



May 2009

Volume 8, Issue 4

NEXT MEETING:

July 18, 9:00am @ Alexandria Airport

In This Issue:

Mike Reilage discusses the importance of runway safety.

Nyal Williams offers us some thoughts on proper procedures and checklists, part 2.

And ZA gives us some feedback on our recent winch-launch weekends

Calendar -

May	23-24		Winch Weekend
	30		Public Fly-In
June	20	9:00am	Board Meeting at Alexandria Airport
July	18	9:00am	Membership Meeting at Alexandria Airport
August	22	9:00am	Board Meeting at Alexandria Airport
September	19	9:00am	Membership Meeting at Alexandria Airport
October	17	9:00am	Board Meeting at Alexandria Airport
November	1		Last Day of Regular Flying Season
	19	7:00pm	Membership Meeting and Elections
December	17	7:00pm	Board Meeting
January 2010	9 or 16		Winter Banquet

Reminder

The Alexandria Airport has changed Unicom frequencies. We have received authorization from the FCC to operate a new Unicom station with frequency of **123.05 mhz.**

Where did that come from!?!?

There you are at about 150 feet AGL on a stabilized short final. Everything is set up great. Your angle is good and you are about ready to start your flare ... then...

a dog runs onto the runway...

a crew member's hat drifts across the runway, followed by the crew member...

a golf cart begins running right alongside the paved runway...

Runway incursions are a serious concern for gliders as well as larger aircraft. Members have expressed concern for crew and golf cart recognition. For the most part, the issue is not so much someone getting in the way on a landing area as it is getting in way at the last moment when the pilot's options (and the ground person's options) have very little time to be exercised.

We usually have a second landing surface as an "out" and we can go to the crop field if it is necessary. We can retract spoilers and "pop over" something... maybe..?

What is the basic safety rule? FAR 91.113 (g) (in part reads) "Aircraft, while on final approach to land or while landing, have the right of way over other aircraft in flight or operating on the surface."

The person landing should expect that the landing area is "reserved". We are very diligent in not staging gliders on the runway with folks lined up to land. What we need to establish as a personal rule is ... **Do not go near or enter the runway unless you look BOTH WAYS!!** Does this sound familiar like when crossing roads? Then look again!!

Landing directions can change and rope break practice can quickly change the landing direction very shortly after a launch. We are enjoying a sport. We will enjoy it especially well if we remove unplanned excitement from the agenda.

Keep your head on a swivel out there, either as crew, or as a guest escort, or as a pilot preparing for flight. Enjoy.

Mike Rielage
Safety Committee Chair

FROM THE BACK SEAT
Nyal Williams

Please let me bring up again the use of the Pre-Launch Checklist. Some of you who have been gliding many years use a different checklist from the one we currently teach in CISS. That is perfectly fine; checklists such as CB-SWIFT-CBE have been in use many years and they serve their purpose as well as our ABBCCCDE list sanctioned by the SSA.

My comments are about how you use your particular list. I have encountered students who just read the list off, or quote it, and who don't really check the item mentioned. In order to be truly safe and accurate you should:

1. name the item aloud,
2. put your hand on the item,
3. move it about to see that it is working properly or set in place properly [i.e.ballast],
4. adjust it to its proper setting if such is required [altimeter, trim].

Only then have you really done your checklist.

Always use your checklist and always do it in the same order without skipping about out of order; that invites you to skip an item without realizing it. If someone interrupts you, go back a couple of steps in order to continue. If you attempt to start where you were interrupted it is likely that you might think that last item was completed even if it were not. Making an overlap will ensure that all items were properly checked.

Got an idea for a Wing Tips article? Or a good photo from the field? Don't be shy! Write it up and send it to our Wing Tips editor, Chris Hall at bestbrain@aol.com. Deadline for our June issue is June 15.