

Saskatoon Soaring Club

News and information – August 2001

Saskatoon Remembers Airshow

The Saskatoon Soaring club will be involved in the airshow as part of our 25th anniversary year activities. As there is no airshow in Moose Jaw this year, it is a good opportunity to showcase our sport. The Regina Club normally has a static display in Moose Jaw.

We have been approved for a flying demonstration and a static display. Because the PA club may also benefit by the show in Saskatoon, they will help by setting up the display, one of their Ka7 gliders. Our involvement will be providing media flights on Fri. 17th, and a flying demo each day of the airshow. We have been allocated a 14 min slot, but I don't yet have the schedule or know what time to expect to fly.

The application was for a winch launched domo flight. We will not know until each show day what wind conditions will be, where the winch will be located, etc. If there is a problem, we have Daryl Lowey with his Citabria certified and ready for aerotow. We will likely use aerotow for the media flights as well.

We will need lots of volunteer help for the show. So far Clarence, John G, and myself are listed as crew. Lee has volunteered to help out at least one day. As well as getting the launch and flight off efficiently, we will need people at the static display to talk about soaring, answer questions, etc. This is an excellent opportunity to promote soaring and our club. If you can help out, please let me (John T) know.

Winch Launches

The winch has been getting some good use this past month. There is no crop in the field to the west, so the winch can be 500 ft out in the field providing higher launches if we can use runway 26. We have also been getting good circuit height (1000 ft+) just using the runways. Joe is now certified as a winch driver as well as tow pilot, and both Barney and Lee have done some launches.

The winch required some repair recently (differential gear weld), but thanks to the quick response of Evert and Clarence all is well. While in town, the engine is being tuned. It is ready for lots of training use this fall.

Use of Richter airfield (Martensville)

The facility is available for a Blanik and winch for a week or two after the airshow if there is enough interest – great for evenings. Let Evert or an instructor know if you are interested.

Zone Competition – Aug 11, 12

As part of our sport funding agreement with Sask Sport, an annual competition is required in each sport's zone. As we are the only club in this zone, so it becomes a club meet.

The tasks will be determined each day according to conditions, but the format is designed for fun and participation rather than serious competition. It is an opportunity to experience cross country flight in a Blanik with an experienced pilot. If conditions are not suitable for cross country flight, it may include activities like best altitude gain or spot landings.

Plan to come, help out, fly, and have fun!

Towplane Search Committee

Both Colin in Kindersley and Ralph in Tisdale are aware the club is shopping for Pawnee to rebuild or refit as a towplane. The committee is optimistic that one of them can supply a suitable tug on budget for next season.

-Roy

Club Soaring Ladder

Roy is the only one doing much cross country this year, so standings are the same as in June. How about some of us at least making Roy work to stay on top.

Significant Flight

Last month I included a flight by Roy in the soaring ladder as being an out & return to Kinistino. Roy's flight, on June 9th, was actually a quadrilateral with turn points near the Petrofka Bridge south of Blaine Lake, Birch Hills, and Kinistino for a total distance of 250 km. The final glide (no thermalling) was from Kinistino at 9300 ft and arriving over Cudworth at 4300 ft for a glide ratio of 44:1. Well done!

Club Calendar – August

The club will continue to offer Wed evening training in Aug. if there is a demand. However, few have been coming out. Lee has been a regular, and as a result has completed most of pre-solo training. We are currently short of instructors and tow pilots (holidays), but hope to fly Aug. 4th, 5th and 6th. Aug. 11th and 12th is a regular members' weekend although designated as zone competition. Airshow Aug. 18th & 19th. Regular flying continues weekends.

Thought for the day - Good judgement comes from experience., but experience often comes from bad judgement.