

May-June, 2009



Cloud Nine

SASKATOON SOARING CLUB NEWS

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2009 Season – Good Start

The weather has been cool and unpredictable and spring came late, but the conditions have produced some excellent soaring days so far.

Flying started May 2. During the first four weeks the club has flown on 9 days. QOK as done 56 tows. Of the club gliders, XDU has logged 38 flights (17 hrs) and KNG 8 flights for 10 hrs. As well, both Roy and Hank have had good flights in their gliders. On May 10, Roy had a flight of 310 km, Hank a flight covering 220 km, with both landing back at Cudworth.

Treasurer Hank reports that we are in good shape financially. The insurance has been paid, the fuel tank is full, the equipment is all operating well.

2009 Executive

The executive this year consists of President - Greg Flahr, VP - Josh Hinz, Treasurer - Hank Hees, Secretary - John Toles, Safety Officer - Shawn Wohlgemuth, CFI - John Toles, and CTP Roy Eichendorf.

Towplane

There has been a lot of research and discussion about the towplane. QOK's engine is high time, and although running well, we need to look at either rebuilding it or replacing QOK. We looked at a number of options over the winter including a 235 hp Pawnee, but in the end decided to have the C of A done and fly with it at least for the first part of the season. Ideally, we need something that members can fly safely (most are experienced on tricycle gear, not tailwheel), more power, (180 hp recommended), low stall speed, good climb rate at low speed, and within a reasonable budget. If we don't find something suitable, the other option is to rebuild the engine on QOK.

New Members

Welcome to Megan Schatkoske and dad Kevin. Both took the ground school and the "six-pac membership last season and have

become full members. Will there be a friendly family rivalry to see who gets solo first?

Welcome David Balcaen, full member.

David has been checked out on the tug and has already been put to work towing, as well as having a good start to glider conversion training.

Welcome Kyle Pulvermacher, commercial pilot student and certified tow pilot. Kyle is working at the floatplane base in LaRonge for the summer, but will be out to tow on weekends as available.

As well, other pilots have indicated interest in the club, including Chris Voll, six-pac member.

Cross-Country and Badge Flying

Although we may be able to take on some new students in the second half of the year, the goal at present is to get our current students licensed and our newer pilots involved in starting badge flights. There has been a good start on this already this year. A cross-country flight is considered a flight of more than a final glide away from the airport, and requires a minimum of the Bronze Badge. (Badge requirements are outlined in the SOAR manual, or talk to John).

Western Regional Competition

The meet will be held in North Battleford from June 18 – 22. All members are encouraged to come out, even for a day or two, to see some competitive sailplanes and meet the pilots and crews. We will need ground help and crews for the Saskatoon team again this year. Roy and Hank will be competing with their ships, and KNG will take part with John (and others?) flying it. XDU will be available for introducing members to dual flights and for evening training.

Nationals are planned for NB in 2010.

Training and Cross-Country Week

We are planning to be at Cudworth through the week of June 29 through July 3 for cross-country flying and student training. This will only happen if there is enough interest, so give it some thought when planning holidays.

Thought for the day: Globally, more people are killed by donkeys every year than by airplanes.
So, fly carefully, and watch your ass!

