

North Wales Hang-Gliding & Paragliding Club

Newsletter - February 2011



NWHGPC Parachute Repack

From the Chairman/Editor

Keith Colder started the 2011 XC season with a flight from Moel Accre to Mold on Saturday 12th February, on what turned out to be a good day at that site. Although the wind strength was sometimes 'top end', once the morning cloud street had moved on, it really felt almost warm in the sun! A dozen or so pilots had a good flying at Accre: others were having their fun at Thurstaston. It was only my second day out flying this year, but I am pleased to note that our more determined members have been using every chance they could find to fly: perhaps I should make more effort to go to Thurstaston sometimes!

Our best wishes to Dave Edwards for a speedy recovery after being knocked down by a car while crossing the road on the evening of Valentine's Day! He suffered a broken 'tib and fib' (which, by the time you read this, will have been pinned) and facial lacerations. He hopes to be airborne again during the summer.

Many thanks to Brian Dillon for arranging a 'Club Lunch' in early January where a good time was had by all. Alas, I was abroad at the time. We used to have an evening Christmas Dinner a few years ago but interest waned. Is it time to try it again for next December?

I say again that I look forward to handing over the Chairmanship of the Club to another willing member. I have held the post for six years and sincerely feel that it is time someone else took the lead. Do feel free to talk to me, if interested!

I am happy to carry on with this ever-diminishing Newsletter and Club Night speakers for a while - and on that subject, this turns out to be a particularly brief Newsletter. Regular postings of news, flight reports and gossip on the Club Website have superseded it, I suppose. I have lined up a couple of Speakers for Club Nights, one of which cannot be until the autumn; the other I am hoping might talk to us at the end of this month. Watch the Website for news!

NEWS

Notice of Club Annual General Meeting 2011

Members are formally advised that the Club Meeting on Monday 28th March 2011 will be the occasion of the NWHGPC AGM. Should any member wish to stand for election to the Club Committee or have any matters they wish to be discussed, or motions to be considered and voted on at the AGM, would they please submit their intentions / subjects (with the name of a seconder in the case of standing for committee) in writing to either the Secretary or the Chairman, by 28th February. This will give time for such matters to be circulated to Committee and Members before the AGM.

Parachute Repack 2011

The Parachute Repack at the end of January went well with thirty flyers taking part, but North Wales members were in the minority. Never mind, the visitors made a useful contribution to Club funds. There were no great shocks like reserves incapable of opening, but a couple on visiting HG Pilots were disappointed to learn that their reserves were both too old and too small to be safe by current standards, and the BHPA Packers declined to take the responsibility of repacking them! Like wings, reserve 'chutes also have a life-span and ultimately need to be replaced.

It is always worth reminding you of the 'golden rules' for an operable reserve: try it sometime!

- While sitting in your harness as if in flight, check that you can reach and grasp the parachute release handle.
- Pull the release handle (*remember, Velcro opens by pulling the two strips **apart** from each other*) which first releases the pin(s) that hold the parachute bag in the harness, and then as you continue to pull, draws the parachute bag out of the harness.
- Most important, once the parachute bag is clear of the harness, do the 'dangle test' to check that the parachute lines slip freely from the 'throat lock' of the parachute bag: they **must** do so if the parachute is to open and inflate.
- **If you cannot reach the handle, if the pins don't release, or if the 'dangle test' fails, your emergency parachute cannot function.**

And if you ever do have to deploy the reserve 'chute, once out of the harness, **THROW IT AWAY FROM YOU!** You must do this to ensure the parachute comes out if its bag and can open.

Club Committee Meeting, January 2011

The Committee met at the end of January to look ahead and plan for the AGM, to be held at the March Club Night. I will not steal the thunder of Club Officers who will report at the AGM. Sufficient to say that all is well with our flying sites; membership is up and funds are healthy. It was agreed that this year at least, we would not arrange any 'last weekend of the month' Club Competitions: let's just fly whenever we can!

WHAT'S ON

Monthly Club Meetings assemble from 7.30 onwards at Broughton Wings Social Club at Airbus UK, Broughton, Chester CH4 0DR. Talks or whatever start at 8.15pm.

Monday 28 th February	Club Night at BWSC – Watch Website!
Monday 28 th March	Club Night at BWSC – Club AGM
Monday 25 th April and 30 th May	Bank Holidays – no Club Night
Monday 27 th June	Club Night at BWSC - To be arranged

A Speaker / topic has yet to be arranged for the June meeting and will be announced on the Club Website and Members Forum. If anyone can suggest subjects or speakers for any of our future meetings, let me know!

Club News and Information; contact details for all Club Officers, and a Membership application form, can be accessed on the Club Website at <http://www.nwhgpc.org.uk>.

All paid up members of the club who provided a valid e-mail address at renewal time should also have received an e-mail invite to join the "members only" area. If you have not received an invite and you feel you are eligible, please e-mail webmaster@nwhgpc.org.uk.

Contributions to this Newsletter are welcomed from any member. Ideally, please submit copy as a Text File or MS Word File on CD to Jerry Hazzard, Mill Cottage, Mill Road, Bronington, Whitchurch SY13 3HJ or by Email / Email attachment to jerry.hazzard@btinternet.com If you are unable to provide text in these formats, the editor is willing to type up your scripts from longhand! The editor reserves the right to correct grammar, syntax and spelling, and to trim articles to fit page layouts.

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