

THE FLYPAPER - JAN '08

Newsletter for Members of the Piako Gliding Club

Editor (temporary) Jan Mace

President:	Bill Mace	Vice-President:	Dennis Cook
Chief Flying Instructor:	Bob Gray	Club Captain:	Dom Stevens
Chief Tow Pilot:	Richard Small	Secretary:	Phil Smith
Maintenance Officer:	Sefton Crandall	Treasurer:	Trevor Atkins
Committee:	Steve Care, Bill Hewitt		

NZ National Gliding Championships including Sports/PW5's and The Trans-Tasman Trophy

**Matamata Airfield, Waharoa. Practise day – 3 February
First Day 4 February (Monday) - last day 15 February (Friday)**

To Enter, go to GNZ web site – spectators and supporters welcome – tows available after group launch
Cafe operating all day - breakfast, lunch, tea/coffee, casual meals, and dinners (6th, 9th, 13th, 15th).
Club members are very welcome to all dinners, to help with launches, and retrieves, or man the bar. Feel free to come and check-out the action and catch-up on progress.

Come and support Club Member Trev Atkins as NZ rep for the Trans-Tasman Trophy.

From The President's Cockpit.

What a great start to the summer's flying so far - and it ain't over yet!! The weather gods have been phenomenal this year. The cross-country course, fine: Regional Competitions, fine: smattering of rain till Xmas: Xmas camp, fine: Raglan Summer Camp, fine: Anniversary Weekend - what a boomer. Wave, ridge soaring, and 10 knot thermals have been there to be enjoyed with the best of summer still to come.

It was great to see the three clubs intermingled during the summer camp. We don't get to mix very often but this is "friendship making" time.

I thank those of you who have willingly stepped into duty pilot positions over this summer period We all appreciate Duty Pilot is pivotal to a successful day. I also thank those who helped at Raglan, particularly Dennis and Steve for organising the logistics, and Gerald for providing security and continuity. Then thanks to the Club in general for supporting the operation which not only introduces gliding to a larger audience but in doing so largely funds short falls in the flying scheme.

Piako members took 2 major places in the recent regional competitions; Scholes Trophy for winning the Club Class went to Bob Gray and the Matamata Hotel Cup for Sports Class went to Trevor Atkins. Congratulations!! I wish safe and fast flying for those entered in the Nationals.

I look forward to seeing you out at the field. *Bill*

MAINTENANCE REPORT -- nothing this month so I'm not to even mention Sefton's name.

Comments from the Chief Tow Pilot

Richard is once again concerned at his lack of interesting news items for the newsletter but assures you he is having a great family holiday at Mt Maunganui and hopes to get to use the 2 new kayaks. He has arranged for BZA to have it's 100 hr check on the 28th January ready for the competitions. He is also keen to hear from any tow pilot candidates.

This Is Your Club Captain Squawking

Fun, fun, fun in the sun, sun, sun!! Well that's the way I see it (and I believe that's why we do it – gliding that is – for fun). I've just looked back at what I'd written for the last "Fly Paper" and in passing I'd mentioned some forthcoming events. Several of these events have now passed. For those where I was either partially or wholly present I can but only chuckle at the fun and merriment (along with huge doses of excitement) that was had. The X-Country course was a "boomer", and all those who had anything to do with organizing it, please take a pat on the back (especially the one who arranged the weather!). Simultaneous to the X-Country course, some hard yards were being put in by the promotional team at the Centre Place shopping mall in Hamilton which has already yielded results. Unfortunately, just paying your subs and occasionally flying is not enough. We have to take every opportunity to promote our sport / hobby and let everybody know just how much fun it can be ensconcing one's self in glass reinforced plastic and "hooning" (or should I say sedately sailing?) around our skies.

The Regional Champs came and went and a few surprises in the standard class were witnessed. Piako pilots were quite often placed at the top of the score board (results are available on the GNZ website), which proves we're not just pretty faces!

The Xmas Camp was quite a laid-back affair, as it should be, and we were extremely lucky to have a good number of guests from several other clubs join us. If you just want to "chew the cud" and get in some good flying over an extended period, the Xmas Camp has got to be one of the best times of the year for over-indulgence! It's just plain great to meet up with our gliding compatriots and let them remind us (which they quite often did) how lucky we are to have such a fantastic club with such good facilities – but I don't have to tell you that!

Although I wasn't able to attend Raglan, from what I've heard a good time was had by all. I received a few emails, the tone of which implied all and sundry were getting on with organizing the tasks required to run a glider operation away from our home airfield. I feel this is the way things should be run; just a hint of direction and everyone gets on with it – fantastic!

The madding crowd should by now have left the airfield, by which I mean the Walsh Flying School. Their legacy being very short grass on our main runway which we'd like to retain – the short grass that is! The Walsh is quite unique and always reminds me of a cross between Auckland International Airport and a refugee camp. However, should you get the chance it's always worth at least one or two take-off and landings in a glider during the Walsh period, if only to experience flying in a CTR and a very, very busy circuit.

The National Champs are now all but upon us and I'm looking forward with great anticipation to a super time. I've looked at the GNZ website under sailplane racing and the list of pilots makes for some good close scoring. If you can get out to the airfield during the Nationals (there should be towing available once the competitors have absconded) it's well worth it as it's a hive of activity and some extra hands to help launch and possibly retrieve certainly wouldn't go amiss.

As a foot note; did you know that PGC has an emphasis on private ownership and at some stage you will probably own your own glider (by now you are addicted and like as you may you can't give up!)? What this does mean however, is that in the mean time if you're flying the club gliders they like all others need a little TLC. If you study the MOAP you will learn that you cannot just go wielding spanners at an aircraft without qualification but there are certain repairs and maintenance that can be carried out as necessary or as routine. We do have a "Maintenance Officer" and should you wish to repair or maintain the club fleet please check with Sefton Crandall first. Should any pilot who frequently flies NI get the urge, the main under-carriage tyre needs to be replaced. The new tyre which sits on the club hanger bench is waiting to be fitted.

Until next time, Dom.

domandkate@xtra.co.nz

Piako & Others – Easter Gliding Camp
Friday 21 – Monday 24 March

Flying every day – dinner Saturday night – mark the calendar now

Everyone invited !

Your opportunity to fly with an experienced instructor

Entry in the National Competition in the PW6,

Ralph Gore has offered to take students or co-pilots on the following conditions:-

1. By Wednesday 30th, you must have your name to Trev Atkins
2. All flying days being filled
3. You must attend the briefings
4. You will be responsible to prepare the glider and park it on the grid
5. You will have the trailer hitched to your vehicle in case of a retrieve
6. At the end of the day the glider must be assembled, put away, ready for the next day
7. Pay your share of the cost being \$75 per day

BLOWIN' In The WIND

HAPPY NEW YEAR ! Such a cheerful, full-of-promise greeting!! With shades of "I wish you well". So much bigger and more encompassing than merely "Good Morning" (– what about my afternoon and evening?) or "hello", which is better than nothing, but doesn't impart a lot of anything. It seems to say, let's put the past behind and look optimistically to where we are going – a sense of purpose, a beginning. Said with a smile it's a connection with personal meaning. *Happy New Year to you all!*

Welcome to 2 new club members: Sharn Davies from Tauranga who's joined the tow pilot crew. Has had over 200 hours experience and currently a flying instructor over the hill. Sharn did some test runs in the regional comps and looking forward to flying here. Justine Vodane from Hamilton is looking to extend his sports scene and is booked for the first flying course of the year. He's already thinking of adjusting his Thursday afternoon's off to Wednesday to increase his flying time.

Club Training Courses will be underway again soon. A-cert starting in March 29th is full. Bookings are now being taken for the next course starting 17 May. All inquires to Trev or through the web site. While on the subject of learning, Hot Topics evenings organised by the Club Captain will start up again round autumn time. Dom says you're all too busy flying to attend them these next 2 months, but he invites you to suggest or mention to him any subjects you would like to debate. And suggestions or offers of "leader" are welcome.

.....Some brief Reports on Past Events and Happenings.....

The biggest Cross-Country course to date was held in late November – 22 in total attending. Enjoyed by all, especially with every day flyable! The bigger numbers was thought to have been beneficial to pilots and instructors alike. Catered lunches and two dinners added to the social side. Thanks to Bill Mace for organising the logistics of 7 twin gliders and instructors with time available to participate, and to Ralph Gore as chief instructor.

The Regional Competition saw 27 entrants enjoying fabulous weather, well some blue thermal days were a little disappointing. There were some great flying opportunities particularly for those pilots who had just finished the X country course. They really enjoyed themselves and showed how they had matured. Thanks to club members who helped with launches, retrieves, and other jobs – especially novices Eduoard Devonoges with scoring, and June Ritting on radio.

Councillors and Ward Representatives of the Matamata/Piako District Council held their Xmas function at the Gliding Club House prior to Xmas. Phil Smith, Richard Small, Bill Mace, and Les Riesterer took up 11 trial flights and manned the bar for the evening. Reportedly, a great time was had by all.

A reminder that Corporate or Group flying/picnic days are welcomed at the club on non-fly days. All enquires to Bill Mace 07 889 1980. This is a good club promotion and a team to host the participants can be arranged.

Then prior to Xmas, club members manned a stand in Hamilton's Centre Place Mall. Not the most exciting activity, but exceedingly well done. Thanks to Dom who made some new tables and screens, (very professional looking), and to Tim, Ron, and Stu who did the bulk of time seeing to the public. Thanks are accorded to Neil Thomas, the Jeweller on the front corner of the mall, for being a depot for Trail Flight ticket purchases. Your support is welcomed, Neil. Club members are reminded about supporting our supporters!

Xmas Camp saw members from the two Auckland Clubs mix and mingle with Piako, staying in the cabins and camping, with and without family. Great flying days saw both the Piako and Auckland tow planes working to get everyone launched. In amongst the trippers it was noticed that Roberta requested, and had, a training session with the intrepid Trev. Also, Club Captain Dom practised his cooking skills by making pancakes on New Years Day. (check out the photo on the web-page) These activities were topped off with over 50 participants at a great dinner and social occasion to celebrate the New Year arriving and several stayed on to do just that. It was great seeing everyone having a fine old time.

The 42nd Walsh Memorial Scout Flying School also enjoyed the great weather except the last 2 days were too windy for the last few solo flights. This is the biggest volunteer flying school in the world. The usual stuff happened750 recorded air movements, 660 flying hours, 37 new pilots, and 16 budding pilots went solo. 58 listed sponsors and approx \$15,000 prizes/scholarships are awarded at the formal dinner. President of the Soaring Centre, Bill Mace represented the clubs and had a chance to congratulate the Mayor, Hugh Vercoe on his New Years honour.

The Weather Forecast for summer – I understand it is for a long, hot one and information to hand indicates there will be rain for a couple of days around Feb 8/9th, for about one day around the 15th, and probably another couple of rainy days around the 28th leading into a mostly dry March ie the best gliding season we'll see this year.

On the Romance subject, and for those who haven't read some of the fine print on the web-site, congratulations to Gareth Pryce and Jackie on their recent wedding, and best wishes to Allan Miller and Heike on their forthcoming marriage. And, although we may all poh-poh Valentines and call it commercial rubbish etc a special effort to the love of your life might earn some brownie points (and I'm not talking gliders here!) eg, jewellery is always worthwhile as Roger Brown can attest to, flowers can do the trick with some, dinner at the Gliding Club on the 15th would save some work and give a smile.....put it on your calendar.

Other new partnerships to be commented on: Ross Annabell has moved into a new glider (I can't remember the specifics Ed) and to the Auckland Club for logistic reasons. He assures me we'll still see him sometimes. Dom Stevens has joined the DG101 syndicate. He has checked it out and been flying but hasn't yet allowed Kate to polish it. Phil Smith is looking good in his new VW machine. Check out the photos on the web site of him flying round Mt Te Aroha. His old Libel is for sale. Bill Mace is now the complete owner of a Lak 12 .

THE SIMULATOR. Bill Mace says his plans are, currently, for the simulator to be tested on the first wet day of the Competition. (*great excitement for me as I get a spare room and a husband back again - Ed!*). BIG report on that in the next newsletter - perhaps there'll be an inaugural flight and launching celebrations? Watch for your invite. Please note: this is a Soaring Centre initiative.

As previously reported, the Trans Tasman Trophy is being contested during the National Competition here starting next weekend. Piako club member, Trev Atkins is the nominated NZ representative – yip that's our Trev – who says he's looking forward to the challenge. *The Flypaper* has plans to feature an exclusive interview with Mr. Atkins in the next edition. Off the record, last week, Trev says he's feeling like a fine tuned athlete and picks he'll be peaking (or was that peaking) condition in 2 weeks. Club President, Bill , invites you all to come and give your support.

As the Bar Manager will be flying in the competition, could any available club members please open and man the bar.hic. Anytime from 4pm onwards until you can be relieved. see Jan in the kitchen for key etc. This would be appreciated by all.

027 279 8602 is the number of the Mobile Phone in the caravan – So a reminder, please, to Duty Pilots to turn it on. This is for the convenience of members so make use of it and return the favour by answering it

The club now has the use of a market umbrella for the big table and seat arrangement by the BBQ, thanks to Ann Johnson and cleaning out the garage. There's also now 2 gazebo's repaired and marked for easy assembling. One for use at the club rooms, and one in the caravan for those busy summer days.

CLUB INSIGNIATED CLOTHING: I have had reports that the long-sleeved cool/dry (or is it hot/cool) sports shirts are terrific to wear. They really are cool when you're hot. Great for stopping sunburn, dry

after washing in ½ hour, no ironing so makes for easy laundering for guys (& gals). Be ready for another order prior to/early in winter.

A few miscellaneous matters to comment on – a smaller newsletter this time – what with Xmas, comps., and flying with more flying to be done, I must prioritise. No roster either – technical problems! “Get Well Soon” is wished to Bruce Wine, now back home and on the mend after being knocked off the farm bike. Julian Mason and Caroline have moved to Matamata, probably for logistic reason’s ie. closer to the airfield, and new home building is their occupation for a while.

Did you notice the fabulous photos in the new Soaring Magazine? Don’t hesitate to send your stories, news, photos, and views to Jill McCraw.

I’d like to reiterate my Tips for glider pilots. I have partners/wives/husbands asking about dates and details of club events...I’ll be so bold as to suggest you print this newsletter and leave it handy for fellow family and friends to read – they are often interested to know what’s going on or the planned activities.

Finally – Got extra nice stuff for chrissey presents? – need to get rid of the old? Think “Club Rooms” Thanks for bits and pieces that have come in. For your info, useful items for the club could include: stereo set (we now have speakers), more children’s toys, large screen (plasma) TV, frying pan, double bed, old chests of drawers, breadmaker. All would be useful for the competition.

Jan

COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS

- 1 New Club Glider –the discus – is sitting in Auckland waiting for registration papers and other bookwork to be completed prior to handover. Much frustration what with the super summer weather we’re experiencing. “All good things come to those who wait” ?!
- 2 Big Day Up will involve publicity over February promoting the web site but NO designated club day
- 3 Easter (Camp) March 21st – 24th x 4 possibly good flying days!
- 4 Land Out BBQ to be held Anzac Day, which makes 3-day weekend this year April25-27th
- 5 Caravan Progress – yes, slowly but surely
- 6 The Mowing Contract run by the Council is being re-written. Ralph, Robin and Bill are co-ordinating.
- 7 AGM in early May (for those doing early planning).

CFI JOTTINGS

Congratulations to Tim Bromhead for achieving all three legs of the Silver Badge over the Christmas camp, and to Jamie Pirrit for a Silver Badge height gain this last weekend, well done. The great weather over the holiday period made for some excellent soaring from Matamata and some good flights at Raglan.

I heard the weather this past anniversary weekend provided some of the best flying conditions seen for years. Several pilots went for their 5 hour flights, others flew to Taupo and back, including some gliders from Drury, others tackled 300 km speed triangles flights. What a weekend. (sorry I missed it all)

Please make sure that at least two people are used to move the gliders in and out of hangers, as per the club rules. Not one person and a wing wheel. We don’t want the gliders damaged and waiting repairs with flying to be done! If you’re on your own and urgently need to go flying, go and get someone from the launch point to help you.

Airspace around Matamata is under review and proposed changes will reduce uncontrolled areas available to us. Make sure you use the GAA areas by calling ATC by radio or even better by telephone call before you take-off, the phone number is on your VNC. Please be vigilant about your position relative to controlled airspace. Turn your transponder on 5-10 minutes before you ask for clearance so it is warmed up and transponding. Airways will prosecute those caught and it’s not just the \$10,000 fine you should think about but what else the court may want to do to you. We do want to impress Airways that we are regular and responsible users. Every correct clearance request strengthens our case and you are assisting the gliding movement by properly dealing with Airways.

A reminder about BFRs. It is your responsibility to have a current BFR with a logbook endorsement and a copy of the completed form to the CFI, don’t wait for the CFI to remind you on the field! The club website has a list published with some showing expired. If you think you’re current and the website is showing otherwise, it is because I have no record of your BFR, so please send me the form!

There has also been some uncertainty about who can flight-check BFRs. The GNZ MOAP says that BFRs are conducted by an A or B Cat instructor so therefore those instructors are qualified to conduct a BFR for you. However, to maintain consistency with BFRs within the Club, the Instructors Panel has decided that only the Club's senior instructors should conduct BFRs. The list of approved instructors is:

Bob Gray B Cat CFI

Rainer Kunнемeyer B Cat Deputy CFI

Steve Care B Cat (Instructor Trainer)

Ralph Gore A Cat

Julian Mason A Cat

Roger Brown A Cat

If you need a BFR it is best to book it through Trev and contact one of the above beforehand, rather than just turning up and expecting it to be available on the day.

Never mind the farmers, keep the fine weather coming

Be Safe, take care, remember your checks.

Bob Gray

NB's If you have not yet got your new VFR charts they are available from the following web site;
<http://secureorders.airways.co.nz/aimsite/docs/orderform.pdf>

Remember the racing tasks – Care 200, Catlin Trophy, and Les Riesterer Short Course and enter your scores.

Locator Beacons: although the present system will be maintained until Feb 2009 please note that the supporting satellite system will be decommissioned and it is recommended that you upgrade ASAP ie as soon as.

Are you aware of the common frequency (119.1 KHZ) area for the Paeroa gap? Extends below 2500 feet, please check your charts for the boundaries.

Raglan – Summer Gliding Camp!

An excellent turnout – of weather, club members, family and friends, and trial flights. Approximately 50 trials flights were taken over the week with the weather providing magnificent views of the harbour and coast. Many club members availed themselves of the opportunity to glide in coastal conditions, often coming just for 1 or 2 days, some camping the week, and many newer members tested flying at a new site. Others came to hang-out eg Tom Shanks (nice to see you), just to help, or do their BFR's..

Flying conditions could be called diverse, in the same day Julian took a 90 year old for a ride in easterly wave, and later on found a 10 knot thermal which took him from 1500 to 4500 feet. Great stuff!. Unfortunately the wind also blew away 2 gazebos. Saturday had a good stiff breeze blowing, and Sunday, the last day, it went to a strong wind so tows back to Waharoa were pretty rough. Keith and Tim did the double tow to Raglan, Jamie flew the return flight on Saturday (in case the weather closed in Sunday), and Tony (D) and relative came back on Sunday.

A terrific involvement by club members spread the job load, several being terrors for punishment returning most days – special thanks to Ron Courtney, Tim Bloomfield, Keith Irving, Lionel Blakely, Jamie Perrit, and others whose names we can't remember (sorry about that). A big thank you to the Peter Glidden Honda for making a four-wheel motorbike available to work with at the airfield. This is given with no charges attached. (Please read their ad in the newsletter and try to put some business their way.) All in all, a successful venture, with a few members already planning their family summer holiday's there next year. Dennis



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BADGE FLIGHT CONSIDERATIONS

Much of our training is geared around QGP, but many pilots don't fully appreciate that beyond this are Silver, Gold, Diamonds, Diploma's, records and what the significance of these is. I don't have any issues if someone enjoys and is content with local flying, but I suspect that those who do have ambitions of greater things are put off but the procedures and paperwork involved in getting FAI awards. It is not insignificant, but it is also not insurmountable. It just involves "*preparation*".

The first thing is to make sure that you have had the necessary training to do the task you are aiming for. Being current is really important as well. See Barometer of the AC page 3

<http://www.glidering.co.nz/Operations/MOAP/ACs/AC%202-5%20Biennial%20Flight%20Reviews.pdf>

The next step is to have the *declaration form* ready. This can be done the day before if necessary, or have a whole bunch filled out and in a folder, waiting for the right day. Prior declaration is not needed for every badge flight. A chart is at the end of the claim form to guide you on what certificates are required.

<http://www.glidering.co.nz/Awards/GNZ%20Flight%20Declaration.pdf> . An even better option is make the declaration electronically in the *GPS* you are using.

If your GPS is a Cambridge, Volksloger, EW, LX you are likely to be OK. Most Garmins on there own are not, because they are un-secure. If you are unsure check it out at:- http://www.fai.org/sporting_code/sc3.asp#sc3b The club has 2 EW loggers, which are available for club members. If you are going to use these loggers, make sure you are familiar with them first. If you are unsure ask well before the day of your task.

It is a good idea to have your own claim forms ready. A section that nearly everybody forgets is the Tow Pilots release certificate. Leave it with the tow pilot to sign straight after the launch. It is needed for every badge flight you do. There is nothing stopping you from having quite a bit of the form filled out ready prior to the day of your task.

The claim form is at <http://www.glidering.co.nz/Operations/MOAP/Ops/Forms/OPS04%20Badge%20claim.pdf>

You need an *Official Observer* who should inspect the GPS installation prior to launch, check your declaration if needed, witness your launch, ideally witness your landing, take control of removing the GPS from the glider and download the flight. From the Soaring Directory and current membership, our O/O's are;

Trevor Atkins	Dennis Crequer	Chris Hector	Gerald Van Vliet
Maurice Beale	Ian Finlayson	Godfrey Larsen	Bob Gray
Steven Care	Ralph Gore	Les Riesterer	
Dennis Cook	Julie Hall	James Turney	

All of the rules regarding the propose flight are at http://www.fai.org/sporting_code/sc3.asp and there is also a pilot guide. The *GNZ Soaring Directory* has a hardcopy of section 3 at the rear.

I hope the above is of help and I am keen to encourage goal setting. It gives real purpose to the sport and at the moment we are having an outstanding run of good weather, making badge flights very achievable. I am only too willing to assist anybody with all of the above, but the more knowledge you have, the more likely it is that you will succeed

Happy flying **Steve.**

BREAKING NEWS: An email has just arrived from Tauranga Club.

They are coming for a club visit in 2 weeks time – the weekend of February 16th and 17th

A inter-club BBQ will be held Saturday night 7pm (approx) all welcome .

Come and share the flying day and the social occasion. RSVP if possible to Jan at wajymace@ihug.co.nz