

ASC e-News



Electronic news from the Adelaide Soaring Club

1st May, 2020

How the world has changed.

It is very difficult to comprehend our present lifestyle but we have to believe that a bit of short time pain will lead to a long term gain. Really miss going to the pub for a meal or having a coffee at a café though.

Living at North Haven, I still see FTA aircraft turning overhead and heading for Parafield as I keep thinking – well someone is still flying.

One thing I am sure of – great to be living in Australia and particularly – South Australia.

CLUB SCENE

We have had a few electronic meetings of the Committee and the Instructor Panel to look at our present position and find a way to the future. Not being used to virtual meetings is certainly interesting and one looks very carefully at the mute button. No point in talking to yourself is there.

The Committee has a responsibility for the club and its members and it made the only decision it could when it stopped the clubs activities. Since that time the Covid-19 situation in South Australia has certainly settled down to a much better position than anyone could have hoped for. That bit of short term pain has put us in a position where everyone can take a deep breath and look more confidently at the future.

It is important of course that, when we get back to training, that Instructors are up to speed. So the first decision was to allow them to fly and be current. To enable that, the Committee allowed “currency days” for that to happen. In the LSA scene, some have their own aircraft and keep up to speed that way. Those that do not had a currency day on Saturday 18th April when I flew the ROKO and Sue Ingham and Chantal Didenko flew a Jabiru.

The next currency day was Wednesday 22nd April when Colin Drew and Scott Crew flew Jabirus and a number of gliding Instructors took to the sky. It was a lovely day and there were smiles all round. Another gliding currency day was scheduled for Sunday 3rd May.

The next decision for the Committee will be to set a date for qualified pilots to fly at the club. Social distancing does not permit training yet, but solo pilots flying should fall within the rules. One of the legacies coming out of the pandemic is cleaning hands – so when we are flying again – think about hygiene. Everyone will have such clean hands!!!!

Another one is – if you have flu symptoms – stay away from the club and don’t fly. There is always another day to come out and get up there.

MAINTENANCE

The gliding fleet is looking good and all maintenance is up to date. On the LSA side 7385 was due for a 100 hourly and also an annual inspection. It has been in the workshop for a while with Paul Clift and Mick Wright giving it some tender care. Undercarriage bolts, control hinges and cables have been replaced, spats repaired and the leading edges of the tail plane repainted. It will look like new when it rolls out.

The ROKO is in the workshop at present. Paul found that the nose-wheel is wearing on one side and the leg looks to be leaning away from straight up and down. A couple of other areas of concern were also found and it looks like Aero Services at Parafield are going to have a very close look at it

COMMITTEE CHANGE.

The ASC is a great club situated in a perfect location where it is so very accessible for South Australians wanting to fly gliders and sports aircraft. We have a growing membership with an amazing variety of expertise in its ranks which is reflected in the members that put their hand up to assist the club and serve on the Committee. However, at times circumstances change in work environments etc. and people have no alternative but to resign.

Peter Campbell is such a person. He has been an excellent club and Committee member and is leaving us. On behalf of the ASC -Thank you Peter.

Club rules state that in the event of a casual vacancy, the candidate that missed out at the last election has the first option to fill a casual vacancy. That person is Megan Gabell, an LSA student who has just recently flown solo. She has agreed to join the Committee and use her considerable expertise to assist the club. Welcome Megan.



In the beginning...

...there was a South Australian flying club even older than ours. We in ASC had our 75th anniversary last year to recognise the establishment of our club in 1944, but local flying (including gliding) goes back more than 30 years before that, to 1912-13 in fact.

Some fascinating details about the early days have just come into the club archives via long-time ASC member Alan Bradley. Alan's father Harold was one of the pioneers of gliding in South Australia and played a major role in the early days of our club. Harold Bradley was made a Life Member of the Adelaide Soaring Club in 1972 and passed away in 1988.

In his later years, Harold took the trouble to write down an invaluable record of flying in those faraway times. He describes how he and a friend built a simple glider in a shed behind 207 The Parade Norwood in 1912/13 and it "made a number of successful flights, coasting down a gentle slope into a breeze..." Like all the early pioneers they were simultaneously being aircraft designers, test pilots and teaching themselves to fly!

Harold continued to experiment with flying and took part in the formation of the Gliding Club of South Australia (GCSA) in 1927/28.



***GCSA
primary
glider
being
launched
at Pooraka
around
1930***

Members of course had to build their own aircraft before any flying could commence and the difficulties they faced would make us blanch – "Suitable glue was not generally available to purchase and had to be made from powdered milk and caustic soda. Dope we made from acetone and celluloid with pigment of aluminium powder... Launches were by bungee from a slope at Sellick's Hill, or by auto tow from paddocks along the foothills opposite Parafield Aerodrome which was only a couple of small sheds in those days..."

Imagine trying that now!

MEANWHILE BACK AT GAWLER AERODROME...

...Tom Leech continues to see that the facilities and airfield are kept in good shape. He was spotted on 27 April applying weedicide – weeds never sleep!



We have had a burst of caltrop (a weed so bad that it has been declared a “national threat” and its prickles are certainly a threat to tailwheels and other things. Here’s what it looks like:



If you see a plant like this, please tell Tom. The tyre you save may be your own.

DIARY DATES

Flinders Expedition Brenton Swart advises that it will be October 2020, first week of the school holidays. **Subject to Covid-19 as is the Bunyan Wave Camp.**

Bunyan Wave Camp Frank Johann advises that the dates are 12/09/20 to 19/09/20.

COMMUNICATION AT ADELAIDE SOARING CLUB

ASC WEBSITE	https://www.adelaidesoaring.org.au	
	Information about the club for visitors and official information for members.	
ASC OFFICE	office@adelaidesoaring.org.au	08 8522 1877
ASC ANNOUNCE	communications@adelaidesoaring.org.au	
	For official information within the club and can only be used by club officials. All members must have a site to receive these messages.	
ASC MEMBERS	members@adelaidesoaring.org.au	
	For members to post items relating to club matters. Members can opt out.	
FACEBOOK	The ASC has a Facebook page and also a club facebook group.	
ASC e-News	To convey information about club activities. Usually presented monthly.	
COMMITTEE	The Committee meets monthly and meeting minutes are posted on Notice Boards.	

OFFICIAL CLUB CONTACTS

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