



Cloud Nine

SASKATOON SOARING CLUB NEWS

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2006 Season in Review

2006 was a successful season for the club in spite of the late spring start (April 29), early winter shutdown (Oct 9), and much unsettled weather in between. These statistics include bracketed numbers for 2005 and 2004 for comparison.

Glider flights: 209 (205, 165)

Glider hours: 87 (86, 86)

Days flown: 37 (37, 35)

Introductory flights: 32 (35, 22)

Three members, Hank, Shawn and Trevor, completed the training requirements and received their glider pilot licenses during the season.

Dave and Roy attended the Western Instructor course in Edmonton in August. Dave is now a certified SAC instructor, and Roy upgraded to inst. 1 certification.

Work was started on a Safety Management System for the club under an initiative from the Soaring Association of Canada, and will continue implementation in 2007 under the direction of Safety Officer Hank with support from the club executive.

A ground school in the fall was attended by seven current students and prospective students.

Roy, Clarence and John logged flights in the cross-country On-Line Contest.

Highlights from the Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held Jan. 20 with 11 members in attendance.

Expensed exceeded income in 2006 due to purchase of the radio for XDU and reduced funding from the provincial association. However, the club is in a reasonably good financial position going into 2007. There will be minor increases in membership fees (\$275 to \$300) to cover increased fixed costs and a \$1 increase in the basic tow charge due to increased fuel costs. As well, the surcharge on the rental for KNG has been removed, reducing the hourly cost of flying that aircraft.

The club has purchased a 500 gallon fuel tank and stand for installation for 2007 so will have our own fuel supply.

We will not be proceeding with installation of a c of g release hook for XDU at this time based on the installation requirements. We will attempt to arrange with the PA club to provide winch experience with their gliders in exchange for aerotow instruction for their members.

A new canopy has been ordered for XDU with planned installation at the time of the annual inspections in early spring.

A draft copy of the minutes is available on request. Email John at j.toles@sasktel.net

SAC Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be in Winnipeg on March 24 at the Hotel Viscount-Gort. More information on seminars, etc. will be available on the SAC website. It is close enough to drive this year if anyone is interested in attending and sharing expenses.

Looking Ahead to the 2007 Season

Mark Sat. Mar.17th on your calendar for the first organized club activity. This will involve a safety seminar to deal with Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis at the club level. Attendance by all members planning to fly in 2007 is expected if possible. Details shortly.

As soon as the snow is gone from around the hangar we will have a work bee at the field to install the fuel tank, get gliders ready for the annual inspections and work on the trailer fittings. Flying will follow as soon as the area is dry enough.

The plan is for weekend and midweek flying again this year with instructors and tow pilots available. There are a couple of students to finish training this year, some new student members expected, and most licensed pilots returning.

We are again planning for an interprovincial contest at North Battleford sometime in June or early July. As well, a local cross country training week has been discussed.

Membership for 2007

An updated membership application is required from all members with fees encouraged now, but required prior to flying.