

# THE NATIONALS



THE DAILY WINNER TELLS HIS STORY ABOUT HIS WINNING FLIGHT

## LANDING IN HEAVY TRAFFIC

**Live the moment.** Coming in first on one of the days of the competition is a great feat but all pilots know that consistency is the key. At the beginning of Day 7 Chad was in 4th place overall. By the end of the day that changed. You are only as good as the next thermal you catch & Chad did not catch the right thermals on Day 7.

**Take offs are orderly.** 60 gliders line up and 6 tug planes systematically pull them into the sky. But watching landings are like watching organised chaos.

Procedures for landing are carefully explained at the briefing each day. Safety is paramount. But you can never anticipate how many gliders might come in to land at the same time. Keepit has very wide runways and multiple landing strips but pilots have to make a decision about where to land while they are some distance from the airport. Some pilots have no choice by to land quickly. With so many gliders coming in at the same time the action on the ground gets very hectic.

Gliders can land left or right or in the middle. They can land long or short. Or they can land straight in or circle before they land.

It can look very graceful when two or more gliders land together but it is a very stressful time for pilots. The chatter on the radio is constant and the safety officer is on hand to make sure everything runs smoothly. 65% of all accidents happen on landings. Spectators and ground crew are on hand to help pull gliders off the strip.



WORKING OUT THE COURSE



SAMMY THE SNAIL PRIZE



CLOWNING AROUND

# PHOTOS



DAY 7  
WAS AN EXTREMELY HOT DAY. ON THE GROUND IT WAS 41 DEGREES. IN THE AIR IT GOT TO AS LOW AS 2 DEGREES UNDER SOME CLOUDS. PILOTS HAVE TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR ALL SORTS OF WEATHER. FOR EVERY 1000 FEET UP THE TEMPERATURE DROPS 2 DEGREES. MANY PILOTS