

Gyro Flyers meet at Dannevirke



Jim McEwen flying his single seat Dominator gyro. Jim is based at Tauranga Airport.



Tony Unwin gives another visitor their first taste of gyro flight in the Eagle gyro.



John Rochfort has recently purchased and learned to fly this Xenon two place machine.



Oskar Stielau in his GyroBee. Oskar won the Man and Machine trophy for the second year running.



Michael Norton on approach against an evening sky. Pilots stretched the days as long as they could. Photo credits: Bill Lowry and Michael Norton

AUCKLAND Anniversary can be rightly tagged as the favourite weekend of most NZ gyro enthusiasts as it is then that the NZ Autogyro Association holds its annual gathering and AGM at Dannevirke.

Club members travelled from around the country to attend the event which this year attracted 19 gyros and about 40 Club members for the long weekend. It also attracted at least 15 fixed wing visitors, dropping in specifically for a look at what the rotorcraft fuss was about. Many more visitors arrived by car. Most of the gyros arrived by trailer (from as far away as Whangarei) and some flew in from Taupo, Martinborough and Tauranga.

This year there were several two place machines and a good few members of the public took the opportunity of trying out the passenger's seat. They all came back with grins on their faces.

Conditions were almost ideal right throughout the weekend, which meant that novice pilots got as much airtime as those with more experience. Keen pilots produced a Rotax and Subaru dawn chorus each morning, and it wasn't until the last rays of light left the field that the last sets of rotors stopped turning each evening.

Conditions were also ideal for test flying, and the opportunity was taken to get two new tandem Dominators into the air for the first time, much to the delight of their owners who had only just recently completed their aircraft.

The coveted Man and Machine award went to Oskar Stielau for the second year running. Oskar built a lightweight GyroBee aircraft a couple of years back and seemed to spend more time in the sky on the weekend than out of it, putting on frequent handling displays for the appreciative audience.

Best of all though, and a feeling shared by everyone who attended, was the camaraderie that was enjoyed by a group of enthusiasts and visitors all with a unique and common interest. As quoted: "I love flying, but the main reason I come is to catch up with a bunch of really good friends that I see far too infrequently."

More Information

To join the NZ Autogyro Association or find out more about gyros, visit www.autogyro.org.nz or contact the Club President, Stephen Chubb, on (06) 272 6717. Email: s.chubb@infogen.net.nz

Epic Gyro Adventure Underway Now

An epic gyro adventure is taking place in New Zealand as this issue of KiwiFlyer goes to print.

SOON AFTER purchasing his new Eagle Gyroplane, veteran gyro pilot Sid Lane was diagnosed with cancer of the larynx and suffered various treatments to overcome this condition. Though still having difficulty in eating, Sid is off on an expedition to fly around the entire coastline of the North and South Islands.



Sid Lane pictured at Gisborne on 6th February

Sid's intention is to skirt each cove and headland, acquiring video footage from a helmet mounted camera. This seagull's perspective should capture some outstanding scenery.

Sid's adventure would challenge the most fit aviator with legs of up to four hours and plans to fly extended days when the weather is fair. Cancer charities will benefit and sponsorship is and has been much appreciated. The aircraft has had an extra fuel tank fitted in the rear seat position and a video monitor screen sits neatly alongside the Garmin 296 GPS.

Sid Lane has been involved with autogyros in New Zealand for many years and is a very accomplished display pilot. He has been responsible for bringing a great number of people into the sport. Many of the long term NZ Autogyro Association members will tell the same story of first being attracted to gyros "... when I saw Sid flying and I thought Wow – I want to do that...".

Sid is bound to have a lot of stories to tell following his adventure. *KiwiFlyer* will share the best parts with you in a future issue. Regular updates including satellite tracking details are being posted on the Gyrate website www.gyrate.co.nz.