

The Surrey Hills Gliding Club

Cabletalk

A very Merry Christmas to all our pilots and friends and a very Happy New Year. This is just a short Cabletalk for the festive season. Please see page 4 for details of our annual dinner and buy your tickets if you have not already done so.



We were flying through that very cold snap recently. It is good practice to keep current throughout the winter so that you are ready for the spring weather. Try doing your best ever circuit and landing but be aware that visibility can be difficult especially as the sun is low in the sky, so try to avoid landing directly into the sun.

The picture below was taken by Christopher Hope-Fitch on December 6th and although a bitterly cold day on the ground the views over the Surrey Hills were magic.



Club News

The Southdowns Gliding Club at Parham are organising some Bronze C Lectures which we have been invited to attend. So if you are approaching your bronze badge this is a good opportunity to learn what is needed to pass the Bronze test, the only test needed to obtain a GPL (Glider Pilot Licence).

They will be held in their Clubhouse which is close to Storrington in Sussex. The location is shown on the web site at www.southdowngliding.co.uk.

Bronze C Lectures - starts 1.30pm on the following date:

Sat Jan 12th - Meteorology (Gez Hazluck),
Navigation (Steve Whitaker)

Sat Feb 2nd - Airmanship (Steve Williams),
Laws and Rules (Richard Beecham)

Sat Feb 23rd - Radiotelephony (Dave Clews),
Principles of Flight (Geoff Stilgoe).

If you are unable to attend these lectures we can arrange to do some at Kenley.



Surrey Hills Gliding Club Team

Club Chairman—Adrian Hewlett

Secretary—Marc Corrance

Treasurer—Ed Brown

Membership Secretary—Russell King

Safety Officer—Michael Pointon

Club Instructor—Steve Codd

Chief Flying Instructor—Richard Fitch

Equipment—Steve Skinner

Cabletalk Editor — Richard Fitch

You can contact any member of the team through the club at:

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Comments on this newsletter and any contributions or photographs are welcomed and should be sent to the "Cabletalk Editor" at the club.

From our Chairman

Those of you with excellent memories - or just good filing systems - will remember that I opened my piece in the April '12 edition of "Cabletalk" with "I'm feeling very bullish about 2012"! Can I apologise now? "Putting the mouth on it" is a phrase which describes the way the Fates have the infinite capacity for proving any prediction complete rubbish!

We'll remember this year for two opposites - the weather and those Intertwining Rings. The weather was by all accounts possibly the worst on record, and some of the extremes were reprised on a TV programme last week. In this locality, we were fortunate to be spared the torrential rain, floods and tornadoes - all that was missing was the plague of frogs - although they'd probably been very much at home! The combination of the reduced flying days due to weather and the Olympic airspace restrictions (with draconian penalties for the slightest breach) which resulted in the suspension of solo flying, meant that at the mid-year, our financial integrity was distinctly in jeopardy. A plea to you all for help resulted in generous donations, loans and significant topping up of flying accounts which kept us afloat (sorry for another weather reference) until a semblance of normality returned. Those loans have been repaid and my fingers are crossed for a record sale of Christmas present Vouchers. We may be helped by other local Clubs' misfortunes - one has had to close its website temporarily because of security issues.

But it has not been all bad news. The year will go down as one of personal successes. Competition performances that individuals can be proud of, and a number of you achieving special goals during those days when flying was possible. We've kept all our ground and flying staff except for Ingram Gavan, whose personal responsibilities mean that he cannot continue as a Tuesday boy on a regular basis: Kenley's loss is Lasham's gain! My thanks to all who make our flying possible.

So what will 2013 hold for us? After 2012, I don't want to make any predictions that I cannot be sure of! But here's a few:- the annual dinner and prizegiving will be on January 26, and our confidence in the future means that we have already set Friday, 5 April for the Club AGM - more to follow in due course. Due to the interested organisation backing out this month, Charity Day on 6 May will be an "Open Day" - something akin to a Spring "Friends and Family" day. But if any of you are aware of a charitable organisation which could benefit, please get in touch with the office. Please note your diaries etc. And finally, look forward to the arrival of a revamped website, courtesy of Deborah Skinner and Marc Corrance!

Please join with me in wishing better health in 2013 to those members currently not in the best of health - let's hope it will not be long before we see them at Kenley again. And to you all, my very best wishes for the festive season - and all of you, fingers crossed for a great 2013!

Have fun, stay safe in 2013
Adrian

The Surrey Hills Gliding Club

Saturday 26th January 2013

7pm (7.30pm sit-down) at Woodcote Park Golf Club,
Meadow Hill, Bridle Way, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2QQ

**Tickets available now for a wonderful
three course meal for only £25 per person**

Menu

Starter

Soup or
Melon & Blueberry Cocktail

Main

Choice of Roast Beef or Turkey

Dessert

Fruit Salad or Profiteroles
followed by coffee and mints

Please book your tickets through the office
or by email to surreyhillsgc@gmail.com

Please advise of your choice for each course when
booking or if you require a vegetarian option

(If you wish to charge your tickets to your flying account
the tickets will be £27.50)

Smart casual dress code (no jeans or t-shirts)