

Information for operators around Wilpena Pound regarding Arkapena gliding camps

Each year glider pilots from around the state, and sometimes interstate make a pilgrimage to the Flinders Ranges to enjoy challenging flying conditions in this uniquely beautiful and scenic area. The flying camps are run by clubs such as the Adelaide Soaring Club (ASC), the Balaklava Gliding Club (BGC) and the Adelaide University Gliding Club (AUGC). The camps are based out of Arkapena airstrip (YRKP) and very occasionally from the neighbouring Rawnsley Park airstrip (YRYK)

The South Australian Gliding Association (SAGA) has identified the need for improved communication and awareness between the camp organisers from the various clubs and the local scenic flight operators in the area, in order to maximise safety and co-operation. To this end, this document outlines requirements for camp organisers, and includes some information for the local operators on expected modes of operation.

How the gliders operate:

Launching

Aerotow

The aerotow will involve a tow plane and glider combination flying on climb towards the most likely initial source of lift, being a ridge, thermal or mountain wave. Release heights may be anywhere between 1500ft AGL to above ridgetop height to even 4000-5000ft in mountain wave conditions.

Winch

The winch launch will release the glider anywhere between 1000-2000ft AGL overhead the airstrip after a very quick steep climb with a wire or rope extending to the ground.

Ridge Soaring

Gliders will fly along parallel to and above the windward faces of slopes, ridges and ranges, from between about 100ft below to about 2000ft above ridgetop height, sometimes very close to the ridge.

Thermal Soaring

With convective conditions gliders may be encountered anywhere in the area below the top of convection but most will stay within glide range of Arkapena. A rough guide to their glide range is 5NM per 1000ft of convective air above the Arkapena circuit height, although some may venture further.

Wave Soaring

With favourable wind conditions gliders will utilise mountain lee wave to operate up to FL245. Mountain wave may be contacted at various places in the area depending on the wind at the time.

This guide to modes of operation is not definitive. On any given day, the gliders may be flying ridge, thermal or wave, or all modes at the same time, in different locations and at different heights, as the often changing conditions allow.

Airborne Communications

Glider pilots are expected to be familiar with and operate in accordance with the Special Procedures 13 for Wilpena Pound as outlined in the ERSA. Below 5000ft in the broadcast area pilots should be monitoring 126.7 and broadcasting whenever reasonably necessary to avoid risk of collision with another aircraft. Above the limits of the broadcast area the gliders may be monitoring the area frequency. Local scenic operators will be broadcasting their intentions on 126.7. As a courtesy a single glider should acknowledge an initial call from a scenic flight with approximate positions of other airborne gliders, if possible. The tug pilot may also be contactable at times if there is an aerotow operation in progress. It would be prudent for the gliders to also advise any visiting power pilots to the area of the gliding activities in progress.

Requirements for camp organisers

Contacts

Gliding camp organisers are required to contact the local commercial operators individually, preferably the chief pilot of each company, prior to the camp as a basic courtesy and to discuss any operational concerns. It can not be assumed that communication with one operator will result in all operators being aware of the commencement of the gliding camp.

Chinta Air (Rawnsley Park)

<https://www.chintaair.com.au>

Ph: 8625 9051 or 0428244682 Mon to Fri, 9am to 4pm

email: info@chinta.com.au

Helistar (Rawnsley Park)

<http://helistar.com.au>

Ph: 8235 2222 (Head Office) or 8648 0700 (Rawnsley Park reception for local pilot)

email: info@helistar.com.au

Wrightsair (Wilpena)

<https://www.wrightsair.com.au/>

Ph: 8670 7962

info@wrightsair.com.au

Bush Pilots Australia (Hawker)

<https://bushpilots.com.au/>

Ph: 8648 4444

info@bushpilots.com.au

Arid Air (Port Augusta) (Occasionally conduct Wilpena area scenic flights)

<https://aridair.com.au/>

Ph: 0488 444 544

admin@aridair.com.au

NOTAM issue

Camp organisers are also required to organise the issue of a NOTAM to cover the event. The request form can be found in the documents section of the Gliding Australia website here:

http://www.doc.glidingaustralia.org/index.php?option=com_docman&view=document&layout=default&alias=1674-request-for-the-issue-of-a-notam&category_slug=operations-forms&Itemid=101

This form shall be used to notify CASA of the dates and contest area, and must be forwarded at least 14 days in advance to permit NOTAM action to be taken.

Once the form has been completed, it should be emailed CASA's Sports Aviation Office at sport@casa.gov.au. The GFA's Executive Manager Operations at emo@glidingaustralia.org should also be copied into the email.