Dancing with the wind

Jean-Marie Clément

This is followed by a chapter on the dangers of slope soaring and eleven separate sub-chapters on specific issues to be aware of or avoid. These are one of the many stand out aspects of this book.

The real story of this book however is wave flying and flying at altitude. What is covered is everything you need to know to fly in wave or at altitude to your best advantage, safely and relatively comfortably.

There is a whole chapter on the theories on the formation of waves and then actual waves such as shear waves and wake waves (a new one for me).

Chapter 7 discusses in detail, the Hydraulic Jump or breaking waves. Hydraulic jump is a new term for me in respect to gliding. Wave formations have a great deal of similarity with waves in a stream. Hydraulic jumps are often induced into a spillway from a dam to reduce the energy of the water travelling down stream. As you steepen the slope of a spillway eventually that slope of the flow will break and significant turbulence and white water is generated. The concept that this occurs in the atmosphere particularly is quite intimidating.

However the author covers this topic very well with some exceptional photos, diagrams and descriptions.

He comments that, “I deeply hope that every pilot exercises their scientific curiosity and tries to decode the sky in order to make the decisions outlined above confidently and without qualms.”

Yes, you do need to read this chapter, again and again.

Chapter 8 is - Identification and specific techniques to use lee waves. The author covers nine special wave cases that are not typical as the author assumes the reader has covered this general type of wave formation in previous publications. The topics include:-

- Wave in the presence of thermal, isolated downhill cumulus
- Isolated downhill cumulus
- Cumulus aligned along the crest
- A layer of cumulus

Not surprisingly in a book of this type the author covers the much neglected area of the effects of altitude and temperature on the aircraft itself and the go-cart specifically but also the battery and electrical system.

The final chapters cover two very