

# THE NATIONALS



5 "TUG" PLANES REPORTING FOR WORK. 60 GLIDERS LINING UP TO COMPETE. PRACTICE DAY BEGINS.

## EVERYTHING READY TO GO?

Glider pilots must understand weather. Hot rising air is what is what glider pilots crave and they need to know how to find it. Chad notices the colour of the sky and the types of clouds in it. He notices when and where birds are soaring. He reads weather reports and understands dew points and how winds work. Knowing how to glide long distances is a skill he has learned from practical experience and from other pilots willing to impart their knowledge. There is a lot to know about weather.

If you are not skilled in seeking out uplifting winds you will not get far in gliding. But mastering weather is only one consideration.

Experienced pilots understand their gliders and what their instruments are telling them. The weight and the balance of their glider is vital as is a working knowledge of what the gauges say. They need to know which direction they are heading, how high they are and how far they can go given their present height. Will they be able to get home?

If you are in the air for many hours far from home base you are on your own. You need to be able to read maps, understand what good terrain looks like and how long it will take to get somewhere when there is no uplifting wind to help you. Taking off and landing are other stresses that you have to master. Getting pulled up into the air may sound easier but one has to also land safely. And then there is the embarrassing question that few people ask. What if I have to go to the toilet?



LAST MINUTE COMMUNICATION



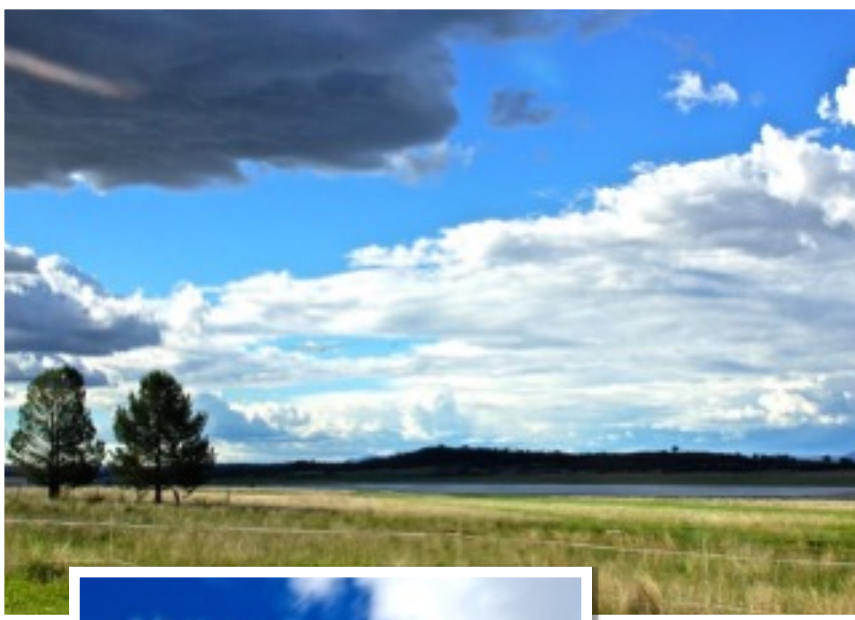
READY SET GO



KEEPING TIGHT LIPPED



# PHOTOS



IMPROVED WEATHER. DEFINITELY NO **RAIN**. SUN SHINING BRIGHTLY. INSTRUMENTS WORKING **AGAIN**. 60 TOP PILOTS TAKE TO THE **SKY**. THE EVENT IS FINALLY STARTING - SO LETS GO UP **HIGH**. NO MAJOR MISHAPS SO POST TALK IS **LIGHT**. WHAT WAS THE WORST THING YOU HAD IN YOUR **FLIGHT**? INSTRUMENTS AND GLIDER BRANDS CONTINUALLY **COMPARED**. NOSTALGIC REMINISCES, FUNNY STORIES, FUTURE PLANS **SHARED**. THE STORIES ARE ENTHUSIASTIC BUT ALWAYS THE **SAME**. YOUNG CHAD KEEPS STRIVING TO BE ON TOP OF HIS