

# APSS News

No 5, June 2009

Newsletter of the Aviation Preservation Society of Scotland

APSS is registered as a Charity in Scotland SC033307

Member of the British Aviation Preservation Council

The last Newsletter covered a number of topics but there was no item on the T53 glider which is owned and operated by APSS. This Newsletter redresses the balance by concentrating on news of that aircraft. The APSS T53 team have resolved to encourage greater use of this interesting two-seater vintage glider over the summer - and at the same time hopefully generate additional donations to cover its substantial operating costs for insurance, hangarage, certification etc, before reviewing its financial viability in the autumn. This situation has arisen partly due to the poor weather last summer limiting flying and hopefully this year will live up to the optimistic long-range forecasts.

**Give the T53 a go and have some considerable fun in the skies above Fife and Kinross and at the same time help sustain this notable APSS aircraft in an active role. Read on for more information on how to be involved.**

1. The first arrivals on any flying day will start the process of making the aircraft available, even if the weather is dubious, by open the hangar doors, collecting the parachutes and if possible doing the "DI", the mandatory daily inspection.
2. The normal flying day for the syndicate is Tuesday, but for this summer flying on Friday will also be encouraged, co-ordinated by email or phone.
3. In addition, two informal "flying weeks" have been agreed to allow more members to participate and have a pleasant and informal flying holiday. The proposed weeks are :-

**22<sup>nd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> June (soon!)                      and                      31<sup>st</sup> August – 4<sup>th</sup> September**

The idea is that we will fly as many individual days as possible in those weeks and hopefully have a viable team available each day. For insurance purposes the glider can only be flown by named syndicate members or other specified categories of pilot. It does, however, have a "friends and family" rating which is self explanatory and means that any member of APSS (all of whom are presumably friends !) can be flown. Commercial use is forbidden. For that reason we look for donations and suggest 20 pence a minute over the summer. There is NO cheaper flying available than that even if you have to contribute to a launch fee payable to Portmoak, **so have a go!** We now come to club rules and to be allowed to carry passengers we are required to have an appropriate rating. At present two of our members have that rating and another two are temporarily down for medical reasons but hope to regain the rating. In addition any qualified instructor can fly passengers and this could be arranged. Two members also have access to a separately owned powered glider and might well be prevailed upon to take an APSS member up for a flight, weather permitting.

To find out more and to declare interest in having a flight on any of the days mentioned just contact in advance either one of the main T53 coordinators, who are :-

Jim Mattocks                      [jmfm@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:jmfm@dsl.pipex.com)                      0131 332 7104

Brian Colthorpe                      [briancolthorpe@talk21.com](mailto:briancolthorpe@talk21.com)                      0131 339 6402

If you want to know more about the T53 look on our web site at:

[http://www.apss.org.uk/projects/APSS\\_projects/T53/history/index.htm](http://www.apss.org.uk/projects/APSS_projects/T53/history/index.htm)

For information on the T53 base at Portmoak airfield look at :

<http://www.scottishglidingcentre.co.uk/> including a web-cam and weather.

For wind forecasts look at :                      <http://www.xcweather.co.uk/>

## GIVE IT A GO !!

### Subscriptions for the current year

Our 2009-2010 year started on 1st April and we hope you will continue your essential support for APSS and its projects by rejoining at the current subscription rate of £15. Thank you if you have rejoined already. I hope to hear from everyone else soon by post to the address below. We know there is a recession on but we think what we are doing is important and we are barely meeting our costs at present membership levels.     **Many thanks.**

### Web site and other contacts

Our website <http://www.apss.org.uk> has been much updated with an Events section etc. Keep checking it for news if you have internet access. If you don't you can probably log on to the APSS site through your local library and they will help you to do that.

With all good wishes

**Brian Wilson**

**Membership Secretary**    0131 466 1924    **email:** [membership@apss.org.uk](mailto:membership@apss.org.uk)

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