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CAN ANYONE FLY A GLIDER?

Yes. Age is no limit. Although gliding doesn't have the stringent medical constraints of power flying, a medical certificate is required before flying solo. People of any age can learn to fly.

IS IT FOR ME? HOW DO I FIND OUT IF I LIKE IT?

Trial membership flights are available where you will be taken with a qualified instructor. You will have a short ground briefing before launching. Once flying, you will get some hands on control during the flight and get to try your hand at some basic manoeuvres to get the feel of what soaring is all about.

WHEN DO YOU OPERATE?

Every Sunday unless it is pouring with rain or blowing a real gale. Saturday and Wednesday afternoon flying is sometimes arranged if the conditions are good. We usually start flying around midday and fly until dusk if conditions are suitable.

Ideal conditions for trial membership flights and training are calm, clear days. Soaring days require sources of lift e.g. thermals (often marked by cumulus clouds), wave (often marked by roll clouds and lenticulars) and convergences (often marked by a line of cloud).

WHAT EQUIPMENT DO YOU HAVE?

We own our hangar at Bridge Pa that houses our two two-seaters, GMX, a Twin Astir and GHB, a self launching Grob G103C Twin III SL and one single seater glider, GYP, a PW5.

We also own our own towplane, a Citabria CPD, and ancillary equipment.

WHAT WOULD I LEARN IN?

Primary training is carried out in either our basic trainer, a Twin Astir, GMX, and or our more advanced glider GHB, a Grob G103C Twin III SL.

HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE ME?

Training to first solo flight usually takes about 8 to 10 hours flying time depending upon ability and application. Most people reach this stage within six months if they complete 2-3 flights each flying Sunday.

If you are interested in trying soaring yourself, come and join us to learn more about gliding, the weather, the wave and the “air pockets” you fly through in powered aircraft and save fuel! Aeroclub members can fly at gliding club member rates.

Further details about the club and learning to glide are on the gliding club website at http://www.glidinghbw.co.nz/