



THE NATIONALS



TASK DECIPHERED, HOW TO GO FAST. NO OUT-LANDINGS AND DON'T BE LAST.

FIRST DAY OF COMPETITION

Yesterday was official Practice Day. The winner of the Club Class (one of only two classes in the competition) was CHAD NOWAK!!!!!!.

There is a briefing each day before take-off. The task and rules for the day are revealed. Chad likes to swap ideas with other members of his club group. They call themselves Team Dingo. Two of them have made it to the World Titles in the past. There is lots of experience to call on.

What do you do when there are no clouds? Gliding is dependent upon air uplift. Clouds are a direct result of this. But today there were no clouds. The sky was bright blue and a whole new set of conditions applied. Pilots had to rely on what they saw on the ground or read the terrain on their maps. Lakes, irrigation and dams have moisture which rises while mountains and ridges also are good for wind uplift. The colour of the ground also has an effect. Some pilots hate blue sky but not Chad.

When up in the air on a cloudless day pilots watch each other. When one pilot finds uplift the others quickly follow. Its called a gaggle. Sometimes the eagles show pilots how to fly. They also find updrafts of air. Once the glider is high enough the pilots set off for the next turn point and look carefully for more uplifts. Knowing where to look is a skill in itself. On this first day of competition there were 6 out-landings (pilots who did not land at the airfield). Chad had a good flight.



THE ALL IMPORTANT PISSAPHONE

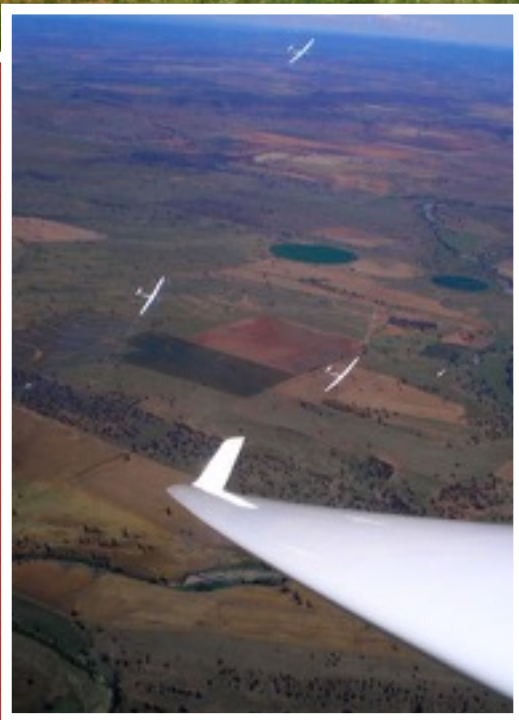


FLY LIKE AN EAGLE



RENT A CROWD INCLUDES JOEY

PHOTOS



T O
THE UNINITIATED GLIDING APPEARS TO BE VERY DAUNTING. THERE ARE SO MANY VARIABLES TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT. FIRSTLY THERE IS THE GLIDER AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS. THEN THERE ARE THE MYRIAD OF INSTRUMENTS TO CHECK AND UNDERSTAND. THEN THERE IS THE ALL IMPORTANT WEATHER CONDITIONS TO INTERPRET. THEN THERE'S THE DAILY COMPETITION TASKS (TIMES AND CHECKPOINTS) TO KEEP IN MIND. AND FINALLY THERE IS LUCK. SOME PILOTS ARE BORN LUCKY, OTHERS MAKE THEIR OWN. EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT.

SOME BROODY, SOME LOUD, SOME MORE SHARING, SOME MORE PROUD. SOME OLD, SOME MATURE. MANY ARE NOVICES WHO ARE NEVER QUITE SURE.