

We have lost a good friend - Hans-Georg



Suddenly and most unexpectedly, we lost Hans-Georg in a tragic flying accident in his beloved Barcelonnette. Hans-Georg and the tow pilot Etienne, with whom he shared a close bond, passed away on August 16.

We are deeply shaken and can hardly believe what has happened. His passing leaves a great emptiness in our club, and our hearts go out in sympathy and compassion to the families of Hans-Georg and of the tow pilot.

Hans-Georg was a true cornerstone of our club – our cross-country mentor, longtime operations director, and, as a regular summer resident of our lodge, the very soul of our community. It was always his passion to share his knowledge, and in doing so he helped many young pilots to find their way into the world of cross-country soaring.

On weekends he would often step back and give working members priority for the club gliders. And even though he loved nothing more than taking the stick himself in the “2020” or the “7000” (especially in the nimble short-wing version!), he often chose instead to join as a co-pilot in the Duo, handing on his know-how directly to fellow members. One never forgot his trademark call in the cockpit – “Geh rumm, du Bock!” what means „beast - turn around“ – his blunt yet good-natured way of urging the glider, and himself, to tighten the turn and centre the thermal properly.

Hans-Georg was also the driving force behind our summer flying camp in Barcelonnette. With his trusty VW van and one of our single-seaters (the 7000 or 2020), he would set off each year from late July through early September. Club members would often join him for a week at a time and draw on his experience there. “L’Equipe Siemens” became a fixture of those summers thanks to Hans-Georg – and his van was where people gathered. Yet Barcelonnette was not his only destination: he broadened his horizons at many other airfields across Europe and beyond. Escaping the German winter, he became a member of the Narromine Gliding Club in Australia, and he also ventured more than once to the soaring paradise of Bitterwasser in Namibia.

Dear Hans-Georg, we will miss you more than words can say. But your memory will remain always alive among us. Rest in peace - we will keep you in our hearts.

*Your friends and fellow club members Segelfluggruppe Siemens München e.V. (<https://sgsm.de>)*

17 August 2025