

December, 2005



Cloud Nine

SASKATOON SOARING CLUB NEWS

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2005 Season Flying Summary

The favorable fall weather brought an increase in activity for the second half of the year. Some of the statistics include (2004 in brackets):

Days flown – 35 (35)
XDU flights – 180 (128)
KNG flights – 25 (19)
XDU hours – 62.8 (67.8)
KNG hours – 22.6 (17.5)

A complete year end report of membership and activity will be available for the AGM in January. Activity was up a little over last year, but still well below the previous 5 year average. The good interest shown this fall should mean more members and more flying next spring if the weatherman cooperates.

The longest flight in a club glider this year was made by Trevor on May 22 logging a time of 3.4 hours. Roy accumulated the most cross country points in the on-line contest at 447(5 flights) in his Open Cirrus. John totaled 406 points (4 flights) flying the club L-33.

The first day of flying was Apr 19th. The season concluded with flying Nov. 20th.

Ground School 2005

The Fall Ground School was well attended with 5 potential student members along with 4 current students. Thanks to Dave for his instructional assistance, as well as members who attended and assisted. Congratulations to Hank Hees, who successfully wrote the GLIDE exam recently. Also, an extra session was added at which time 6 radio licenses were issued.

Aircraft Maintenance

Annual maintenance on the towplane has been completed ready for next season. Thanks, Clarence for making the arrangements.

A parachute has been purchased for KNG, and will be available for next season for competition pilots.

A second set of side panels (upholstery) is available for XDU. These will be cleaned and installed for next year. Required maintenance is mostly cosmetic, but members may be asked to decide on a replacement canopy. Annuals on the

gliders will be done in the hanger as soon as weather permits next spring.

Radio for XDU

The club has committed to purchasing and installing a mounted radio in XDU for next season. Members will be asked to approve a purchase at the AGM. There are a number of possibilities to be thinking about.

Top of the line would be a panel mount such as the XCOM 760. With boom mikes, speaker, and installation the estimated cost would be \$2200.00. I would be about \$1800 if we used the headsets instead of the boom mikes and speaker. (The XCOM has a built in intercom so instructor and student can communicate by radio without transmitting.)

A cheaper alternative would be to mount a "handheld" with built in speaker on the panel. It would be available to student or instructor using a headset or handheld microphone.

Another option may be to add a separate intercom to the handheld system, again using either boom mikes or a headset. Whether this is possible will be investigated.

Annual General Meeting and Dinner

The AGM will be held in the boardroom, Sport Admin Center on **Sat January 28 2006** at 2:00pm. This will be followed by a buffet dinner and informal social evening for members and guests at the Four Seasons Restaurant, Park Town Hotel – details to follow.

Season's Greetings

The executive of the Saskatoon Soaring Club extends best wishes to you and your families for a joyous holiday season.

Want some "flying stuff" on your Christmas List? Check out some of the items available from the SAC Office at www.sac.ca under SAC Services (Supplies and Merchandise)

Thank You - to all the towpilots, instructors, and members that put in the many volunteer hours required to make this a successful season.