

# Vintage Times

Newsletter of Vintage Gliders Australia

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[www.vintageglidersaustralia.org.au](http://www.vintageglidersaustralia.org.au)

Issue 145    September 2019

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**Membership \$20 due 30 June**

## Articles for Vintage Times are welcomed



## Vintage Rally season in the United Kingdom

By David Goldsmith

While organising a visit to the International Vintage Glider Rally 2019 in Britain, it soon became apparent that this was no ordinary summer for vintage gliding. As usual the Rendezvous Rally was scheduled the previous week, however the Midland Gliding Club had organised "Wood Week" at Long Mynd preceding the Rendezvous, so add another week! Also, add an extra VGC Task Week at Lasham before coming home!



### Gliding Heritage Centre (GHC) Hangar 1 at Lasham

The Long Mynd narrow precipitous route to the hilltop is not for the fainthearted. However one is rewarded by a spectacular airfield and a large and friendly, well-equipped gliding club complete with accommodation and meals service available. I had the chance to renew my bungee rating after 42 years and Jenne to have her first bungee launch, both in the ASK-13. The T21b was also well utilised, majestically rising in the lift after a groundrun of a couple of metres! No teams of runners needed, their system using a vehicle to pre-tension the bungee and achieve a rapid turnaround.



### Husbands Bosworth

The Rendezvous rally at Husbands Bosworth provided us with the opportunity to renew many friendships, with English, Europeans and a few other nationalities assembled ready to enjoy some serious vintage gliding. The highly colourful, mostly wooden gliders on the airfield resembled a scene from the 1950's, in sharp contrast with the modern all-white gliders seen currently. Variable weather during the rally even provided a heatwave, with temperatures to 33 degrees providing good flights up to around 6,000 feet. The prizes at the breakup were for the prettiest glider (a Slingsby Prefect), the longest flight (2 hours 29 mins by Martijn Hoogenbosch), and the oldest glider (a 1939 Grunau Baby), all won by the Dutch team!



The Norfolk Gliding Club at Tibenham airfield hosted the 47<sup>th</sup> International Rally, commencing 27<sup>th</sup> July. Tibenham is the largest privately owned airfield in Britain, and coped easily with the many visitors. The weather did not cooperate on some days, and Monday turned out to be the best day of the Rally, with flights up to 295 km in a Ka6. Older gliders were a feature of the Rally, with the prototype Kirby Kite having a ladies day, flown by Australian, German and American pilots. The famous camouflaged Kirby Kite, used in radar trials during World War two, continues to fly with it's controls operated by wooden pull (as opposed to push) rods. The 1948 Zlin Krajanek which completed restoration in 2006, still looks brand new. The variety and colour of the multitude of assembled gliders was impressive, and the generosity of the owners in sharing their gliders much appreciated.



A Minimoa model flying contest was won by Peter Raphael's model, even though it was reduced a further 50% due to our passenger baggage limitations!

Leaving Tibenham we enjoyed visiting the Shuttleworth Trust for a family day featuring spectacular glider aerobatics by Graham Saw

in the red Petrel and Christoph Zahn in the Habicht – and lots of other historic aircraft!



Shuttleworth Trust Vintage Gliders

We then drove to the London Gliding Club at Dunstable (see below). I had a local area check while Jenne enjoyed a nice 243 km in the back seat of a private Arcus M.



Next day we were off to Sutton Bank, home of the Yorkshire Gliding Club and Kilburn Horse.



The short runway provides an extra 800 feet agl as you pass the upwind end – instant altitude! The long ridge running to the North provides wonderful slope soaring!

After our checkouts in a DG1000S we were released in a pair of Astirs to share and enjoy the local conditions in plastic - hill lift, thermal and convergence!



After a visit to the Yorkshire Air Museum, where Jenne checked out in a Provost (cockpit) and I ogled a Halifax, we drove to Camphill, home of the Yorkshire and Lancashire GC.



The airfield resembles a soupbowl and the short winch launch puts you right over the ridge at 500 to 600 feet, hopefully in lift! Landings are done on the second half of the runway up the hill. After checking out, Jenne and I had nice flights in the ASK18, which has a K8 steel tube fuselage with a sixteen metre wingspan based on a Ka6E wing.

The Club has great facilities and accommodation, Sylvia and John cook wonderful meals and also provide tucker for the piecart so no-one goes hungry!

After 5 days we moved on to Lasham for the VGC Task Week. Also taking place at the same time was a regional contest, no worries as the airfield has handled up to 180 gliders on the grid!



The Gliding Heritage Centre was a hive of activity, their new second hangar already full of attractive vintage gliders, some privately owned. The Vintage Glider Club task week attracted many entrants each day, scored for handicap distance and duration in any order around turnpoints. Jenne and I enjoyed flights in a number of gliders. A wonderful holiday but all good things come to an end. However, we still have some great memories – and photos!

### *Coming events:-*

**Vintage Gliders Australia Melbourne Cup Vintage Rally** at Bacchus Marsh, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Contact David Goldsmith on 0428 450 475.

**Australian Gliding Museum AGM and Open Day** at Bacchus Marsh Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 at 10 am. Contact Graeme Barton, Secretary, on 0407 773 872.

**Vintage Gliders Australia Annual Rally** Members and friends are invited to the annual Vintage Gliders Australia Rally at Bordertown airfield from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Social and flying activities will ensure a fun time for all. Winch launching will be provided. Further details are available from VGA President John "JR" Marshall 0407 417 747

**Vintage Glider Club Rendezvous Rally** 25 to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at LSV Lingen, Germany  
**48<sup>th</sup> International VGC Rally**, 1<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at Achmer, Bramsche, Germany  
 Registration for both Rallies [www.vgc2020.de](http://www.vgc2020.de)

**Hunter Valley GC Easter Rally 2020**, details TBA. Easter Sunday is on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Late News: With much sadness we advise the passing of Harry Schneider on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, a few days before his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.*