

GLIDEPATH



The Journal of Wessex Soaring Association. February 2020
BMFA Club No 2759

From the Editor

Geoff Collins recently contacted me to say that he had just spoken to "Josh", the game keeper at Death Valley and we are welcome to use the slope as from Monday 3rd Feb. He will let members know when we are requested to stop flying as the pens beneath the slope hold young chicks from July onwards but this will be confirmed from Josh later in the year. Thanks Geoff for keeping in contact with Josh.

It seems (perhaps not surprisingly) to have been a rather quiet month flying wise, although Nigel did manage to hold a second round of his happy landing series on probably one of the best flying days of the month.

From the Chair

Hi all and welcome to 2020. Firstly a big thank-you to Roger for continuing in the Glidepath Editor role for another year and thanks to Geoff Collins and Ian Wetstien for all their help on the committee. While I am on the thank you tack, I would like thank John Bannister for offering to take on the gratuities run that Geoff has been doing for many years and also to Roger for agreeing to help them out. A new committee position for 2020 is Mike Simms as slope deputy, thanks for offering your help.

Auction of Ian Godfrey's models etc

As you will know our past Chairman, Ian Godfrey, has dementia and is now in a care home. We were approached to dispose of his modelling equipment so Ian Wetstien, Pete Carpenter and myself went to Ian's home and met Claire, his wife. She asked us to take all of the items and try to find homes for them. We came up with the idea of an auction which took place at The Horton Inn on 15th January.

David Bradfield got the bidding off to a fine start with a high bid for a glider, and the momentum did not wane throughout the evening. We sold everything, including the container that things came in! A sincere heartfelt thank-you to all that came along and made it an excellent evening; at the final count we raised an amazing £2379.50. When I told Ian's family how much we raised, they were amazed and very grateful, they insisted that we take some commission from the sale to go to WSA club funds. Initially they suggested 25%, but we felt this was far too much and eventually settled on £279.50 as a gift to the club, giving the family £2100.

Winter Warmer

This event is on Sunday 2nd Feb which is pretty much when I expect this Glidepath to come out, so a full report next time. However I can say that the interest seems to be steadily growing in this event and this year we have 20 coming along to The Horton Inn. I only hope that the food is somewhere near the excellent standard we have been used to at The Grove Arms!

Slope Tour

I am planning to do the usual "show and tell" event round our slopes for any newbies or anyone that fancies a refresher. Anyone is welcome to come along, and I always try to end up somewhere flyable at the end. **If you are interested please let me know by email, martinburr9@gmail.com.**

2020 E-soaring series

I plan to organise the usual fun and games and I will advise dates, the first event is likely to be in May

Slopeside by Pete Carpenter

What we believe to be the situation on each slope is as described below, however it is not always possible to contact every landowner each month and we have no wish to pester them. For Sallowcliffe and OXO please take extra care when parking, and do not drive down past the brow of the track in wet conditions or you may get stuck. If in doubt, walk onto the field and track first to check! Please use your own common sense and apply the countryside rules. Therefore if things look different at a site, particularly if it involves crops or livestock, please do not enter and contact me on pete.carpenter12@gmail.com or 01722 328728.

- 1) Winklebury:- Available.
- 2) Norrington Down:- Available
- 3) Donkey Valley:- Available.
- 4) Swallowcliffe :- Slope available. It is believed that this slope is going to be put back to cereal, in which case we must obviously not drive onto the crop.
- 5) Quarry: Available. Access to the slope must be via the Stony Down / Berwick St John route only. Launching and landing from the slope face is OK, but the slope is perfectly flyable from the Berwick St John field. You may encounter some paraglider as they also have permission from the farmer to fly there. In this case it is best to have a friendly chat with them and see if you can agree separate airspaces for models and paragliders.
- 6) Oxo: Available and at the last check, sheep-free
- 7) Horses/Barbara's Field:- Available.
- 8) Daltons 1&2 :- Available
- 9) Crockerton :-Available subject to rules in slope guide.
- 10) Death Valley. Available till end of June
- 11) Berwick St John, Stony Down :- Available. Code on gate padlock is 5823 . Please do not over fly the parked cars on your landing approach at Stony Down
- 12) East Bowl:- Available. it is available but there is now a gate with a keycode, which is 7850. The shepherd is Mr.Fletcher (red Toyota pick-up) and he has asked that anyone parking on the track put a little note on the dashboard of their car, letting him know that they are a WSA member.

There are also a number of public slope sites, particularly in the Purbecks that anybody can fly from. A list of these is maintained on [Christchurch Club's website](#) so please have a look there for details.

Flat Field Update

If you are the first to arrive at Chalbury go to the green box in the farm yard.

1. The field number is shown on the small plate on the box front . LEAVE THAT WHERE IT IS.
2. Remove the large red plate from inside the box and place it on the box front. It indicates the WSA are on site.
3. Also take the required equipment out of the box and to the flying field, i.e peg board, bungees etc.
4. If it is an event where you are expecting a large number of people take the corresponding field number out of the box and place it on the fence hook at the road entrance to the drive. There is no need to put the number on the hook if you are flying there alone or with just a few other people
5. The last to leave the site, ensure everything is replaced in the box, including the red plate and number on hook if used, but LEAVING THE FIELD NUMBER INDICATOR ON THE BOX FRONT.

Be aware of the field condition, e.g. after rain. Do NOT leave wheel spin marks. If in doubt, park off the lane outside the field. Leave space for farm traffic.

Be aware of footpaths across the fields, Do not launch if walkers are on the paths. Do not launch if horse riders are nearby.

No low flying over power lines. **No flying over farm buildings and the cottage, AT ANY HEIGHT, or immediately upwind of the farm complex.**

Fly SAFELY at all times. Especially launching and landing. Do not launch over cars and do not approach a landing over other flyers, fly a proper circuit.

Report any problems to the flat field rep, Doug Bowmann.

Chalbury Happy Landings Event 2 by Nigel Bennett

Sunday the 19th of January gave us perfect gliding weather. It was cold but sunny with a light northerly breeze and gentle thermals were there for the seven hardy souls who turned out to Chalbury. As before a very simple event where the only score was how close one could land to the spot, no timers required as no points were awarded for the flight itself, just for the accuracy of one's landing.

Predictably Ian Duff showed us how to do it with nine landings within one metre. His only landing between one and two metres was dropped as everyone dropped their worst score.

1st	Ian Duff	90
2nd	Martin Burr	85
3rd =	Doug Bowman	79
	Nigel Bennett	
5th	Ian Wettstein	48
6th	Mike Sims	22
7th	Alex Bush	-

Round the Island by Terry Antell

I am looking forward to a few Sundays flying in the electric thermal comps at Chalbury. (I think I am good but my results tell me differently!). So come and challenge all the usual reprobates and you will get better, even frighten them (we can all hope).

I used to enjoy slope soaring and slope comps more, however age and other medical problems have changed that to thermal flat field soaring. Do not just instantly give in. Perhaps change the type of glider flying you engage in. WSA have some of the best slope views on private land, even if you can not fly. The thermal fields are elevated and they too have some spectacular views. My disabilities have continued to give me less movement and some more pains. However, I still enjoy GREAT company and some enjoyment flying but less often than I used to.

Some of you may have heard I am going to circumnavigate the Isle of Wight driving my Trumper all terrain buggy in June 2020. I will be travelling to the Island on Saturday 13th June and returning on Saturday 20th June 2020. I will start on 14th and really, really try to be complete on the 19th June. My able bodied son will be with me for the week.

I am doing this to collect money for Oakhaven Hospice Trust, Lymington. They need £48,000,000 a year to function. Every penny counts. I hope to get corporate sponsorship, plus the usual collection boxes on route. My next thing is to get my buggy batteries upgraded to Lithium Sodium (the latest type used by Tesla cars.) These batteries can be taken down to 0 Volts and still recharge okay.

I am paying for the ferry crossing of two cars, my trailer and buggy. Also the hire of a 16 century converted barn to stay in and a charging shed for my buggy. The cost is around £5,000. Okay, I will still have the upgraded batteries in the buggy.

The distance will be around 75 miles. Okay, only 15 miles per day but some days will be shorter distances as I will be in towns and collecting money (hopefully). My next challenge is to get TV and/or Radio coverage for local BBC or other stations. If any of you have ANY contacts in corporate companies, perhaps want some good advertising tell them to contact me by email antellterry@gmail.com or 07786887888 . I will meet anyone who could help or contribute to Oakhaven.



Mini GPS Tracker by Frank Bayes

I have just seen what appears to be a genuine mini GPS Tracker for a silly low price from Banggood. The item has magnets to attach to a car, but if they were removed I imagine it would be very lightweight and could be used to trace a missing large model that disappears in a thermal. This is a GPS locator not just a bleeper .

It seems quiet complicated to use with Google maps and your smart phone, but for £3.88 and free delivery I have ordered one mainly because I am intrigued by (cheap) gadgets! I will let you know if I get it to work but the special offer will be gone by then (*at the time of writing the price is still just £4.99, Ed*)

https://www.banggood.com/GF-07-Mini-GPS-Tracker-Anti-theft-Device-Smart-Locator-Voice-Strong-Magnetic-Recorder-p-1619355.html?akmClientCountry=GB&utm_design=147&utm_source=emarsys&utm_medium=Mail_mailad397_deal&utm_campaign=newsletteremarsys&utm_content=elaine&sc_src=email_4104864&sc_eh=8941433e2877d7d71&sc_lid=312955&sc_lid=170311827&sc_uid=t6t5maBETH&cur_warehouse=CN

Calendar (WSA events in bold)

2nd Feb **Winter Warmer, Horton Inn**
0,1 Mar **Slope Fly-in**

Contacts

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