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WORLDWIDE PARAGLIDING AND PARAMOTORING MAGAZINE. FOR FREE.



Photo: Alain Douce

COUPE ICARE 2014

PARAGLIDING AND PARAMOTORING NEWS AND PRODUCT REVIEWS

Translation by Ruth Jessop

www.free.aero

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Coupe Icare 2014

THE PARAGLIDING FESTIVAL WITH ALL THE NEW IDEAS

Once again, this unique 'family festival', the biggest of its kind in the paragliding/paramotoring world, was the place to unveil new products and market the latest trends.

The weather forecast was bad, but despite big storms during the night, the days were quite nice, allowing over 100 fancy dress flights in the traditional Icarnaval. More than 80,000 spectators took advantage of the sunny spells to take part in this annual airborne pilgrimage, and to watch the numerous displays which make the Coupe Icare so unique.



The following pages give a glimpse of the phenomenon which is the Coupe Icare: an immense festival to celebrate free flying...

The Coupe Icare is also the world's biggest paragliding and paramotoring trade show: Nearly 200 exhibitors over a surface of 5,000 m², all showing off the latest gadgets and gear to make our flying dreams come true.

In this article we're going to take you round the stands, looking at what's new and also revisiting some of the products which have been around for a while but deserve a second look.

You'll also be able to see other new products in a later article 'Trends for 2015', which will be out at the end of the year...



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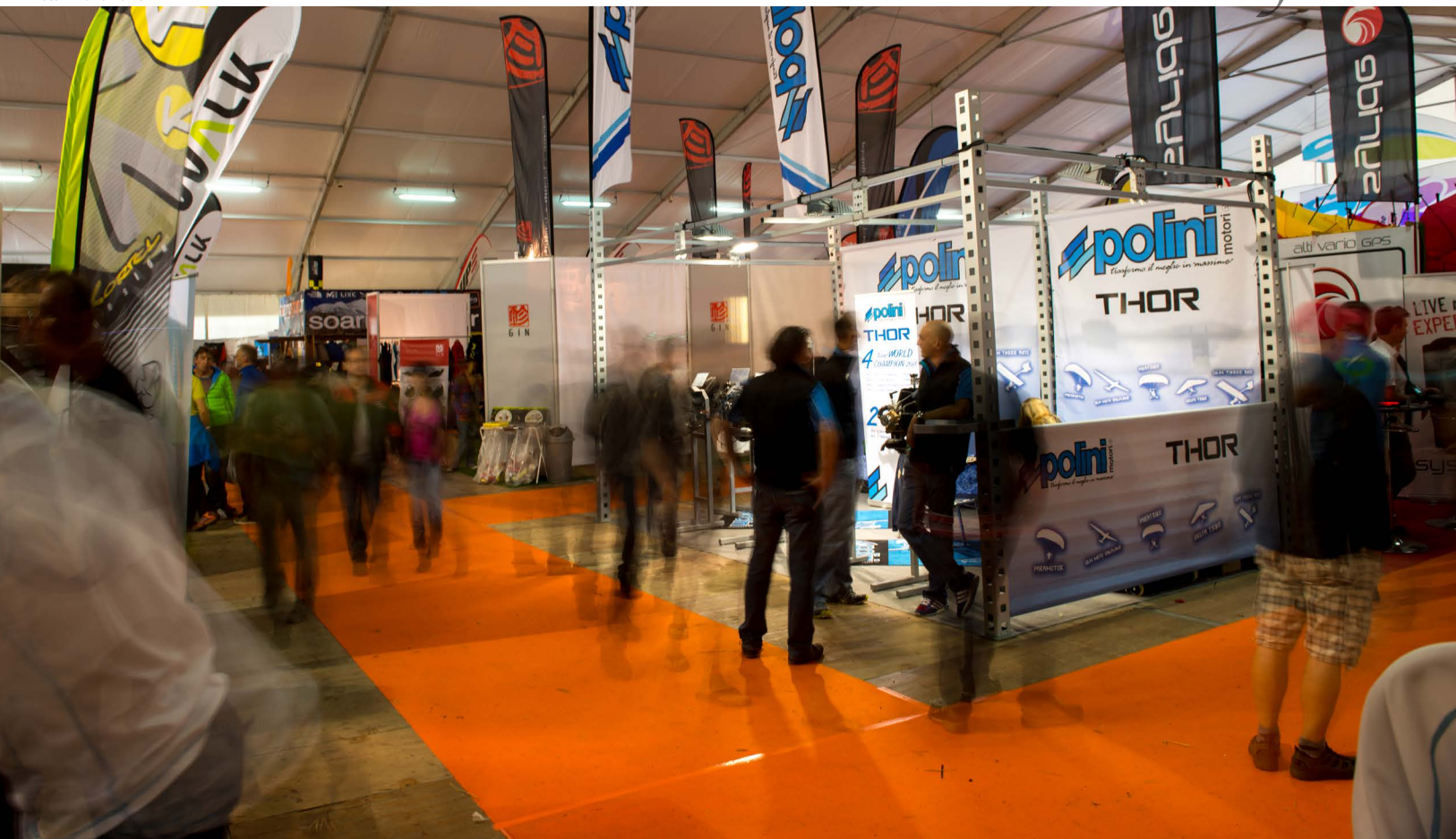
www.porcher-sport.com



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Icare Expo

Photo: Bruno Lavit



Icarnaval

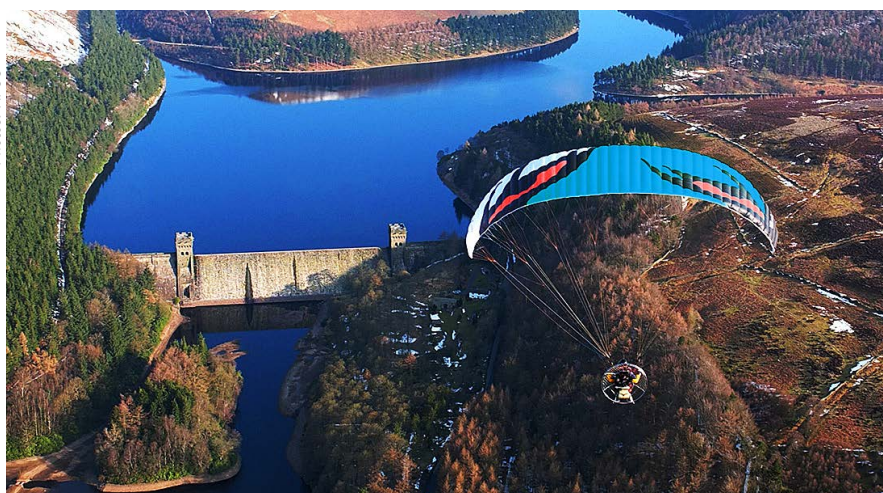


Photo: Ilan Ginzburg

Photo: Ilan Ginzburg



Photos: APCO



The Israeli manufacturer has, amongst other things, two new sizes of the NRG Pro: The 18.5 has been added to the 17.5 which came out earlier and an NRG Pro 16.5 will follow shortly. The NRG Pro is an improvement on the NRG and is aimed, above all, at slalom competitions. On the free flying side, APCO has gone light; their hike and fly harness only weighs 220 grammes and, for the first time, it can be fitted with an airbag.

At the Coupe Icare, APCO also launched the prototype of a new lightweight harness for paramotoring. Weighing only one and a half kilos, it has separate leg straps like on a mountain harness, better steering by weight shift and is also less sensitive to engine torque thus making take off both nicer and easier.

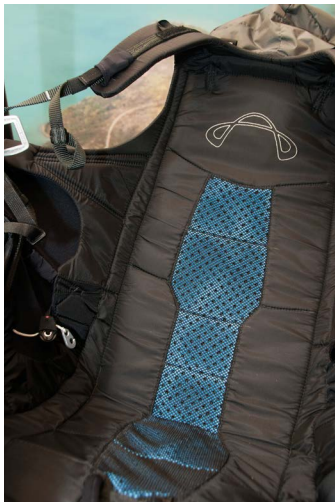
www.apcoaviation.com



Photo: Thomas Ulrich / Visual Impact



Photos: Sascha Burkhardt



The Swiss manufacturer made the most of the Coupe Icare 2014 to launch their new top of the range lightweight harness, the Lightness 2: a cocoon harness designed for flying XC, with an integrated reserve pocket, certified back protection optimised to an aero dynamic shape and numerous adjustments possible in the air. This harness which only weighs 2.8 kg, will be in production from November onwards.

Another official launch: The Sigma 9, an intermediate EN C wing designed for flying distance, only weighing 4.9 kg which is very light for this category of wing.

Also present at the Advance stand, was Hannes Papesh, former designer and co owner of Nova. See photo below with Greg Blondeau and Simon Campiche following his move to Advance.

www.advance.ch



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Coupe Icare free flight and balloon show

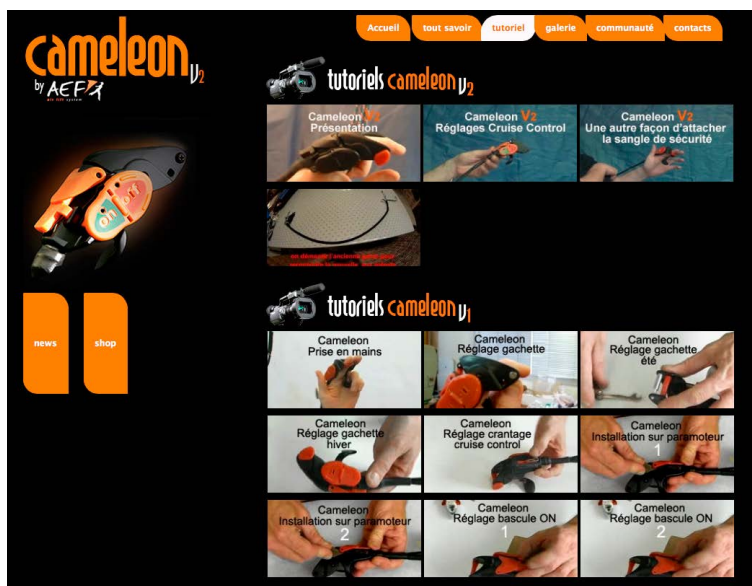
Photo: Bruno Lavit

Above the morning mist, paragliders and balloons meet. Mik Broschart recorded the moment in this great little film on the left.
<https://vimeo.com/106955165>



**hot-air balloon meeting @ coupe icare festival
2014**

de Mik Broschart PLUS il y a 20 heures AUCUNE CLASSIFICATION POUR LE MOMENT



For many pilots, including those in our editorial team, the Cameleon paramotor throttle has become an essential piece of equipment for paramotoring being both very precise and comfortable.

You'll find lots of interesting tutorials on the French manufacturer's site, a lot of which are also available in English!

<http://mycameleon.fr>



FLYNET – ASI

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



Two new versions of the Bluetooth mini-vario, a new case, a new design and above all, new electronics. From now on, the two versions FlyNet 3 and FlyNet XC will also communicate via Bluetooth 4 Low Energy, also transmitting data from the new accelerometer. The firmware can now be updated by the pilot, and it is also possible to adjust the vario settings for use, without a smartphone, as a purely acoustic vario. Despite these significant improvements the price has dropped; the FlyNet 3 is approximately 189 euros.

In spite of its small size, the FlyNet XC for 279 euros is also equipped with a GPS chip, so that it can transmit data to a tablet or Android reader without a GPS like the one in the picture. Even without a connection, the FlyNet XC records tracks valid for FAI-CIVL (G-Record), which can be downloaded onto a computer.

www.asinstrument.ch

Photo: Bruno Lavit

133 paragliders and hang gliders took part in the traditional Icarus.



FLYMASTER



Photo: Sascha Burkhardt

It's the detail that changes everything: At Flymaster, every model of vario is now equipped with a slot for an SD card, giving an almost unlimited amount of memory. This is a revolution particularly for instruments like the Flymaster GPS SD, Flymaster NAV SD as well as the Flymaster LIVE SD. They can now have worldwide airspace maps as well as international topographic maps, allowing you to display height about the ground wherever you are, based on a geographical network of 90 m/90 m.

The price remains affordable and will be about 204 euros for the VARIO SD (without GPS) and up to 696 euros for the LIVE SD (which contains a GSM module for live tracking).

www.flymaster-avionics.com

AIR CROSS



Photo: Franz Altmann

The company Air Cross have pulled out of traditional paragliding competitions and have formed a new team around the German owner Konrad Görg. New priorities: An acro wing, called the U Infinite, already present at the World Cup, as well as a wing at the top end of the EN B certification which is currently being developed...

<http://www.aircross.eu/net/?lang=en>



A 'retro' sequence in the sky above the 2014 Coupe Icare... Hands up all those who have still got a wing like that in the back of their garage?
Photo: Ilan Ginzburg

— SWING

Photos:



Photo: Jörg Maass



Photos: S. Burkhardt

The German manufacturer has quite a few new things on offer at the end of this season: The Sensis is a mid-range EN B paraglider which is aimed between the Arcus 7 and the Mistral 7. The paramotor wing Powerplay Sting 2 replaces the Sting after years of good and loyal service. The Sting was one of the best selling models across the Rhine. The Sting 2 will be just as adapted/certified for use with a paramotor as for unpowered flight. Depending on the amount of travel on the speed bar, the pilot can choose to make it an EN A or an EN B wing. Swing also launched a new reserve and a speed riding wing.

www.swing.de

NIVIUK



Photo: Luc Hentsch

Ten years old already! Niviuk are celebrating their first decade in business and the successes that have come with it. The new Artik 4 (EN C) is finally available. According to the manufacturer, it is very user friendly for a wing in this category. The initial feedback from the test flights gave it an unusually high performance for an EN C. The Icepeak 8 wasn't able to be certified in time for the Paragliding World Cup Super Final, but it will be ready this autumn and in particular for the World Championships in mid January.

www.niviuk.com



PORCHER



Photo: Sascha Burkhardt

After a period when manufacturers experimented a lot with cloth from Asia, they are now returning more and more to Skytex cloth (albeit a bit more expensive) made by the French company Porcher Sport.

New out is Everlast, a very resistant fabric with a special coating, developed with Gradient who had the exclusive rights to it for a certain length of time. In the future it will be available to all manufacturers. In 2015, manufacturers will also be able to use a new fabric, 'Eazyfly', optimized for the lower surface and a bit less expensive.

www.porcher-sport.com



Coupe Icare free flight and balloon show

Photo: Ilan Ginzburg

PAP

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



Available from this summer onwards, the new PAP Rolling trike. It is designed to be used with chassis types 1400 and 1450 and putting it together is very easy. As you would expect, this PAP trike is made with stainless steel rods and the pilot has a choice of three types of wheels to adapt the trike for different types of terrain.

www.papteam.com



WIND'S RIDERS

We had a look at Philippe Lami's famous down jackets specially designed for paragliding. They are particularly well known in green, but Philippe has lots of other great colours too.

www.windsriders.com

ITV

ITV have made their first ever full reflex wing. In creating the Billy, they have apparently got rid of the achilles heel of this type of paraglider during nil wind launches - a prolonged take off requiring a lot of ground handling.

Inflating it is surprisingly easy, as is the lift off. In addition the Billy is very manoeuvrable and particularly well damped.

Despite a high maximum speed (expected to be 65 km/h) and its high performance, ITV describes The Billy as a wing for everyone, from newly qualified pilots to competitors. Sizes 22.5 m², 25.1 m² and 28 m². Max all up weight 120/140/160 kg.

www.itv-parapentes.com



ICARO PARAGLIDERS

Photo: Icaro



The acro wing Nikita 4 came out a few weeks ago. Compared to the version 3, it has a softer nose profile, the trim has been modified along with the brake line geometry. According to the manufacturer, the stall point will be a bit earlier and there will be a significant reduction in the effort needed on the controls, which will be an advantage for McTwists and Misty Flips.

Nevertheless, the Nikita 4 will keep its liveliness in the dive. The stabilo has also been modified.

<http://www.icaro-paragliders.de>

Photo: Franz Altmann



Let's rock up with paragliding.rocktheoutdoor.com

PARAGLIDING



info@paragliding.rocktheoutdoor.com

Photos - Tristan SHU

Photos: S. Burkhardt



They've always been part of paragliding and regular participants at the Coupe Icare. French based Peguet make the famous maillons for most paragliding manufacturers no matter where they are based in the world.

At their stand, as on their website, we learnt lots of interesting details about these little but indispensable parts of our flying machines...

<http://www.peguet.fr/index-gb>



www.nirvana.cz

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Michel Carnet
Nirvana Instinct CL200



Daniel Trochta

Lubomir Zavorka
Nirvana NV360

WOODY VALLEY

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



Simone Caldana, owner and designer of the Italian make, introduced the 'Wani', successor to the reversible harness 'Voyager Plus'. It integrates a real backpack, thus not falling foul of the normal compromises necessary for classic reversibles. Which begs the question, is it still a real reversible?

Secondly and more importantly, Simone Caldana has put a lot of effort into the upper back protection. As an impact on this part isn't tested during certification, despite the possibility of injuries during a fall on your back, Woody Valley have modified their own testing regime. They have thus significantly improved the protection to these parts of the body thanks to extra air compartments.

www.woodyvalley.com

Icare Expo





*Coupe Icare
free flight and balloon show*

DUDEK



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkHMgtPgpoM>

The Polish manufacturer Dudek launched their new Freeway 2 at the Coupe Icare. According to Jean Baptiste Chandelier, this wing is, above all, aimed at those learning acro, from the stall to the limit of Infinity Tumbling, without actually being adapted for the latter. It has less dive than certain of its competitors which will reassure acro beginners, and it glides better, so it is nice to fly in thermals too. The 19.5 m2 is available now and the 22 will be here soon.

<http://www.dudek.fr>



At the Coupe Icare Dudek presented their new team of test pilots. Here they all are from left to right and back row followed by front row:

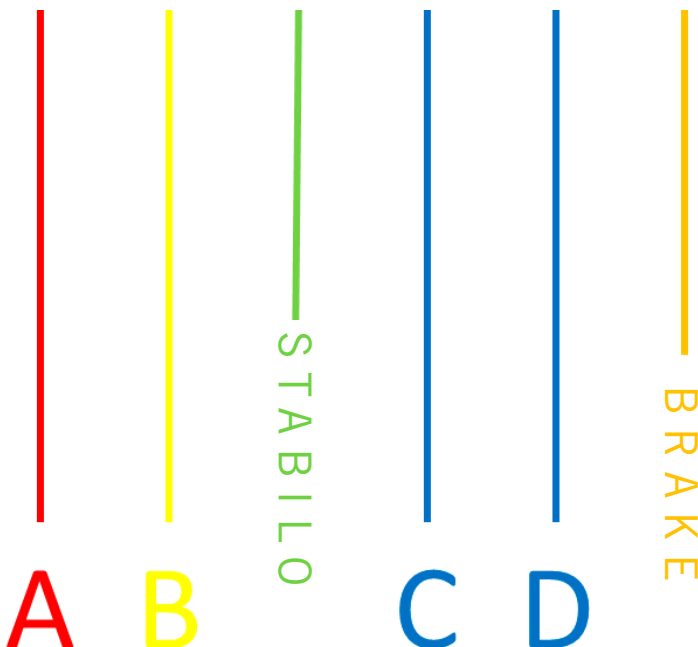
Wojtek Domaski, Piotr Dudek, Jérémy Bailly, Marie Lucas, Maxime Chiron, Jean-Baptiste Chandelier, Christophe Gonin, Jim Nougarrowles, Manuel Laly

PMA

During the meeting of the Paraglider Manufacturers Association, the PMA, the manufacturers were a lot fewer, many having left, unhappy with their representation over certification issues and the new EN norm.

Those remaining did manage, amongst other things, to publish some very practical recommendations for all their members. The resolution recommends having uniform colours of lines as a function of their position, red for the As, yellow for the Bs, blue for the C/Ds, green for the stablos and orange for the brakes. This idea would at least be a very good thing, particularly for beginners!

<http://www.p-m-a.info>



VOLER INFO - FREE AERO

Photo: Luciano Miguel Martins



Your magazine had its own stand. Sorry we weren't there very much; instead we were busy from dawn till dusk, out and about, getting all the news and latest information for you...

Many thanks to all our readers who have made the first purely online paragliding magazine, such an amazing success. Just in time for the Coupe Icare, the Android application alone of our French magazine, *voler.info*, passed the 5000 readers barrier. Add to that the 8800 subscribers via the iPhone and iPad apps, and the numerous pilots who read us over the web...

Also new: From October onwards, we are going to inaugurate a new test protocol for paraglider and paramotor wings integrating videos.

Application *free.aero* iOS (iPhone, iPad):

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/free.aero-magazine-for-paragliding/id873891887>

Application *free.aero* Android:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=free.aero>

Web:

www.voler.info

www.free.aero

INDEPENDENCE / SKYMAN



The German manufacturer brought out the new Cruiser 3, a school wing and still an EN A with a lot better performance according to Independence. The collaboration with Markus Gründhammer from Skyman, one of the pioneers of hike and fly (after having been one of the pioneers of acro in the 1990s), can also be seen in the harness: The String only weights 300 grammes. It is EN certified and even LTF when used with a back protector.

www.independence-world.com

FLYING PLANET



The Whisper 4, the new top of the range EN B wing from Flying Planet has been certified in size S M 80/100 kg. Also new, the Spirit 3 leisure wing. Still in the current range, the mini-wings Shoo'ka 15,17,19, the tandem Xpress2, the speed riding wings Mutant 11 and 9, and the freestyle paraglider Mystic FS.

<http://flyingplanet.fr/index.php/en/>

AIR CONCEPTION



Photo: S. Burkhardt

At Air Conception, titanium is traditionally everywhere, including the cage. By choosing a thin enough section of tube, the end result is a good weight to solidity compromise.

Air Conception is now in partnership with Flying Planet. New out: motors that are 160 cm3 instead of 130 cm3, but of identical weight.

<http://www.airconception.com/>

Icarobatix

This year Icarobatix crowned 3 French pilots as being amongst the best in the world. At the end of the 3 paramotor slalom rounds: 1st Alexandre Mateos, 2nd Jérémy Penome, 3rd Pascal Vallée.





HACKER

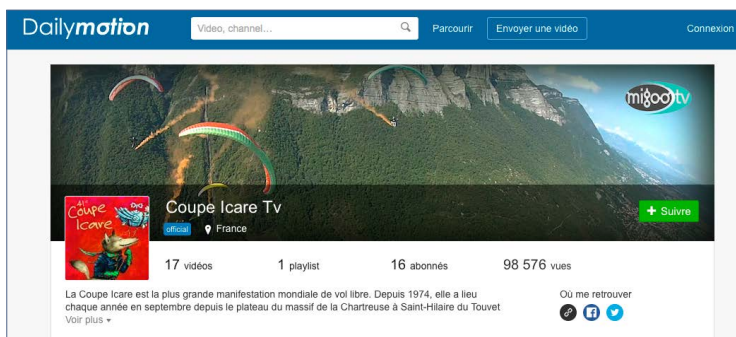
Hacker is a remote controlled model airplane manufacturer which is also heavily involved in model paragliders and paramotors. Recently the RC-Free with 1.3 m2 came out; a model with a single surface, well damped and easy to fly, making it no problem to do spirals, SATs, stalls, helicopters... Price of the whole kit with remote control: 589 €.

New out: The model Flare, a single surface wing which is bigger than the Free. This model is 2.4 m2 and is even easier to fly and is specially adapted for thermal flying as well as ridge soaring.

www.hacker-motor.com

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XN_jlSkIIA

COUPE ICARE TV



Daily Motion's Coupe Icare TV channel had some videos showing the Coupe Icare 2014 as well as previews of the film festival.

<http://www.dailymotion.com/coupeicaretv>

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FLY PRODUCTS

Photo: S. Burkhardt



New from the Italian manufacturer, is the Vertigo monoplace trike which is particularly robust and has very good protection around the pilot.

Also new, the Xenit trike which is now available with the Thor 250 engine from Polini.

www.flyproducts.com

MAC PARATECHNOLOGY

Photos: Franz Altmann



Peter Recek, the owner and designer of the Czech company Mac Para, announced the launch of the Elan (EN C). This paraglider will be easier than the Marvel, and also comes in a lightweight version (4 kg in size 26), a new trend at Mac Para. Peter Recek also envisages having a new competition class wing. At the beginning of the range, the EN A wing the Muse 4, came out right on time for the Coupe Icare. The Heaven is the new XC cocoon harness from the Czech manufacturer.

<http://macpara.com>

GRADIENT

Photo: S. Burkhardt



The Aspen 5 (EN C, see photo below) just out, is already being talked about. This model promises a significant improvement in glide angle, especially when accelerated. At 6.25, the aspect ratio is greater than that of the Aspen 4. Ondrej Dupal (photo left) was pleasantly surprised by the success of the Freestyle range, and launched the Freestyle 3. This model will be more dynamic than its predecessor, whilst keeping its accessibility. Certification will be possible, but isn't envisaged at the moment.

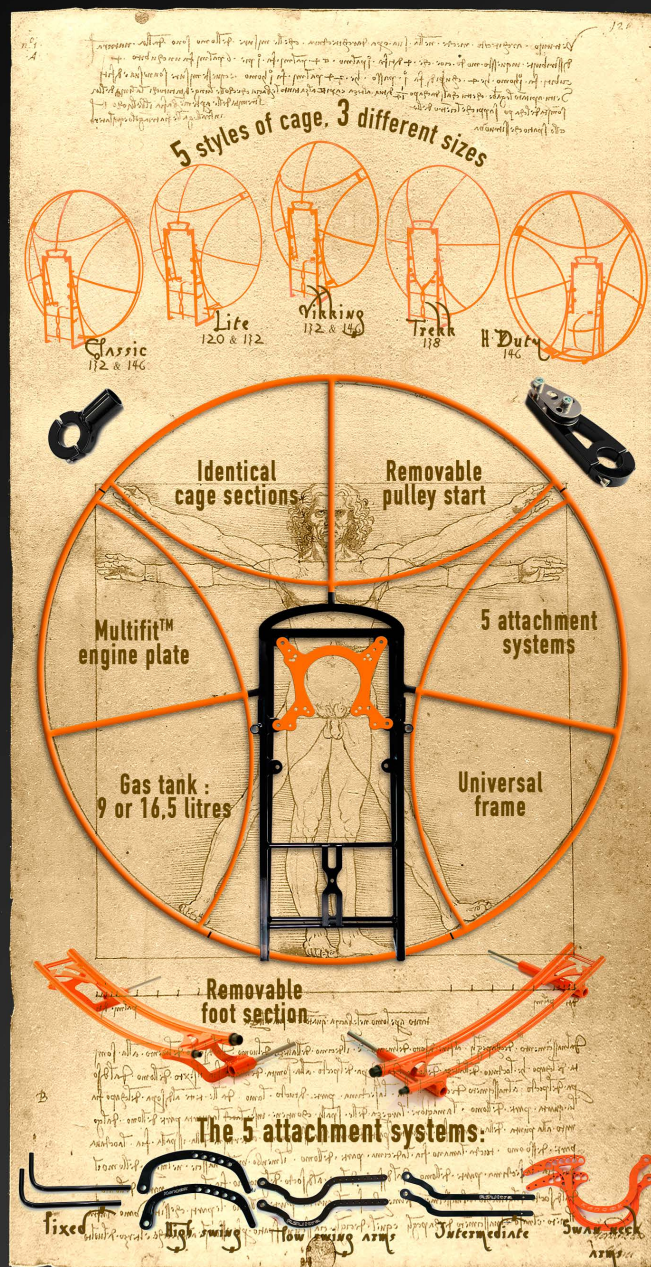
www.gradient.cx

Photo: F. Altmann



KANGOOK TEAM PARAMOTORS

*The beauty is in the design,
the Genius is in the detail...*





SYRIDE

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



At the Syride stand, the recent Sys'Nav got lots of attention. Just as small and easy to handle as the manufacturer's other instruments and perfectly designed to be mounted on the risers, thus making it very visible, this instrument costs 399 euros (only slightly more expensive than the Sys'GPS). It offers amongst other things, navigation functions and air space display. We'll soon be testing it in voler.info and free.aero!

www.syride.com

RSULTRA KANGOOK

Photo: Kangook



Photos: Sascha Burkhardt



The Canadian paramotor manufacturer has packed his bags: For the new Trekk series, especially adapted for travelling; the company RSultra introduces a travel case on wheels. At voler.info/free.aero, we tested the Trekk chassis with a Polini 190 motor. You will be able to read the full report next month.

www.rsultra.com

SUPAIR

Photos: Sascha Burkhardt



At Supair, after the launch of their tandem paraglider, the school EN A wing is about to be certified. This wing which has leading edge rods should be pretty fast. The all new harness the Delight 2, with a detachable cocoon, is even more of a success than the previous version, weighing 3.6 kg.

www.supair.com

NERVURES

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



Jean Marie Bernos showed us the new Whizz. This hybrid mountain wing will combine the Kenya for mountain flying, the Swoop for speed and the LOL as a hybrid...

It comes in three sizes. Straight away we took a 20 to test for voler.info and free.aero.

www.nervures.com

SKYTRAXX

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



The manufacturer from the Black Forest, not far from the French/German border, has made a few small changes to his successful instrument, the Skytraxx 2.0 Plus, an altivarior GPS. Already made in black, it is also now available in orange or green.

Inside, an interesting change, any recorded flight is stored in both IGC format and in Google Earth format, the latter allowing easier visualization.

www.skytraxx.eu

MINARI ENGINE

Photos: Sascha Burkhardt



At Parmakit-Minari they have produced a new model with double ignition 181 cc and 27 HP. The weight of the motor on its own, including the exhaust, will be 14.5 kg.

In addition, this motor manufacturer offers via its Polish subsidiary, the complete assembly, chassis and motor.

Minari Pologne is working on injection systems coupled with a lambda sensor in the exhaust.

www.minari-engine.com

OPALE PARAMODELS



The French manufacturer of mini models (paraglider and paramotor) was at the Coupe Icare. Their own pilots demonstrated, amongst other things, the new Fox RS 2.6 which has a 4 metre wingspan, an easy to use wing with a nonetheless impressive performance, according to the manufacturer. They also introduced a new Barbie size pilot called Lucas who is heavier to go with bigger wings and therefore easier to use.

<http://www.opale-paramodels.com>



Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



As if he didn't already have enough work, putting deliveries of his highly successful wings slightly behind schedule, Bruce Goldsmith (on the right in the photo) has taken on a new project: President of the Paraglider Manufacturers Association, the PMA...

Hopefully that will open the door to the numerous manufacturers who slammed it behind them following the disputes over German and European certification and the various Enzagate issues...

Other than that, Bruce is concentrating on developing the Base, a top of the range EN B model.

www.flybgd.com

Photo: Ilan Ginzburg

Coupe Icare free flight and balloon show





Photo: Bruno Lavit

Icare Expo

Photo: Jean Dolifus

Kids Icare



Photos: Sascha Burkhardt



We have already talked about it in the Hi-Tech article: the big news at the Ozone stand was the F*Lite harness weighing 99 grammes... It's impressive to hold it in your hands - it feels like cigarette paper...

The tensile strength is given by Dyneema thread and carbon rods provide stiffening...

Ozone also showed off their new Roadster 2, an intermediate paramotor wing with reflex and SharkNose. The wing will be really easy to launch and has a very big speed range thanks, amongst other things, to the SharkNose. For 2015, Ozone will be launching the Swift 4 as well as the new Mojo.

<http://www.flyozone.com/paragliders/en/>

Photo: Ozone



WINDTECH

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



The Altair is the new EN A wing from the Spanish manufacturer; it has been certified in sizes S, M and L.

The name of their wings are now going to start with the letter of their category, for example, the Bali is an EN B, the Capri is an EN C...

<http://windtech.es/en/index.html>

PIOU-PIOU

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



Nicolas Baldeck was at the Coupe Icare to show everyone his 199 euro windtalker. At the Coupe Icare Nicolas won the Jean-Marc Mouligné prize, which rewards new innovations in the world of free flying. The Pioupiou which have been ordered will be delivered at the beginning of 2015.

Another important announcement was that for countries which aren't covered by the Sigfox network there will be a Pioupiou which will communicate using a GSM module (mobile phone). The price will be in the order of about 400 euros, still pretty reasonable for a totally autonomous windtalker.

<http://www.pioupiou.fr>

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



From this year onwards, the successful model, the Monster 185 will be available in a version 'plus', with an extra clutch. This version which was already on the cards at the 2013 Coupe Icare has been a great success, with more and more pilots appreciating this extra element of security.



<http://www.vittorazi.com>

Photo: Bruno Lavit



BIP BIP



Photo: Sascha Burkhardt

The little acoustic vario, the Bip Bip, made in Grenoble keeps going up without any changes. Its designer and manufacturer, Timothée Manaud, continues to promote it via his website, which was rewritten this summer.

Price: 89.95 euros.

<http://www.lebipbip.com>

TREKKING



Photo: Sascha Burkhardt

With the launch of the Senso Trek, Trekking now offer the successful Senso range in three different versions: the classic weighing 5.7 kg, the Senso Sport weighing 4.7 kg and the Senso Trek at less than 4 kg. This additional reduction in weight has been obtained by carefully placing the different Porcher fabrics, Skytex 27 and the 32. The Trek will be the wing for mountain flying and traveling with, light and solid, whilst the other two versions are for more classic use. At free.aero we tested and compared the Senso and the Senso Sport and will be publishing our findings in an article in November. One of the conclusions: Despite having identical geometry, the Sport doesn't just take off better, but it is nicer in the air in many respects...

<http://www.trekking-parapentes.fr>



Icarnaval

TRIPLE SEVEN

Photo: S. Burkhardt



The Slovenian manufacturer has on offer a new series of reserves, the FG +.

These hemispherical parachutes have slits, which make their trajectory slightly spiral during their decent, giving greater stability, braking the oscillations.

Made in medium size, the FG + has a surface area of 35m². With a descent rate of only 5,1m/s, its max all up weight is 110 kg and it weighs 1,6 kg.

The P-Light, mini-wing weighs 2,6 - 2,8kg and is based on the Pawn school wing. It is available in two sizes, 17 and 19 for an all up weight of 45-105 kg and 55-120 kg.

www.777gliders.com

AIR DESIGN



Photo: Veronique Burkhardt Pilot: Sascha Burkhardt

The team at Air Design want to concentrate more on small surfaces, as that's what people want. They want wings to be light and good for hike and fly; here the sizes seem promising.

The Eazy and the Rise 2 are out now in the superlight versions, sizes XXS – M...

In the meantime, the Ramaflex as an entry level reflex wing and available for intermediate pilots, confirms their success.

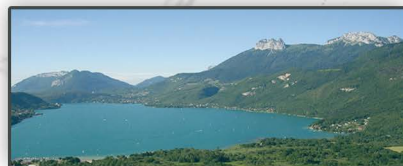
At free.aero we have tried it and will publish the results in the autumn with our other new flight tests. Our first impression: A wing which is very accessible and certainly not boring at all, with impeccable take off behaviour...

<http://www.ad-gliders.com/en/>

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Importer Plusmax, Ava Sport, Fly with Me

Doussard , Lac d'Annecy, France

www.paratroc.com



JCD-SKYWATCH



Photo: S.Burkhardt

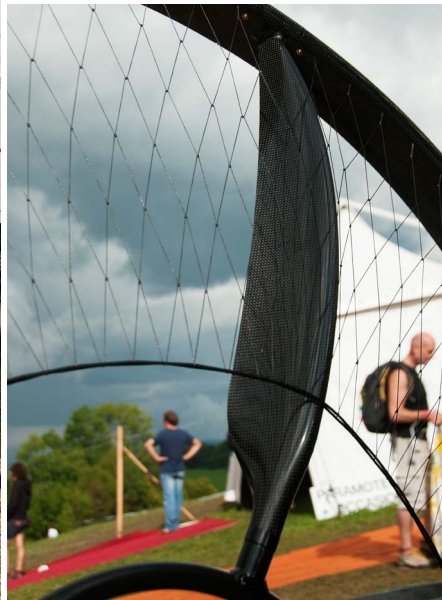
The team at JCD had on show their full range of weather stations and precision instruments. Particularly interesting for paragliding is the little accessory called the Windoo, which can be adapted to modern smartphones starting from the iPhone 4S and the Samsung Galaxy S3... The Windoo 1 measures the speed of the wind and the temperature and it costs 59 euros. The Windoo 2 for 79 euros adds hygrometry. The Windoo 3 for 99 euros adds pressure. All the data can be shared via a social weather forecast network set up by the manufacturer.

www.windoo.ch



SCOUT PARAMOTOR

Photos: S. Burkhardt



The company Scout paramotor offers chassis and cages made from carbon fiber. As an additional selling point, the hoops are twisted to compensate aerodynamically for the engine torque. With a Moster 185 plus, its weighs about 24 kg, the price is in the order of 7100 euros.

<http://www.scoutparamotor.com>

RAZEEBUSS

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



Despite a market which is still fairly secretive as far as electric motors are concerned, at the Coupe Icare, the pioneer Razeebuss launched the prototype of a new model, the Radicall which is based on a Supair Skypper harness.

The Radicall keeps all this harness's original characteristics, like the Speedbag, Bumpair, reserve pocket, speed bar and foot rest, but Razeebuss have added an electric motor with their all new carbon fiber chassis, more refined and aerodynamic. The motor continues to be an HPD 10.

In parallel, the company is branching into classic petrol engines. The third prototype of the small 17 HP Valach motor, weighing barely 7.5 kg, should be on the market soon, but will it really happen this time?

<http://razeebuss.com>



Photo: Icaro 2000



This manufacturer specialising in helmets for free flight and paramotoring, made the most of the Coupe Icare to officially launch its Transalp helmet, having already proved its worth in the 2013 X-Alps, when it protected our esteemed Clément Latour's head. Despite weighing only 390 grammes this helmet seems very solid, as a company employee demonstrated by violently hitting it on a kerb in a video...

www.icaro2000.com



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHwrcZlO_s4



1974
APCO launches
serial production of
hang gliders

T-40



1986
1st generation
paraglider hits
production

T-30



1995
Bagheera
the glider of
champions

T-20

2004
1st paramotor
world records

T-10

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Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



On the Flytec stand, pilot's opinions and wishes were closely listened to. Following a change of management with Jörg Ewald being the new director (see photo on the left), some projects such as the launch of the new series (pictured below) with a touch sensitive screen, have been put back by several months, so that they can be best adapted to what the pilots really want.

Even more surprising, Flytec have withdrawn from the electric paramotor market until the end of this year, even though the HDP 10 and HDP 13 motors produced by Flytec in collaboration with Geiger/Eck are the only really promising motors since their competitor Skywalk withdrew from the market.

But as electric paramotors remain an existing niche, albeit expensive, from now on the company Geiger/Eck will look after it on their own, whilst Flytec will concentrate totally on the new flying instruments..

www.flytec.ch

Photo: Bruno Lavit



SOL



The Brazilian manufacturer's Lotus (EN C) is placed significantly above the Synergy Five which is in the same category. In the EN A category, the Start One is designed to be used on school hills. Thus SOL, are going to offer two models in each category, including tandems.

A new accessory has also been launched, the SOL Quick Pack Express for a solo or tandem wing. It will be more comfortable with reinforced shoulder straps, an internal pocket to put the risers in and an identification pocket.

Weight 660 g. Price 100 euros.

Presentation video:

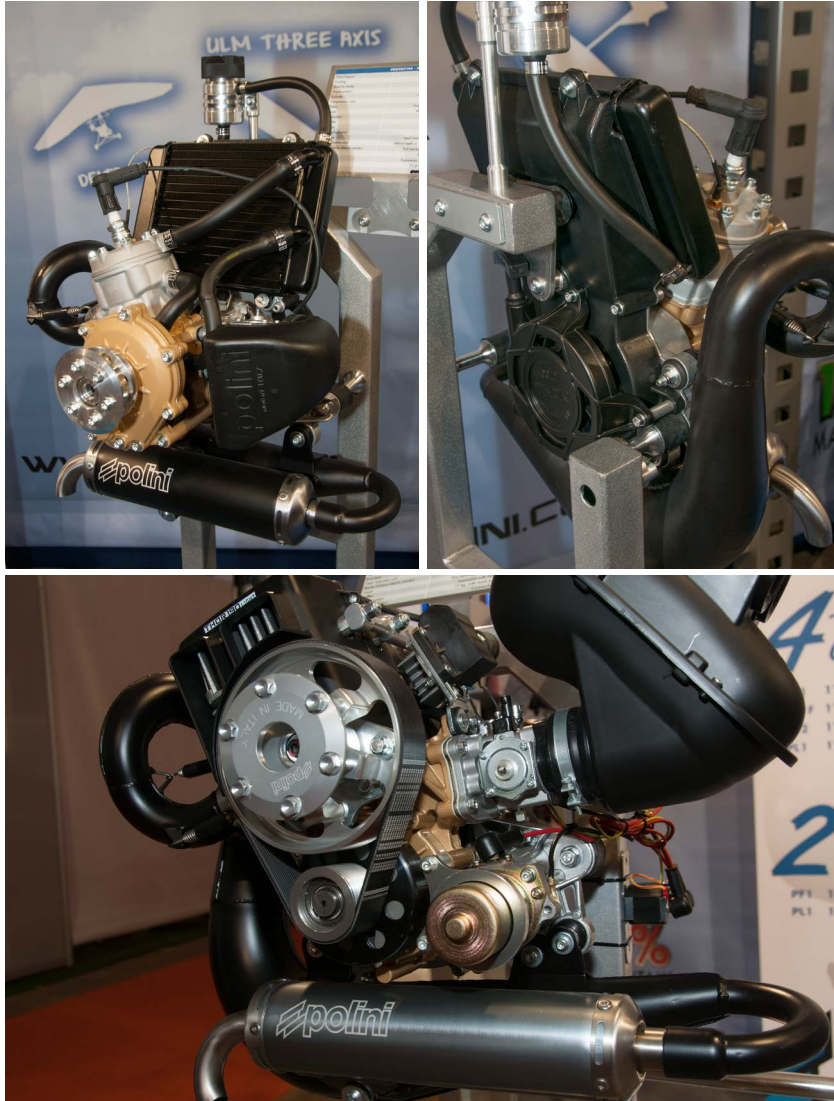
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lijyOqLd7D8>

<http://www.solparagliders.com.br>



POLINI

Photos: Sascha Burkhardt



Also launched at the festival was the prototype of a small, light motor, 86 cc, water cooled, and only weighing 11.2 kg, including the coolant. One of the special features is that the radiator and all the pipework are integrated in the case for the motor, which makes it easier to fit it onto any paramotor chassis, able to be equipped with other Polini Thor models.

On the Polini stand we were able to see the whole range of Thor motors specially designed for paramotoring. (The Italian manufacturer comes, like their competitors, from the motor bike world).

Powerful machines like the Thor 190 light, the 200 EVO (new in the EVO, amongst other things, improvements to the cylinder head and the exhaust) and the 250 are on a roll, as the trend, not just in competitions, is going towards small wings and big engines, even for foot launching! The 190 light (on the left) is a good compromise, economizing on the clutch for example. As for the cylinder, it seems very close, identical even, to the 200 EVO.

free.aero has a 190 light to test. We'll publish the results this autumn!

<http://www.polini.com/en/index.html>

U-TURN

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



Thomas Vosseler (photo left) and his company have brought out the Infinity 4 – this wing has been completely redesigned and has almost nothing in common with the previous version. Pretty logical, given that the Infinity 3 was a LTF 1-2 which came out in 2009...

The new harness RX3 (the 'Relax') continues to weigh less than 4 kg, except in size L. The back protection got the very good rating of 22 g in the EN/LTF certification.

www.u-turn.de

www.free.aero

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GIN

Photo: Franz Altmann

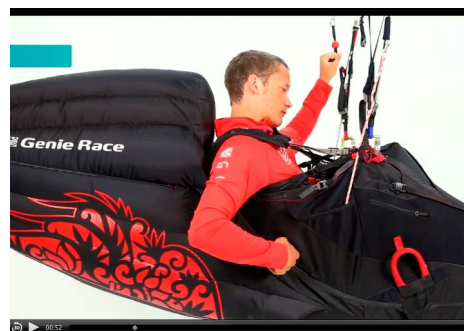


The new Génie X-Alps is a version of the harness which the GIN pilots used in the X-Alps 2013. It will be available in SIX sizes, has 14 cm of back protection and will continue to weigh about 2 kg...

Gin also launched the new Fuse tandem harnesses Pilot and Passenger.

The Genie Race 3 harness is designed for competition use. It is a bit lighter than the previous version weighing 7.2 kg. Outwith competitions it is also aimed at XC pilots. The cockpit flight deck has space for a reserve or it can be replaced by an instrument case.

www.gingliders.com



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cPJz7dyVYo>



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Photos: Kortel



KORTEL DESIGN

At Kortel Design, in addition to the lightweight range of harnesses well known for being 'made in France', there is now an exciting new accessory for any pilot who likes taking pictures whilst flying, a specially adapted flight deck with a compartment to keep your camera at hand but perfectly protected. It is adapted to fit onto any harness using quick release buckles. After the flight it converts into a camera bag with strap! Clever! Weight 850 g, price 170€.

<http://www.korteldesign.com/spip/index.php?lang=en>

TURBULENCE

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



Silkscreen clothing from Turbulence, were a fashion 'must see' at this year's Coupe Icare - beautiful, original designs, neatly done on high quality fabric. A new addition to their team and wearing a Turbulence design, was acro pilot Eliot Nochez.



<http://www.turbulence-shop.fr/index-en.html>

PARATROC



Photo: Sascha Burkhardt

The company Paratroc is well known for selling second hand paragliders and accessories. Given the current difficult financial climate, this has become popular amongst many pilots. You can kit yourself out for a lot less in recently serviced equipment with a three month guarantee. Paratroc have created a Europe-wide network and they always have hundreds of models in stock.

Paratroc is also an importer for AVA Sport harnesses as well as for Plusmax helmets.

www.paratroc.com



*Coupe Icare free flight
and balloon show*



The Coupe Icare Film Festival.

For 32 years, the Film Festival has been an essential part of the Coupe Icare. This year, 35 films competed for aerial supremacy...

This 32nd Coupe Icare Film Festival saw the cinema full to bursting for each of the 3 screenings of the official selection. This year the jury chose 5 films out of the 35 entered. Films of aerial sports and stories of both human and emotional endeavor were amongst the finalists:

The 'Coup de Coeur' was won by **40 Ans de Vol Libre Au-dessus du Puy de Dôme**, by Pascal Maury which recounted the history of hang gliding in the region that the French call, 'The Land of the Volcanoes'.

The award for the best adventure film was won by François and Auréliane Lehen with the film **Une Paire dans le Ciel**, an amateur's top quality debut film.

The best footage award along with best kids and public award, went to **Touch** by Jean-Baptiste Chandelier, who enchanted everyone after having gained large appeal over the internet with more than 1 600 000 hits over the course of 9 months on the web.

The Jury's Special award went to **Pour une Poignée de Secondes** by Bertrand Delapierre, filmed behind the scenes base jumping in the heart of the Alps.

The Gold award went to **Violon, Parapente et Himalaya** by Sebastien Devrient, for its pure, free flying adventure footage, capturing isolation in the strictest sense of the term.

The critical jury, made up of journalists specializing in the world of free flight aerial sports, gave two other prizes.

The first one, a short but breathtaking film, **Burja Khalifa Pinacle Base Jump – 4 K** by Anthony Augustinack.

The second one, a full length film which paid homage to slowness, **Un Grain de Folie** by Benoit Tanguy. They deliberated between the two for a long time but finally chose both, being the two extremes of the 2014 Coupe Icare Film Festival.

Film: Grain de Folie





Un Grain de folie

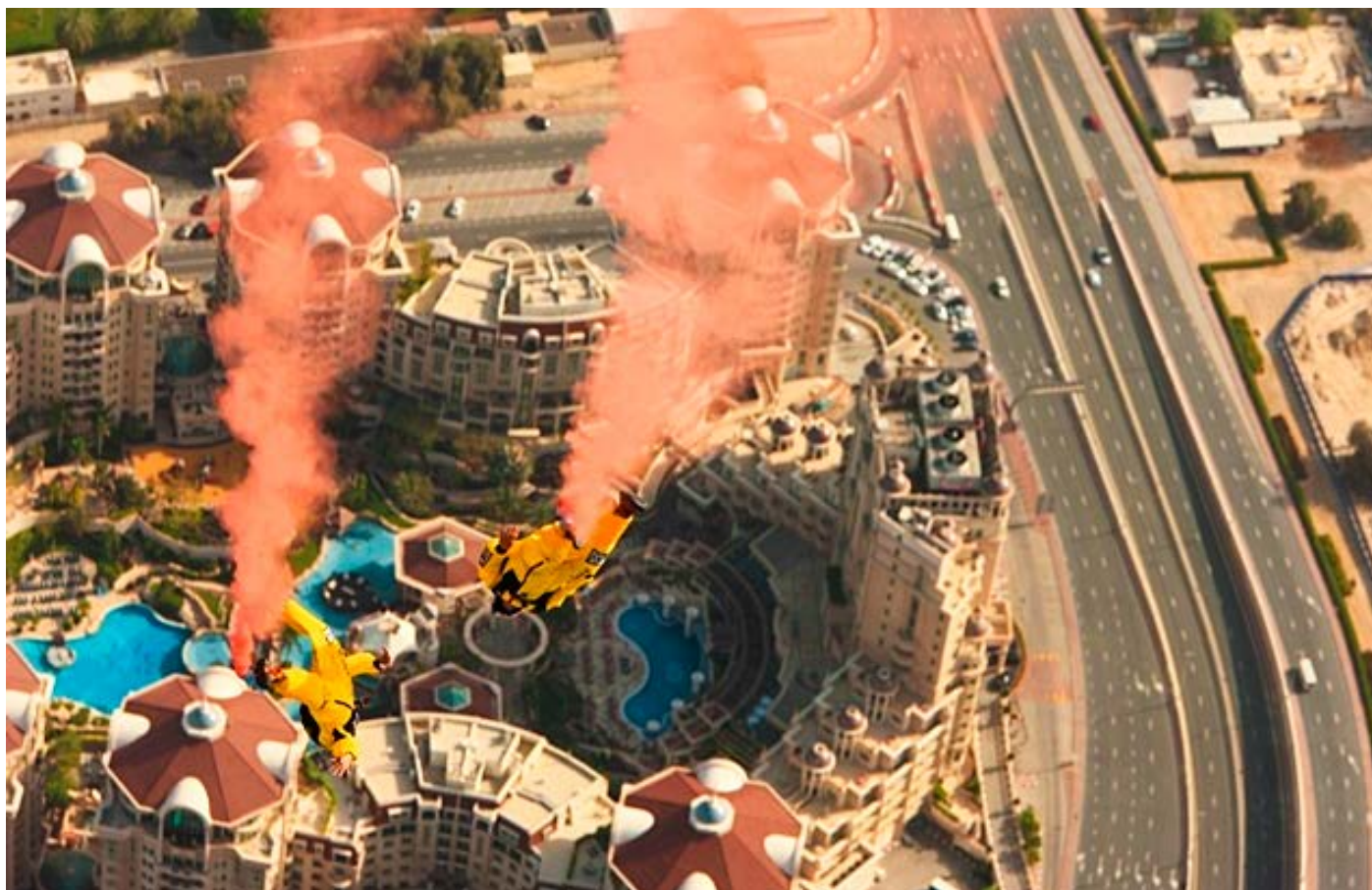
Ballooning with Vincent Leys, one of the greatest balloonists in history. He put his title of world champion on trial during the Gordon Bennett Cup. Where would the wind carry him this time?

Filmed by Benoit Tangy. Length 52 minutes.

Winner of the Coupe Icare Film Critics award.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWqSG3B0vDI>





Skydive Dubai sponsored Soul Flyers World Champions Vince Reffet and Fred Fugen who broke a new World Record by BASE jumping from the pinnacle of the World's Tallest Building.

Film by Antony Augustinack. Length 1 minute 43 seconds.

Winner of the Coupe Icare Film Critics award.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iD4qsWnjsNU>

Burja Khalifa Pinacle Base Jump



Jean-Yves Fredriksen, otherwise known as 'Blutch', took off on his own with his paraglider and a violin to cross the Indian Himalayas. An adventure where poetry had its place amongst the difficulties and commitment necessary for this type of project.

Film by Sébastien Devrient. Length 21 minutes.

Coupe Icare Gold Award.

<http://vimeo.com/88664699>

Violon, parapente et himalaya



Jérôme Para and Arnaud Bayol take you on a flight of discovery behind the scenes of this big mountain sport, base jumping throughout the seasons, travelling across the Alps. From the Mont Blanc Massif to the Ecrins, L'Olan, the Grand Capucin, the Râteau and many other summits, their vast playground. Breathe deeply, think big, take off!!

Film by Bertrand Delapierre. Length 28 minutes
Coupe Icare Special Jury Award

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-PLGUIFV04>

Pour une poignée de secondes



Precision and total control, playing with the wind, working at ground level...

Film by Jean Baptiste Chandelier. Length 5 minutes.

free.aero featured this film in a previous article, with great photos and an interview with the film maker.

See free.aero January 2014.

Coupe Icare Best Kids and Public Award.

Coupe Icare Best Image Award.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L62faWn-sa8>

Touch

NEO



Neo produce in France amongst other things, ultra lightweight harnesses. New out: 'The String' harness is now available in XS (less than 1 m 65 and 55 kg) and XL (more than 1 m 90 and 90 kg). For anyone who has a doubt about the strength of this type of gear, Neo have put on line a video made during the EN certification structure test. You can see almost nothing, because this 290 g harness (+ 37 g of karabiners) held, without flinching, the load of 15 g for 5 seconds. At the Coupe Icare they also launched a speed riding harness with integrated back protection and a project to make a speed riding wing (S-Ride for beginners and intermediates, X-Ride for experienced pilots) as well as a ski/speed riding suit with an integrated harness...

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt

www.flyneo.com<http://vimeo.com/96687849>

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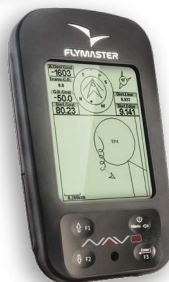
www.mycameleon.fr

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NAVITER

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



More than ten years ago we tested for the first time the mapping/aerial navigation software SeeYou for Pocket PC (the forerunner to Windows Mobile). For two years the author of SeeYou has been selling an instrument with a tactile screen with SeeYou already installed called the Oudie. Just like their standard software it displays, amongst other things, a topographic map and airspace maps. In the second version, which was launched at the Coupe Icare, the screen on the instrument has made big leaps forward in terms of visibility, especially in full sunlight. It costs 800 euros.

<http://www.naviter.com>



Accessories



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Brasil

info@solsports.com.br
www.solparagliders.com.br



KOLORFOTO



On Kolorfoto's stand there was a demonstration of their camera which produces panoramic videos. Six GoPros mounted in a cube. Thanks to special glasses the viewers can easily look in all directions and feel totally immersed in the video – in this case, giving an incredible feeling of flying a metre from the paramotor pilot above the Nazca Lines in Peru.

Even without the glasses, the 3D video is very impressive (unfortunately Flash is necessary). <http://goo.gl/F4yh8t>

<http://www.kolor.com>

360° VIDEOS OF THE COUPE ICARE (FLASH PLAYER NECESSARY)

The geek pilot Jean Pierre Navarro made several little videos at the Coupe Icare thanks to the 3D video technology demonstrated on the Kolorfoto stand. It was also Jean Pierre Navarro who made the film in the sky above Peru. This expedition was helped by the loan of a Moller 185 plus, made by the motor manufacturer Vitorazzi and their French dealer, Bruno Vezzoli.

Here are a few examples of the videos in which you are free to choose the direction you look, whilst you watch the video...

Unfortunately, these videos aren't compatible with iPhone and iPad in their current form.

On the other hand, 'Little Planet' filmed on the road down from Saint Hilaire is perfectly compatible with any viewer. All the 360° vision is concentrated in one unique perspective. Bizarre...

For more information about panoramic technology from the Savoyard company Kolorfoto: www.kolor.com

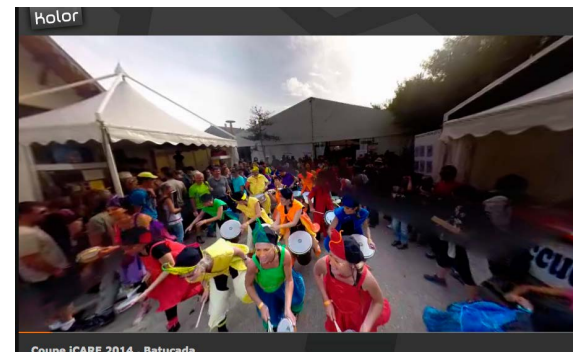
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oop_AG9uWgU



<http://eyes.kolor.com/fr/v/42dc540e086783979b7980f9bbe9407b>



<http://eyes.kolor.com/fr/v/5896a00377f9be7427f7359d6e9d0011>



<http://eyes.kolor.com/fr/v/339aaf810c7a2e6383c546ea2765a3da>



<http://eyes.kolor.com/fr/v/93959fd1c04359acafb15c5b09eb7b5e>





Photo: Franz Altmann

G-FORCE



A short but not very spectacular video, showing the mobile G force simulator being used at the Coupe Icare
<http://vimeo.com/107030185>

The famous centrifugal force simulator was present for the first time at the Coupe Icare. It was available to anyone who wanted to test their physical resistance during a flying incident.

This very effective tool goes up to 7G, allowing the pilot to understand his limits (at least that day), and also to learn breathing techniques to be better able to cope with G forces. There are currently four such machines in operation in Europe, one of which is in Annecy. It is best to make the most of this simulator during a one day training course...

<http://www.gforce-trainer.fr>

NOVA

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



Photo: Nova

At Nova, the Ion 3 is now also available in a lightweight version (right photo). It's a true Ion 3, very flexible and fits in at the start of the EN B range, but with a weight gain compared to the classic Ion 3 of 1.5 kg. It is also 500 grammes lighter than the Ion 2 light. At free.aero we have already got one to test. We'll let you know our verdict in a few weeks time. At the Coupe Icare, Nova also launched the all new Mentor 4 top end EN B. According to its manufacturer, it should have a half a point gain in glide compared to the Mentor 3. Watch this space...

Nova have also changed their logo, which has been met with a mixed response.

www.nova-wings.com

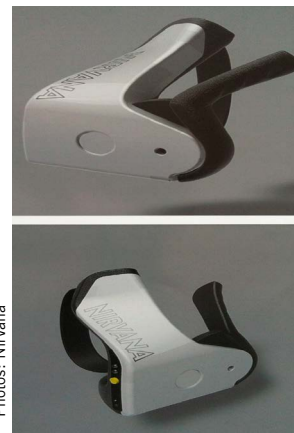
NIRVANA

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



At this top of the range paramotor manufacturer, the chassis are now available with new types of struts. Apart from a new aluminium version, which is very strong, there are also the TwistAir aerodynamic struts, which thanks to their twisted shape are supposed to reduce the torque produced by the propellor. Also new out: A wireless throttle called the WiFly...

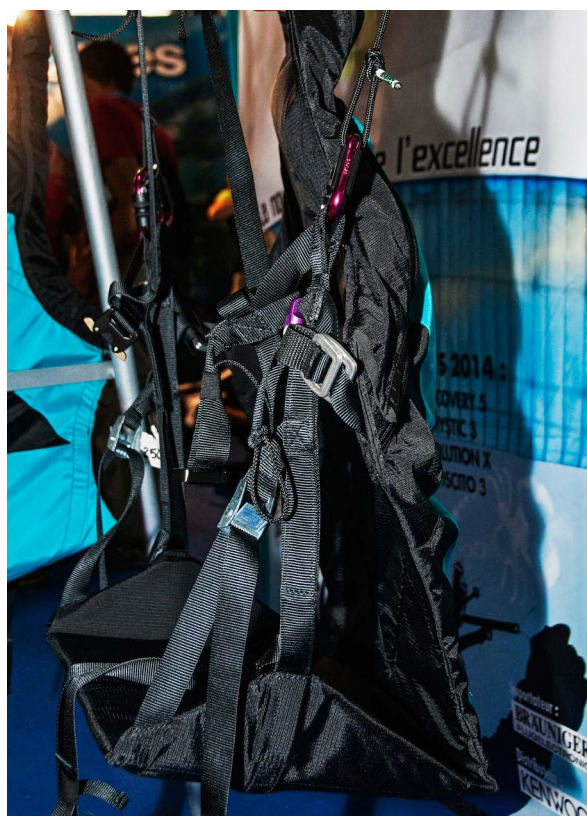
<http://www.nirvana.cz/index-en/>



Photos: Nirvana

SCORPIO

Photo: Sascha Burkhardt



Right from the beginning of free flying, the French company Scorpio has played a part. In 1988, Scorpio launched the first foam protection in paraglider harnesses (in the seat). Today, for example, they make harnesses with back protection using bee hive technology and made to measure harnesses...

At the Coupe Icare, Scorpio launched, amongst other things, a simple harness for schools.

<http://www.scorpio.fr>

PARAMANIA

Photos: Sascha Burkhardt



Paramania, the company behind the influx of reflex profiles in the paramotor world, have created a new wing specially adapted for slalom competitions. The GTS will be a GTR which will bend into the turns more. Aware of the extraordinary handling of the GTR, we wanted to know more...the results of our flight tests, will be on the pages of free.aero pretty soon.

<http://www.flyparamania.com>

The Coupe Icare, is a celebration of everything that flies, including demonstrations like this one of a model aircraft...



ADVENTURE



Adventure go light; the all new X-Race LT, made mainly from carbon and titanium (including the exhaust), weighs less than 24 kg. Motorised with a Tiger 160 cc, it costs 8990 euros including, amongst other things, accessories such as a cover for the blades, the X-Race Light harness and a rev counter.

<http://www.paramoteur.com/en>

Photos: S. Burkhardt

SKYWALK

Photo: Skywalk



Another step forward in the lightweight domain other than for hike and fly: The Range Air is the new pod harness from Skywalk for XC flying; the small weighs 1.9 kg, light for an XC harness! It is certified LTF/EN.

<http://skywalk.info/en/>

COMPASS

Compass became well known a few years ago thanks to their top of the range instrument the C-Pilot Pro, at a price of over 1200 euros, with a tactile screen, able to calculate trajectories in relation to the ground and with other very hi-tech functions.

After a creative break, Compass is back with three new versions of their instrument. Already popular with competitors, they have now opened it up to a wider market. The price of the C-Pilot Evo is about 900 euros. It is flatter, more robust and has gained an important function, a slot for a GSM SIM card allowing autonomous live tracking without using a mobile phone. And above all, its screen is a lot more readable in full sunlight.

The XCPilot version is just a little bit smaller, but offers the same functions for 50 euros less, including a colour screen with good contrast.

The Easy Pilot has a monochrome screen and has the same functions, including live tracking, with the exception of the topographical map display.

<http://www.compass-italy.com>



Photos: Sascha Burkhardt

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Coupe Icare madness



Photo: Ilan Ginzburg



Photo: Bruno Lavit

Nights at the Coupe Icare, balloons dot the sky, concerts fill the air, once again a flying fairy tale...

Coupe Icare madness



Photo: Alain Douce

*The next Coupe Icare will be from
the 17th to the 20th of September 2015.*

