

Manilla XC Camp 2017



Seven days of classic XC weather

It was a very hot and dry summer season in NSW, with daily temperatures between 35 and 45°C in the NW region since November. Open Distance flights up to 295km, FAI triangles around 120km, and 150km out and returns were flown. Cloudbase was regularly well over 3500m ASL (AGL is 150 to 350m ASL for the region). Based on that, the 108 pilots making the trip to Manilla from around Australia and the world were expecting a great week and got it!

Heading south on Day 1 over the dry flatlands near Lake Keepit

All photos: Godfrey Wenness

Willow Tree, many PBs by novice and intermediate pilots were also flown.

Kumsuz, Eddie	AUS	Zeno	Comp	125km
Wenness, Godfrey	AUS	Omega XAlps	XC	121km
Girin, Xavier	FRA	Zeno	Comp	116km
Ellis, Kari	AUS	Peak4	Comp	111km
Kalushkov, Ivo	BUL	Omega XAlps	XC	110km

by Godfrey Wenness

4 February: Day 1

The pre-frontal conditions resulted in typical stronger N to NW winds until the thermals broke through the layers and some flyable conditions were available mid-afternoon for the more experienced pilots. Regarding scoring, the day was cancelled at the 2pm HQ briefing.

However, launchable conditions arrived at the same time as upper level moisture pooled over the south of the region, resulting in fast developing storms, one of which just 5km south of Mt Borah.

Most pilots decided not to fly, however, one thought he would try his best Ewa impersonation and went right under the forming CuNimb. Not sure why anyone would deliberately want to do that, but

40 minutes later he popped out the side at well over 3000m just as the thunder and lightning started. Very lucky (and very crazy)!

5 February: Day 2 – 125km

Moderate north winds were due to ease in the afternoon and resulted in a late start from Mt Borah North at around 1:30pm. Flights were past Lake Keepit through the Breeza Plains, and on towards Quirindi and the Liverpool Ranges.

The storm rainfall in the south from the previous night slowed the pace in the Breeza flatlands, combined with a late start this reduced the day's potential. Best distance was 125km to south of

6 February: Day 3 – 143km

A blue day with an overheated lower atmosphere created a solid inversion and swinging N, NE, NW winds made for a tricky start from Mt Borah North. The pilots that got away and headed south towards Lake Keepit had slow climbs below the inversion and then occasional rockets from 1600m up to 2500m. Winds eased as the day progressed and the hill lines were working better than pure flatlands, especially around the edge of the Breeza Plains area. XC routes were similar to the previous day, though one pilot managed a 107km FAI triangle landing back at HQ.

Best distance was 143km, landing in Murrurindi, with many around 80 to 110km and lots of PBs again. A historical day, as Australian Team member Kari Ellis became the first ever female pilot to win a day in a Manilla event in 24 years. She flew superbly



and crossed the main range into the Hunter Valley, landing near Murrurundi.

Ellis, Kari	AUS	Peak4	Comp	143km
Girin, Xavier	FRA	Zeno	Comp	140km
Kalushkov, Ivo	BUL	Omega XAlps	XC	114km
Kumsuz, Eddie	AUS	Zeno	Comp	107km
Vischer, Claus	DEU	Poison	XC	106km

7 February: Day 4 – 217km

A trough line to the north and south of the region was set to make the XC day quite tricky with some OD (storms) forecast. The winds started as NW, but after the Mt Borah briefing turned to a moderate SW to SE with some bands of cirrus added into the mix. The early launchers made the most of the day by heading north before overdevelopment and overshadowing forced later pilots to land or deviate. With cloudbase at over 2700m and strong climbs, the leaders managed over 200km towards Boggabilla on the NSW/QLD border using classic convergence lines. Best distance was 217km, with many pilots flying over 150km. Eric Verbrugge from France had a birthday PB, his first 200km plus, and mixed it with the Comp and XC Class pilots in the top 5 on his Sport Class glider.

Tupy, Jan	AUS	Avax XC5	XC	217km
Girin, Xavier	FRA	Zeno	Comp	215km
Verbrugge, Eric (PB)	FRA	Sigma 9	Sport	215km
Vischer, Claus	DEU	Poison	XC	210km
Avenet, Fred	FRA	Mentor 4	XC	148km

8 February: Day 5 – 301km

A classic Manilla epic day with dozens of pilots flying big PBs, including all of the top 5, plus a bus load of Japanese team members. An early sky full of clouds heading west from Borah to Narrabri and the flatlands beyond was assisted by some decent E to SE tailwind. Combined with consistent climbs, this made for lots of smiles as many pilots landed at sunset in NW NSW. The main routes were directly west via Wee Waa to Walgett or turning NW before Narrabri to fly towards Collarenebri.

The day winner, Bob Saville, flew his XC Class glider 301km far, landing at Lightning Ridge with a

police and ambulance welcome party who took him to the pub and promptly bought him beers!

Saville, Bob (PB)	AUS	Omega XAlps	XC	301km
Kumsuz, Eddie (PB)	AUS	Zeno	Comp	289km
Furnell, Jerry (PB)	AUS	Phantom	XC	252km
Hosokawa, Satoshi (PB)	JPN	Cure	Sport	246km
Ghilescu, Ion (PB)	AUS	Omega XAlps	XC	244km

9 February: Day 6 – 240km

Another excellent day of XC flying from Mt Borah with lighter E winds forecast to turn SSE as the day progressed. A slow blue start to the day had pilots flying west towards Narrabri again, then north towards and beyond Moree, making the most of the change in tailwind.

Some of the later starters though flew NW, directly to Moree via the Horton Valley, and Terry Hie Hie. The clouds started popping up a bit more scattered than the previous day and the tailwind was much less, thereby reducing the potential for a 300km day.

A blue hole north of Narrabri claimed many pilots, but those who made it through and connected with the cloud at around 2700m managed to fly well past Moree for a slower 200 to 240km, landing around sunset. Once again many PBs were flown by all pilot levels. The Comp Class gliders edged out the XC Class gliders in the final scores.

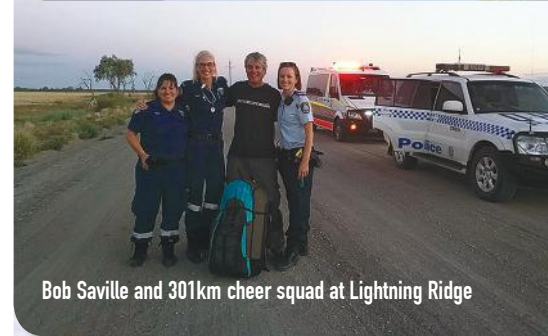
Rezende, Felipe	AUS	Enzo 2	Comp	240km
Kumsuz, Eddie	AUS	Zeno	Comp	231km
Esquilarro, Rafael	AUS	Enzo	Comp	230km
Ghilescu, Ion (PB)	AUS	Omega XAlps	XC	221km
Kalushkov, Ivo (PB)	BUL	Omega XAlps	XC	217km

10 February: Day 7 – 196km

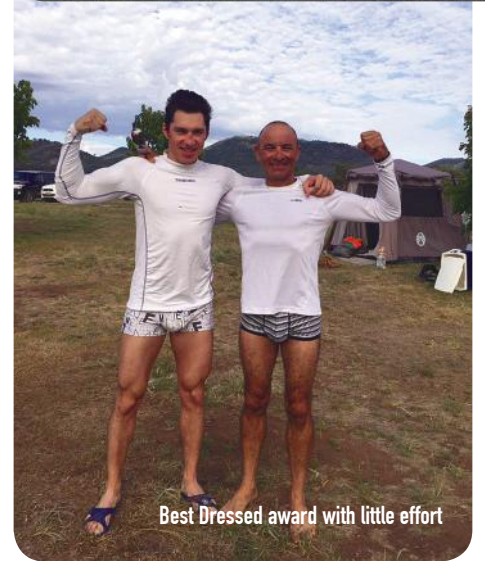
A hot blue day with winds forecast to swing during the morning from NW to SW at Mt Borah, and change to SSE by early afternoon in the northern parts of the region. An inversion and iso-thermal layer between 900 to 1700m, and a solid inversion at 2500m, both made for a slow going day for most, resulting in a high attrition rate along the classic XC route north towards Bingara, Warialda and beyond. Some lucky pilots managed to link up a number of



Brandon O'Donnell of Canungra launches at Borah West



Bob Saville and 301km cheer squad at Lightning Ridge



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Watching the first gaggle climb out



Gaggle near Barraba

stronger thermals that broke through the lower level and climbed to 2100 to 2500m, allowing for a faster average speeds with better tailwind up there as well.



Best for the day was former local Doug Grainer on his Sport Class glider with 196km, landing near North Star. Over 20 pilots managed to fly over 100km.

Grainger, Doug	AUS	Delta 2	Sport	196km
Esquilarro, Rafael	AUS	Enzo	Comp	182km
Saville, Bob	AUS	Omega XAlps	XC	179km
Malik, Magdy	AUS	Omega XAlps	XC	168km
Dorobotu, Tudor	ROM	Alpina 2	Sport	162km

11 February: Day 8 – 188/240km

A hot blue day was forecast with winds changing again from a morning NW to SW to S in the afternoon. Most forecast models didn't predict the clouds that started popping at 3500m around midday promising another classic 200km plus day.

By 11:30am, Borah west launch had stronger cycles coming through which kept many pilots waiting for a lull. Unfortunately, just as the day started, a Japanese pilot in one of the first gaggles lost control of his Sport Class glider and, after 200m of height loss trying to unsuccessfully recover it, failed to throw his reserve in time and hit the hill below the south launch. The rescue helicopter was called in and resulted in launching being suspended for over two hours. The pilot was flown to Newcastle in a stable condition with a broken pelvis and other injuries.



North launch pilot briefing



Heading west on the 301km day with perfect cloud lines

For those already on their way north, cloudbase went over 4000m with strong climbs and a good tailwind. Some blue holes slowed the speeds down in some sections.

A dozen pilots flew between 200 to 240km, maximising the 4000m cloudbase – they landed at sunset on what was an epic last day which included many PBs once again. The presentation was postponed until Sunday morning due to so many pilots arriving back after midnight.

The official scoring cut off time was 6pm. Of the second group, launching two hours late, one pilot managed 180km by his 7pm cut off. In order to be fair, pilots launching later due to the heli delay were given a 7pm cut off time or an average score based on their ranking from the previous six days.

Meanwhile those back at HQ enjoyed a great buffet dinner put on by Laura from Swan Catering who was providing meals at HQ all week long. Arnie, ze French legend and Borah Basher driver, sang and played guitar for pilots nightly as well.

Tupy, Jan	AUS	Avax XC5	XC	188km
Vischer, Claus	DEU	Poison	XC	180km
Tapper, Louis	NZL	King	XC	178km
Malik, Magdy	AUS	Omega XAlps	XC	178km
Hukanovic, Arnan	NOR	Omega 8	XC	175km

The scores for the last day are the XC kilometres at 6pm (or 7pm for post-heli launches).

Seven days XC, 301km best distance, and dozens of PBs

The 2017 Manilla XC Camp ended on the Saturday with seven out of eight days of great XC flying. The 108 pilots from 17 nations revelled in the daily flying with 27 pilots setting PBs, including five of the top 10. Many flew multiple PBs in a row. Collectively the group flew 34,234km. The best distances were 174km in Fun Class, 284km in Sport Class, 301km in XC Class, and 289km in Comp Class. Each of those were PBs for the pilots too! Pilots flew across the region as far south as Murrurundi, west to Brewarrina and Lightning Ridge, and north to Boggabilla.

Coming in to the last day, the top 5 were all within 50km on the score board. With flying on Day 7 providing the trigger for their lowest day score to be dropped for the week, the results were wide open so anyone in the top 5 could have won. The last day proved to be one of the best, with clouds at over 4000m, and strong climbs.

In a first for a paragliding event in Australia a female pilot won the overall event!

Overall Results – Best 6 of 7 Days – Top 10

1	Ellis, Kari	AUS	Peak 4	Comp	1006km
2	Girin, Xavier	FRA	Zeno	Comp	991km
3	Vischer, Claus	DEU	Poison	XC	966km
4	Tupy, Jan	AUS	Avax XC5	XC	940km
5	Wenness, Godfrey	AUS	Omega XAlps	XC	914km
6	Ghilescu, Ion*	AUS	Omega XAlps	XC	901km
7	Kumsuz, Eddie*	AUS	Zeno	Comp	874km
8	Furnell, Jerry*	AUS	Phantom	XC	834km
9	Kalushkov, Ivo*	BUL	Omega XAlps	XC	825km
10	Saville, Bob*	AUS	Omega XAlps	XC	814km

*Denotes a PB during the week.

New Australian Team member, Kari Ellis, from Canberra, flew her Comp Class glider for 1006km and just pipped Xavier Girin of New Caledonia, also on a Comp Class, by a mere 15km to take out the event. Only 40km behind the winner was Germany's Claus Vischer in third place overall, who also won XC Class.

Best in Sport Class was Tudor Dorbantu of Romania with 794km in 12th place overall.

Fun Class was won by Julian Anderson of Blackheath (NSW) with 416km for the week and in 37th place overall.

The Manilla XC Camp 2018 will be held from 27 January to 3 February. Come along and fly some safe, easy XC from Mt Borah with a great bunch of pilots – no stress, no dramas, just fly.



↳ The winners: 1st Kari Ellis (1006km, centre), 2nd Xavier Girin (991km, left), 3rd Claus Vischer (966km, right)



↳ XC Class: 1st Claus Vischer (966km, centre), 2nd Jan Tupy (940km, left), 3rd Godfrey Wenness (914km, right)



Sports Class: 1st Tudor Dorbantu (794km, centre), 2nd Satoshi Hosokawa (764km, right), 3rd Richard Binstead (672km, left)

Fun Class: 1st Julian Anderson (416km, right), 2nd Rosie Darwood (287km, not pictured), 3rd Pierre Sansonetti (266km, left)

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XC Camp 2017

Overall Scores

6/7 Days

	<i>Pilot - Surname</i>	<i>Pilot - First Name</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Glider</i>	<i>Class</i>	05-Feb-17	06-Feb-17	07-Feb-17	08-Feb-17	09-Feb-17	10-Feb-17	11-Feb-17	Totals	Best Of	Days Flown	Total Flying Days
1	Ellis	Kari	AUS	Peak4	Comp	111	143	35	288	229	80	155	1041	1006	7	8
2	Girin	Xavier	FRA	Zeno	Comp	116	140	215	171	189	80	160	1071	991	7	
3	Vischer	Claus	DEU	Poison	XC	104	106	210	160	206	94	180	1060	966	7	
4	Tupy	Jan	AUS	AvaxXC5	XC	97	86	217	176	130	132	188	1026	940	7	
5	Wenness	Godfrey	AUS	Omega XAlps	XC	121	83	134	231	109	154	165	997	914	7	
6	Ghilescu	Ion	AUS	Omega XAlps	XC	96	61	8	244	222	138	140	909	901	7	
7	Kumsuz	Eddie	AUS	Zeno	Comp	125	107	60	289	231	62		874	874	6	
8	Furnell	Jerry	AUS	Phantom	XC	91	84	206	252	161	40		834	834	6	
9	Kalushkov	Ivo	BUL	Omega XAlps	XC	110	114	92	56	217	152	140	881	825	7	
10	Saville	Bob	AUS	Omega XAlps	XC	99	102	104	301	29	179		814	814	6	
11	Avenet	Fred	FRA	Mentor4	XC	88	82	148	151	155	160	93	877	795	7	
12	Dorobantu	Tudor	ROM	Alpina2	Sport	16	57	134	236	106	162	99	810	794	7	
13	Malik	Magdy	AUS	Omega XAlps	XC	96	44	102	47	198	168	178	833	789	7	
14	Hosokawa	Satoshi	JPN	Cure	Sport	102	80	56	246	108	146	82	820	764	7	
15	O'Donnell	Brandon	AUS	Omega8	XC	100	12	30	210	131	103	160	746	734	7	
16	Binstead	Richard	AUS	Cayenne5	Sport	98	73	93	130	106	152	93	745	672	7	
17	Malocsay	Meredyth	USA	Peak4	Comp	73	97	11	13	228	74	165	661	650	7	
18	Grainger	Doug	AUS	Delta2	Sport	32	72		284	62	196		646	646	5	
19	Nagashima	Shinichi	JPN	Cure	Sport	108		55	231	134		100	628	628	5	
20	Chaigneau	Thibaut	FRA	Mantra6	XC	55		104	111	172	150		592	592	5	
21	Bennewitz	Jan	AUS	Cure	XC	76	73	92		173	151		565	565	5	
22	Lowe	Michael	NZL	Chilli3	Sport		72		239	126	37	81	555	555	5	
23	Brooks	Bill	AUS	Alpina2	Sport	34	67	134	197	122			554	554	5	
24	Takase	Yoshiyasu	JPN	Cure	Sport	52	28	32	237	123	66		538	538	6	
25	Tapper	Louis	NZL	King	XC	105	58	61	22	18	110	178	552	534	7	
26	Hukanovic	Arnan	NOR	Omega8	XC			98	26	119	115	175	533	533	5	
27	Tanaka	Koichi	JPN	Cure	Sport		83	14	55	163	116	89	520	520	6	
28	Testa	Colette	FRA	Blacklight	Sport	2	26	91	165	57	80	83	504	502	7	
29	Lawrence	Cam	AUS	Mentor4	Sport	72	60	92	37	142		91	494	494	6	
30	Sustar	Mitja	SLO	Artik4	Sport	42		94	219	132			487	487	4	
31	Roy	Mason	AUS	Iota	Sport	76	80	23	137	118	42	30	506	483	7	
32	Nedliakov	Dimiter	AUS	Sigma9	Sport		41		201		70	146	458	458	4	
33	Ryan	Andrew	AUS	Swift	Sport		30	60	225		135		450	450	4	
34	Bukovnik	Serjey	SLO	Carrera+	Sport	42	101	79	78	147			447	447	5	
35	Belmonte	Julian	AUS	Delta2	Sport	51	43	58	8	165	28	95	448	440	7	

36	Parnham	Damian	AUS	Cure	Sport	7	96	35	34	94	26	152	444	437	7
37	Broad	Dale	NOR	Chili4	Sport		57	132		99	138		426	426	4
38	Anderson	Julian	AUS	Buzz5	Fun	32	52	53	3	174	102	3	419	416	7
39	Kidokoro	Toshihiro	JPN	Base	Sport		64		230	120			414	414	3
40	Luscombe	Mark	GBR	TrangoXC3	Sport	63	41	48	138	26	98		414	414	6
41	Esquilarro	Rafael	AUS	Enzo	Comp					230	182		412	412	2
42	Verbrugge	Eric	FRA	Sigma9	Sport		63	215		65	40		383	383	4
43	Azema	Eric	NCL	Cure	Sport	65	83	103	48	75			374	374	5
44	Lim	Vivian	AUS	Alpina2	Sport			46	107	54	141		348	348	4
45	Wada	Koji	JPN	Enzo2	Comp	36	61	87		157			341	341	4
46	Nelson	Tony	GBR	Cure	Sport	61	82		141	26	28		338	338	5
47	Akeho	Mitsuhiro	JPN	Omega XAlps	XC		40	47	243				330	330	3
48	Valleaux	Thierry	TAH	Delta2	Sport	69	36	16	40	93	37	47	338	322	7
49	Mansell	Phillip	AUS	Iota	Sport				130	187			317	317	2
50	Darwood	Rosie	GBR	Ion4	Fun	10	56	59		133	29		287	287	5
51	Sansonetti	Pierre	FRA	Epsilon7	Fun	47		83		62	44	30	266	266	5
52	McDonald	Kyla	NZL	Kantega2	Fun	73	32	88		62			255	255	4
53	Ward	Joe	NZL	Carrera+	Sport			72		179			251	251	2
54	Rezende	Felipe	AUS	Enzo2	Comp					240			240	240	1
55	Darwood	Pete	GBR	Ion3	Fun	45	29	48		62	44		228	228	5
56	Rapp	Stefan	GER	Ion2	Fun		45	40		55	88		228	228	4
57	Koda	Tsutomu	JPN	Peak3	XC	27	19	29	47	60	44		226	226	6
58	Miyata	Motokazu	JPN	Nexus	Sport		38	61		105			204	204	3
59	Hotanaka	Yoshimi	JPN	Cure	Sport		20	78	99				197	197	3
60	Gagnaire	JP	FRA	Buzz5	Fun		40	39		48	25	38	190	190	5
61	Yamada	Kazutsugu	JPN	Cure	Sport		34	31		125			190	190	3
62	Schaeffer	Neil	AUS	Iota	Sport	4		76		44	20	35	179	179	5
63	Hobbs	Ray	AUS	SprintEvo	Sport		50	46	47	27			170	170	4
64	Olsen	Vegar-Hammer	NOR	Artik3	Sport	40	67			58			165	165	3
65	Hagen	Peter	AUS	Epsilon7	Fun	13		30		55	65		163	163	4
66	Takami	Masao	JPN	Cure	Sport	52	15	73					140	140	3
67	Dallen	Mark	AUS	Tequila4	Fun		27	81					108	108	2
68	Elston	Mark	AUS	Aspen5	Sport	7	31			65			103	103	3
69	Kawai	Kenichiro	JPN	Bolero5	Fun		15	80					95	95	2
70	Persson	Jenny	SWE	Epsilon8	Fun	15	6			64			85	85	3
71	Grzyb	Lukas	POL	Hook3	Fun	80							80	80	1
72	Dunst	Peter	AUS	Sigma9	Sport	76							76	76	1
73	Couper	Rob	AUS	Rush4	Sport			27		48			75	75	2
74	Fleming	Daniel	AUS	Ion4	Fun			9	31	21	14		75	75	4
75	Devine	Rory	AUS	Carrera	Sport	16	31	13					60	60	3
76	Kikuchi	Masaru	JPN	Nyo5	Sport	7	50						57	57	2

