



VGC members bungee launch on the beach at Rossitten before Russian media and dignitaries

Celebrating Rossitten history

GLIDING history has once again been made at the famous Rossitten gliding site, now part of Russia, **writes Bruce Stephenson.**

Once a German colony before the war, along with the famous Wasserkuppe, Rossitten shares a special place in gliding history, and led to the formation of the renowned Rhön-Rossitten Gesellschaft (RRG), which played an important role in the development of the sport.

Now known as Rybachy, the site of the original hangars and school at Rossitten lie in a National Park and bird sanctuary,

On 10 August, 2012, members of the VGC went to Rossitten to remember and celebrate the history of this famous gliding site. Around 70 VGC members and family friends assembled at the Curonian Spit National Park visitors centre. On behalf of

the Osnabrücker Verein für Luftfahrt and Vintage Glider Club, Harald Kämper, Vice-President of the VGC, formally presented museum officials with an SG 38 glider that he and others had spent some 1,000 hours restoring to its former glory. Other artefacts and gifts were also donated to the museum.

The next day saw a bungee cord being laid out on the beach before an excited crowd, which included Russian media and dignitaries, as pilots representing the international makeup of Vintage Gliding and the VGC took to the air.

Gaining permission to fly at Rossitten again has not been easy, so Harald's achievement was an inspiration to all, and marked a moving and historical moment, not only for German gliding history, but the sport as a whole.