

May, 2013



Cloud Nine

SASKATOON SOARING CLUB NEWS

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2013 Season – a late Start

Unfortunately, we are about a month behind in getting started this season. The snow is going quickly, but as of Apr. 24 there was still a lot of snow and water at Cudworth.



The annual inspections and service on the gliders is booked for May 11th. If all goes well, flying could start with instructor and member check flights on May 12, General activity will commence the following weekend.

SSC 2013 AGM Highlites

The **Annual** General Meeting of the Saskatoon Soaring Club was held on Sat. Jan 29th. Minutes are available on the club website.

This year's executive includes:

- President – Ian Barrett
- Vice President – Pavan Kumar
- Secretary – Derrick Harper
- Treasurer – Hank Hees
- Chief Official– Hank Hees
- Chief Flying Instructor – John Toles
- Chief Tow Pilot – Roy Eichendorf
- Safety Officers – Skyler Guest/Fernando Garza.

Ground School

The spring ground school concludes Wed May 1. There is good interest for membership from those participating.

Flying week – interest

Last season's flying week was very successful, and another is being planned for

2013. Two possible weeks have been suggested – either the first or second week in July. The first week includes the July 1st long weekend. If you have a preference, please contact President Ian (igbarrett@gmail.com) TODAY so we can let members know – booking holidays, etc.

Provincial Competition

Prince Albert Gliding club is hosting the provincials this year, June 15-16, but with an on-line format. Tasks will be flown from home club airfields, and the results compiled.

Mobile Command Center

The small field trailer has served well for a few years, but we are looking at replacing it with something bigger and better. We need something to house the base radio, flight sheets, ropes, radios, etc. that could also provide shelter from the elements for a members manning the flight line. A small hard top camper trailer could be converted and still fit in the hanger under a wing. If anyone knows of something available or has another idea, Pavan has volunteered to coordinate the project.

(p.kumar@usask.ca)

OGAR motorglider



As most are aware, this two place ship is still available in Edmonton. It has been considered by SSC and some members plan to travel to Chipman for viewing and getting more info on the glider and hangar available. It would likely be based a Martensville if we do get it.

Glider Simulator

We now have a SAC two place sim on loan. It is quite realistic, has been well received and getting a fair bit of use. Feedback has been

Fly often! Fly safely! Have fun! Introduce a friend to the delights of soaring!

positive. It is great for some training, review, keeping in practice, and what I mainly wanted it for – instructor training..



It is in a secure room off the Commercial Pilot classroom at the airport. It uses Condor software and tracker view (head movement for side views, etc). Popular sites have been the mountains at Pemberton and the coast of Ohau – much nicer than snow! I (John) have the key and need to be there, so let me know if you are interested. When the real season starts, it might be useful on rainy weekends.

Badges, Officials, and Such

The club wants to encourage flying beyond the training and “hanging around the field” stage. We have some active OLC pilots with thousands of kilometers logged last season. We also have a number of members that are licensed or near licensing. Their first step to cross country flying is to earn the Bronze Badge. Then training for cross country can start, flying the L-23 with an instructor and solo flights under instructor supervision. Let’s go for some badges this season!

All badge flights must be certified by an Official Observer. Hank is currently Senior Official. Talk to him (hankhees@sasktel.net) for more info or to become an O.O.

Online Schedule

The schedule is ready for the season and will start as soon as the weather permits and annuals are completed. It is available on the homepage of the club website (www.soar.sk.ca/ssc)

Safety

Emphasis on safety will continue as always. For this season, we are promoting the “blue book” to report incidents that need attention. Also, a briefing board or sheet will be at the

flight line for those who might miss the morning safety briefing.

Upcoming Events

Annual inspections and startup – May 11, 12 weather permitting.

Provincial Competition - June 15 - 16 OLC format

Nationals – Gatineau Gliding, Pemberton ON July 3 - 12

SSC Soaring and Training Week – early July as per previous item.

Region 8 contest at Ephrata, WA is scheduled for the first week of July.

Cowley Wave Camp (high altitude) is planned for July 28 – Aug 4.

Half year memberships (new members) start Aug 1 for fall training.

Spring Bbq and Social Evening

This is in the planning stages for members, families, and guests. Watch for a notice coming soon. It is an opportunity to meet new members, share you best soaring stories, and relax a bit. It will likely take place in late May or early June,

2013 Memberships are Due!

A reminder – even though we haven’t started flying – the bills keep coming! Fleet insurance has been paid for the year. As well, the loan payment on the L-23 was due recently. At an executive meeting the finances were reviewed and it was decided we could pay down a total of \$10 000 on the current principal to reduce further interest costs. Although still in a healthy financial position, the club depends on membership fees for ongoing expenses especially until money is generated from tow and flying charges. The 2013 membership application is available on the club website under Member Login. Treasurer Hank is always happy to take your money!

A Weighty Problem

We are working to develop an easy weight and balance chart for the L-23. There will be some differences from the L-13 loading chart. A sample chart will be available at the flight line when flying starts, but members wanting dual instruction may be subject to a front seat limit that is lower than we had with the L-13, depending on the instructor. Many of us are getting a bit heavier. An incentive for a healthy weight???

If we are lucky, maybe summer will come on a weekend this year!