



March 2nd, 2010

HGFA General Manager's Report

Craig Worth writes:

Congratulations to our new record holders.

The good summer soaring weather has enabled new national, international and world records to be achieved.

Change to email address

I have been using my personal email address - please note my new address: general.manager@hgfa.asn.au.

Operations in Class E Airspace

In my February report I was wrong in stating that hang gliders and paragliders cannot legally operate in class E without carriage and use of VHF radio. I based this statement on erroneous advice from several different sources. I have been able to confirm that hang gliders and paragliders may operate in Class E - up to our 10 000' height limit without VHF radio. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Two requests from the Head Office

Senior Safety Officers and Instructors carrying out check flights please verify the qualifications of the pilot undergoing the check flight. We are receiving check flights showing a higher rating than the pilot actually holds. Pilots please note that it is a check flight to verify flying ability, not an opportunity to gain a rating. Secondly, members signing the waiver required to be a member of the federation must have their signature witnessed, preferably by their instructor. This validates the waiver. I thank you in anticipation.

Safety Alert

Please note that the primary cause of the following paraglider accident was as a result of an incompatible speed bar being fitted by the harness supplier. Specifically, the speed bar line was oversize and did not run freely through the pulleys on the harness. When the speed bar was deployed, the line on one side jammed in the harness pulley, preventing the pilot from releasing the speed system on that side.

Accident Reports

Report 1

Pilot skill level: intermediate

In this issue

- [Manager's Report](#)
- [Story Competition](#)
- [HGFA membership](#)
- [Comp Calendar](#)

In other news

Report from Manilla

[Jonny](#) has some videos.

A Mosquito's view of Manilla

[Here.](#)

Pictures from Manilla

[Here.](#)

HGFA BOD On-line

See [here](#) if you want to know what is going on with the HGFA BOD today.

For Sale/Wanted

[Hang Gliders for sale/wanted](#)

[Paragliders for sale/wanted](#)

[Trikes for sale/wanted](#)

[Other things for sale/wanted](#)

Got a news item?

Send it to the [Airwaves editor](#).

Tell a friend

Know someone who might be

Injury: fractured heel and lacerations
 Aircraft: DHV 2 rated - intermediate paraglider
 Aircraft damage: torn wing
 Helmet: type not known
 Situation: coastal soaring
 Accident: pilot was soaring approximately 25 metres out from the ridge and on deploying the speed bar he heard a dull "clunk" sound on the harness, which later was found to be the speed system jamming in the left side pulley. A tandem glider passed upwind of him and the turbulence caused a 60% collapse of the wing, the wing rotated quickly and drifted with the wind into the caravan park below. The pilot impacted an on-site holiday cabin causing damage to the cabin and injury to the pilot.
 Comment: the fact that the speed system was unsuited to the harness should have been discovered by the harness supplier when it was fitted, or by the pilot during his pre-flight check. This reinforces the need for pre-flight checks to be thorough and systematic.

Report 2

Pilot skill level: microlight pilot certificate holder with approx. 50 hrs flight experience
 Injury: nil
 Aircraft: weight shift microlight with "fat" tyres fitted
 Aircraft damage: stretched brake pedal return spring, brake ratchet disengaged from guide, broken propeller.
 Helmet: fitted
 Situation: landing on the grass verge of an airport runway
 Incident: pilot was attempting a full-stop landing, on touchdown he applied brake and as the aircraft did not slow as quickly as he anticipated, he applied substantial extra pressure to the brake pedal, causing him to lose directional control. The microlight turned a half circle, impacted a high fence and came to rest on the propeller with the aircraft facing skyward against the fence.
 Comment: wide tyres on grass can lead to a slowed deceleration. It appears that the pilot overreacted and failed to maintain directional control as a result of excessive braking.

Report 3

Pilot skill level: intermediate
 Injury: fractured sacrum (lower spine)
 Aircraft: DHV 2 rated - intermediate paraglider
 Aircraft damage: nil
 Helmet: type not known
 Situation: coastal soaring in 15 kt wind
 Accident: pilot was attempting to top land, he encountered unexpected lift on the downwind leg of his landing approach and extended the base leg to lose height, this placed him in behind an area of elevated ground, he encountered mechanical turbulence which resulted in a 50% collapse of the left wing. The wing recovered briefly before going parachuted, the pilot hit the ground at high speed and executed a parachute landing roll.
 Comment: the pilot should not have made his approach as far behind the ridge as he did. Due to the wind strength he had placed ballast in his airbag harness which caused the spinal fracture.

Story Competition

Send in a hang gliding, paragliding or micro light story to the [Airwaves editor](#). Win \$50 if it is the best one. You've got two months.

interested in this newsletter? Tell them to go [here](#) to subscribe.

They can also see it on the web [here](#).

Unsubscribe

Don't want to receive these emails any more? Just [unsubscribe](#) or [change your options](#).

Sponsors



HGFA Membership

The posting [here](#). Chris Drake writes:

As from today, we're letting all clubs know the status of their membership each month. At the URL above you will find the cover letter that accompanies their lists (a pre-print-formatted Excel spreadsheet).

Upcoming Competitions

[The HGFA Competition Calendar](#)



[Bright Open 2010](#), AAA, 6th - 12th March, Bright, VIC,
Ben Kovco



[Dalby Big Air 2010](#), B, 14th - 20th March, Dalby, QLD,
Darron Hodder (Organizer), [Annie Crerar](#) (Director)



[Ozone Corryong Open](#), AAA, 14th - 20th March,
Corryong, NSW, [Peter Bowyer](#) (Organiser), [Rohan
Holtkamp](#) (Director)



[Weekend Warriors Series](#), C, 4th Feb - 4th Apr, Manilla,
NSW, [James Thompson](#)



[State of Origin](#), C, 4th Feb - 4th Apr, Manilla, NSW,
[James Thompson](#)



[Flatter than the Flatlands](#), B, 10th - 13th April, Birchip,
VIC, [Wesley Hill](#)