

WA State Hang Gliding Championships



The West Australian Hang Gliding Championships were again held in the wheatbelt town of Westonia, about 300km east of Perth. We had a good turn-out in 2015, with 21 pilots forming into five teams.

by **Richard Breyley** – Competition Organiser

Day 1 - Team 'Dusties' in the foreground.

Photo: Lynn Web

We had yet another great year and flew six out of eight days, including the practice day.

This year we introduced a 'Sports Class' for all pilots flying Stings and WW Sports. Sports Class made up about half the field.

In Western Australia we take the teams event very seriously. This year it was again taken out by team 'Phuck Yeah' followed by 'Ibuprophen' and the 'Dusties'.

Individually, Gary Wright showed that he had not lost his touch during his years away from the sport – Gary came first with Jason Kath second and Vic Hare third.

The Sports Class was won by Phil Clarkson from Gavin Penfold and Ross Smith.

The important awards are as follows:

Turkey Award – Vic Hare: Vic tried to drive back home so he could work on a non-flying day because he needs the annual leave for Dalby. There was a black-out, so he got stuck in Cunderdin unable to fuel up, they even closed the swimming pool so he couldn't go for a swim – and the day turned out to be flyable anyway.

Boguki Award – Ross Smith: Ross telephoned his driver to tell him he did not know where he was or which road he was standing next to. The driver's response was, "Why are you calling me then?"

Get Bent – Yours truly: We need not go into details.

Phil Clarkson (the eventual Sports Class winner, earning himself the new nickname of 'Middle-aged mutant cage fighting turtle' – it is a bit of a mouthful.



Photo: Sally DeKoning

Unfortunately we only had one novice pilot entry, but Tim Crowther proved the old adage again that you learn more in a week's competition than you will in a year's free flying. Hopefully we see him back next year to build on his efforts – and bring some of his novice mates.

Even Competition organisers get to fly: Richard Breyley takes off for another flight to bomb-out.

Photo: Sally DeKoning

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Jason Kath from 'Phuck Yeah' comes in to land.

Photo: Sally DeKoning



Good to go next year!

Photo: Sally DeKoning

Next year, the WA comps will be bigger and better. We plan to have aerotowing available and expect this will attract more pilots. If anyone wants to come westward for a change of scenery and a friendly comp, leave the last week of February in 2016 free.

Special thanks to Toby Houldsworth, who came over from Victoria to be our Competition Director in WA's first A-grade comp in many a year. Also a great many thanks to our sponsors Moyes, Airborne, the Hang Gliding Association of Western Australia and the Goldfields Dust Devils – without you all this would not be happening.

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