



# THE NATIONALS



SAYING HI TO THE FISHERMEN  
ON THE LAKE BEFORE LANDING

## OUTLANDING

Out-landing is a real pain - both for the pilot and the ground crew. Pilots land in strange places and many quite some distance from access roads. Luckily Chad did make it back to the airfield. He came seventh in his class. But 25 gliders did not make it and alarms went off everywhere.

GPS coordinates are radioed back to base using wireless, mobile phone or SMS. Knowing the exact location of the landing is helpful but how to get there by car can be time consuming. The

majority of out-landings were within 10kms of the airfield but the roads to get to where the gliders were was very tortuous. It meant many hours of evening travel and then trying to find lost gliders in the dark.

But out-landings can be fun. Especially if you are following someone who says they know where they are going and they don't. Lost drivers get even more stressed when they also realise they are going to run out of petrol in the dark before they find the glider. Skills

required for a retrieval team includes the ability to placate farmers who are about to reap crops and find a glider has now mown a 30m wide and 120m strip right down the middle of the paddock when in the next paddock is a private airfield!

So it may be very late by the time everything has been packed away and the team decides to meet at the local pub only to find that they know everyone at the bar - all the other out-landed pilots.



A LINE UP OF TRAILERS



A PILEUP OF WINGS



BEAUTIFUL WEEDS

# PHOTOS



IT MAY LOOK BEAUTIFUL AND AWE INSPIRING BUT COMING IN FROM THE NORTH MEANS FLYING OVER WATER. ITS A BIT SCARY IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE SPEED TO GET OVER THE LAKE TO THE AIRFIELD.

LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE MIDDLE PHOTO. IT SHOWS A GLIDER THAT DID NOT MAKE IT TO THE AIRFIELD. FORTUNATELY WHERE IT LANDED WAS WITHIN THE FINISH BOUNDARY SO THE PILOT