.

Nina arrived bright and early on Sunday as did Craig Fussel and Jacobus who stood in for Coen.

The rain had not completely disappeared and I in the Cherokee and Adri in the Lambada took to the skies in opposite directions. Adri flew for an hour down towards Tulbach and I turned back short of Robertson. Each cloud I flew under rained on me although the air was quite buoyant – promises of what was to happen later in the day.

Martin Young had driven down from Knysna and had first a flight in GOK and later a flight in GHB (only because GUC was in huge demand)!

Tom Heaslip, Adriaan, William and Helmut all had good flights with William flying to Robertson and back – also in rain! Jacobus had to be called down after 2 hours and he had to open his airbrakes to get down! On the drive home at 5.30 I heard Helmut, on the radio, flying GUC at 6700' on Brandwacht Peak at cloudbase and enjoying himself immensely!

Welcome to our newest member, Mike Muller, who joined the club yesterday and then had his first flight with Ian in GHB. They stayed up for over an hour and that was a real great introduction to gliding for Mike!

Nina tugged in what was confusing wind directions and handled NIG superbly. It was also great to note that, when Johnny checked the engine after the day's tugging (2.5hrs), she had not used much oil at all. A great sign as she has just had a top-overhaul and is behaving well.

Peter and Bruce Clemence availed themselves of the good flying weather and took to the skies in the Sabre EEJ. Congratulations on Bruce' newly aquired Chalet – the Dawid de beer Hut. May you have many happy weekends there.

Do not forget the Gauntlet next weekend. See you then. ALISON