

Topic of the month: September 2024

Wing Running

While we haven't had any specific incidents lately it seems worthwhile to remind people of how safety critical the role of the wing runner is, particularly in crosswinds.

Before the Launch

- Only move a cable when the winch is not active (**Check the flashing light on top of the winch is OFF**)
- Make sure the cable used is appropriate for the wind direction
- Check the colour and condition of the weak link
- Make sure the glider is aligned appropriately with the winch. (The pilot should have done this but it's still worth checking)
- Ensure "All clear above and behind" (also: south field or north diagonal approaches!)

During the Launch

- Hold the wings level and make sure to hold the correct wing, in a crosswind this should be the downwind wing.
 - Wings level will not be at the same height for all gliders. e.g. for most single seaters you will have to hold the wing lower to keep them level
- Try not to exert any up or down pressure on the wing tip. When in doubt about balance, stop the launch!
- Keep the glider straight, i.e. aligned with the cable run by steering at the wing tip
- Run with the wing as long as possible without holding it back or pushing it forward and thereby misaligning the glider

Aerotow

- Check the condition of the rope, especially checking for knots
- Especially when aerotowing and particularly with light winds, run as far and as fast as you can. If you don't think you can run as fast as you need to, find someone else to run the wing.

And just to reiterate it's "if I cannot **keep** the wings level I will release". This launch should have released but instead carried on and took off moments after this picture was taken.



Safe Flying

Lachlan