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## Chairman's Letter

I would like to talk to you all this month on the subject of visiting other club sites. The committee have recently had some feedback from the "Sky Surfers" club with regards to a few of our members, hang glider pilots, who recently visited one of their sites. The people in question rigged in the wrong area, did not take heed of the site rules, and were allegedly offensive to a "Sky Surfers" club member who approached them trying to point out the error of their ways and trying to collect a day membership fee. If you are an avid reader of "Skywings" you will probably have noticed that more and more clubs are making their sites members only, possibly because of the events previously described. Therefore, if you are visiting a club whose sites are still open to visiting members, please get in touch with the club beforehand and obtain details of their site rules and regulations. This way we could reverse the trend of clubs making their sites members only.

Finally on behalf of your committee I would like to wish you all a "Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year"

### From the Editor

This last issue of the year is a little thinner than usual – just the one article (from club coach Dave Lewis) which I'm sure you'll enjoy.

I've had some problems with the P C which I hope are now resolved ( I'm not a computer freak – I only give it house-room so that I can do Windsoc). However, as I promised when I took over, it has arrived every month and I hope you've found it of some value.

I'd like to thank all those who've helped in the process – committee members, contributors, Gary the desktop guru, and especially Natasha who photocopies it all and puts it together for posting.

Keep the contributions coming – the mag. is what you make it!

— Stewart

## LANZAROTE 1999

*It's all over now! - Hopefully the weather proved good for our annual Lanzarote winter excursion. Same time next year?*

## GREECE 2000

*Peleponnese Paragliding Paradise - Sky Systems invite competent pilots (CP-plus) on their inaugural trip to Greece*

**£349** p.w. includes accommodation, transfers, transport, retrieves, guiding by local pilot, and fun...

In conjunction with Flying Paradise, we have added Greece to our flying calendar. Flying Paradise have years of experience in the Eastern Peleponnese: Christophe Dubois who runs the operation has many years flying experience (both hg and pg). The Peleponnese offer a wide range of flying sites and conditions from soaring coastal ridges on a gentle sea breeze to soaring on mountain thermals and XC flying.

Based at the resort of Tolo where the apartments are situated virtually at the water's edge, there are extensive alternative activities including water sports, swimming, climbing and of course touring many archaeological sites. Flying is usually consistent enough to keep you busy but if the weather is really bad, Flying Paradise offer a return visit for a week at 50% off! They have two 10-seater minibuses to ferry pilots to and from the 7 local sites, and bivouac excursions can be arranged so that the adventurous can be on-site early (!!)

**DATES:** 1st to 7th and 7th to 14th April 2000; you can book for both if you require, or different length, (eg. 10 days. 1st to 10th). Places are filling FAST, so don't delay...

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# SKY SYSTEMS

## Oludinez - A Punter's Guide

by Dave Lewis

Last week Mandy and I urgently needed to take some holiday. The next day we were booked onto a plane to Turkey with a plan to fly at Oludinez. We had a great time and found it an easy place to be an independent flyer / traveller.

I'd like to pass on a few tips to aid the Turkey novices out there. Why Oludinez? - It's cheap to get to, has great weather, big mountains and it's cheap and easy to live there. If it's not flyable, it's a great place to explore / swim / chill on the beach. When to go? - April to October. The isobaric charts on the back of the quality papers cover Turkey.

How to get there? - Same as anywhere, check Ceefax or go straight to Flight Savers (0500 747 747). I've found them cheapest every time. You need to fly to

Dalaman, about 1 hour from Olu. It cost us 95 quid each (Tim King got his for £65!!)

How to get to Oludinez? - The

cheapest way is to take a taxi for about 4 quid to the bus station in Dalaman, then a bus to Fatiya for a couple of quid (the big town close to Olu) then a minibus (called a Dolmush, 40p) to Hisaranou the village up the valley from Olu), or stay on the dolmush right to the beach. If you arrive in the dead of night, or simply can't be bothered to work out the public transport, a taxi will cost £25 - £30, or the hotel will pick you up for 25 quid, or one of the guys at Focus Paragliding will do it for about £20.

Where to stay? - We booked up the Hotel Leda (ring Ali on 0090 252 6166760) before we left. 45 quid each B&B for a nice ensuite with a balcony, quietly situated on the edge of Hisaranou. I expect you can pay half that for less fancy digs, with additional choice of noisier places in Hisaranou centre; or in Olu itself, saving you a daily 20 minute bus ride. Hotels and

cheaper pensions are everywhere, so if you arrive during the day there's no need to book. Mozzies are everywhere, so take a net to sleep under and cover up or use repellent at dusk.

Getting around? - For local transport, the dolmush run every 5 minutes from Fetiya to Olu via Hisaranou, any distance 40p, dawn till 2 am (ish). To get up the hill, any of the tandem outfits on the front (where the bus stops in view of the sea, face the sea and go left) will take you up for 7 quid. We used Focus.

You can leave your glider at the shop for free. Theft is rare (thieves lose a hand!) but a small padlock at least discourages kids and makes it tamper-evident.

Food and drink? - Plenty of restaurants for tourists, kebabs cost 1.20, full meals upwards of 1.80, beer 50p. The tiny shop by the bus stop in Olu has ace pastries to take up the hill. Look for local - filled cafes for a good deal.

Don't drink the tap water, even clean your teeth with bottled water. Avoid ice and shell-fish and make sure salad is washed well, or avoid to be safe.

Eat only in popular places and go for local food which will be freshest and have the highest turnover. The locals use the left hand rule (instead of toilet paper) and eat with the right. It makes sense to keep one hand super clean and open doors etc. with your left. Wash your hands at every opportunity. Contact lens wearers beware of infection, and there's dust all around (copy posh shades are available for a couple of quid!). And the flying? - The mountain is 6100 feet from the beach, taking 30 mins to glide down and arriving over the beach with at least 4 grand. Hence the SIV popularity. If you want to do anything dodgy, arrange to have a speed boat on the radio with one of the shops. The coastal terrain and weather is similar to Sussex, but huge. You get the same sea breeze and convergence features, but the scale is mind-blowing and you probably won't recognise what you're seeing!

XC potential is huge, landing and retrieve options aren't. A popular XC is to fly along the

coastal mountains, usually to Fetiya, at least then you're within reach of a beach most of the time. A word of caution: thermals are often ferocious, with dust devils rising into spiral clouds being common, and the helicopter is unlikely to come at all, which may not be such a bad thing from what I heard of the hospitals. Very, very large safety margins required.

Don't be shy to talk to the other pilots, especially Gustave at Focus and get as many pilots on the radio as possible. If you're not sure, take the truck down

again.

The take-offs (5300 feet and 6100 feet) are rock strewn and slippery, so good boots and suit etc. are required, you soon cool off with airspeed. A good forward launch technique is vital, over rocks and flying fast in thin air.

Don't think you can get away without it.

Want to know more? -

Backpackers guide books like The Rough Guide, Lonely Planet and Let's Go are handy. Straight ones like Forders and the AA series are fit for lighting fires. Finally - Enjoy!

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## WINDSOCK CONTRIBUTIONS

1) E-mail - **NO LARGE ATTACHMENTS PLEASE!** Small graphics/photos can be accepted - as either .gif or .jpg attachments. For articles, Microsoft Word is fine, but we also accept .txt, .rtf, works, etc.

2) FLOPPY DISC: PC formats as above.

2) Typewritten articles will only be accepted in *large* clear characters for scanning (16pt or above).

3) Smaller items such as notices and ads may be handwritten.

Contributions may be edited unless the author declares "all or nothing at all".

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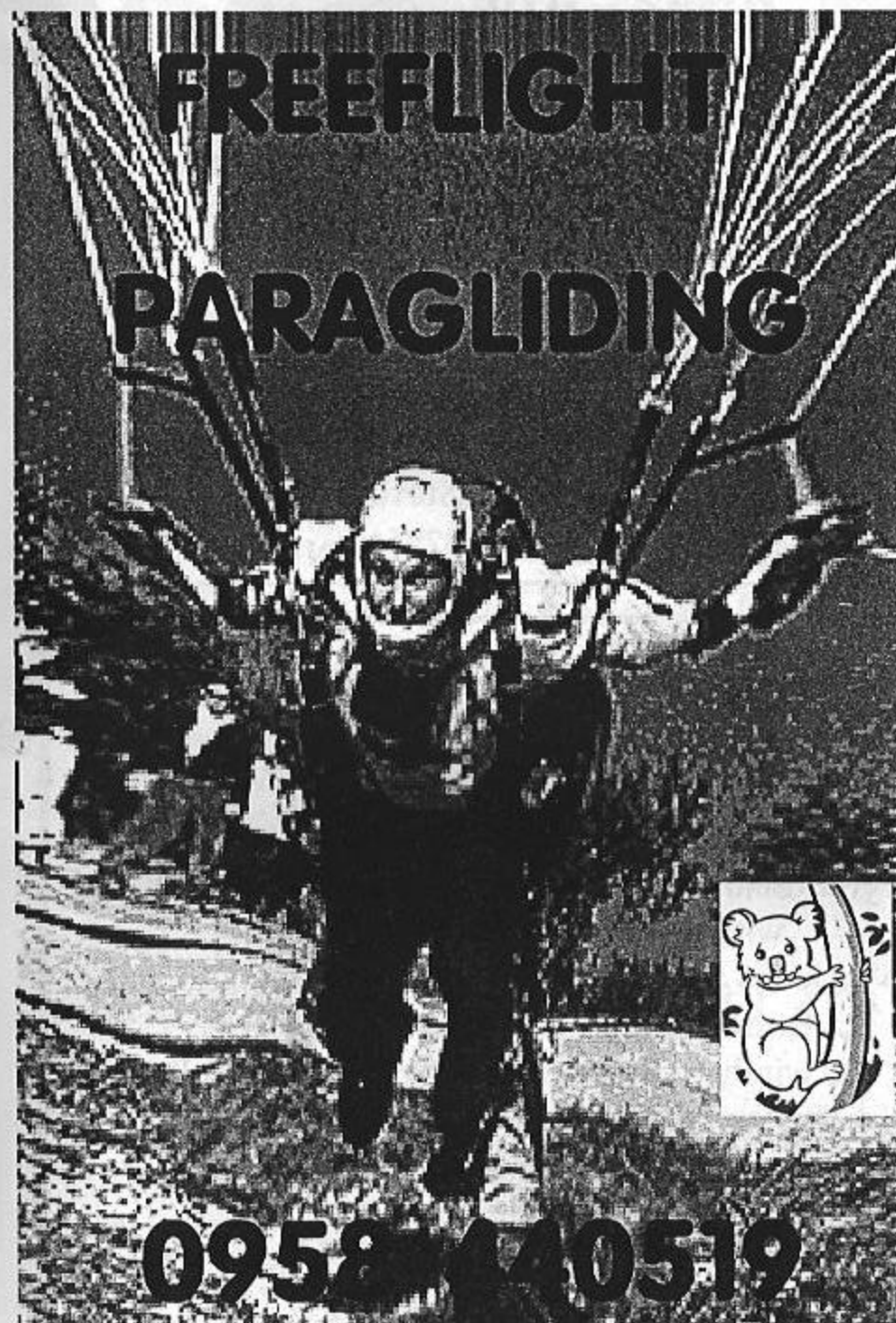
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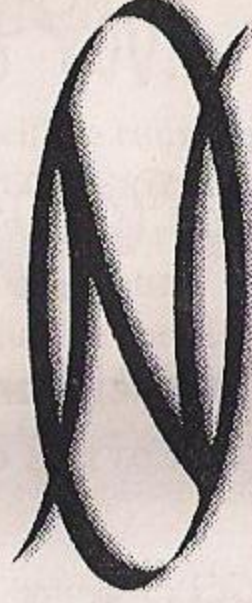
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