

# THE STUBAI CUP STORY 1988-2010

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Dear friends, airmen, and journalists,

The Stubai valley gives you a hearty welcome. For those of you who are not familiar with the international flight scene, we would like to give you a short history of the now legendary Stubai Cup.

**1988** – The Stubai Cup was held for the first time in 1988. It was organized by the local Parafly Club, Hans –Peter Eller from the flight school “Parafly”, and Mr. Benikuvitc from TV Fulpmes. The local tourism association was very involved, the reason being quite clear. We had to fill the slump after the Christmas tourist season. We were all surprised when over 100 competitors arrived at the first Stubai Cup, despite the teeth chattering cold! Soon the Stubai Cup grew from a regional event to an international phenomenon. In no time we had over 200 competitors.

**1989** – The following 8 years was organized by the Parasail Club Fulpmes. Except for two years, we were always able to offer great weather for competitors who traveled from far away. In this year Andre Bucher’s special 40 square meter parachute was the only thing that could block out the sun, but ensured a spectacular win! These specialized parachutes were made only for the Stubai Cup. This may be the reason some international elite pilots stayed away from the Cup. Slowly the Stubai Cup regressed into a local event, sponsored by STV Comt, Edel with Bucher Andre, and Pro Design.

**1999** – Hans-Peter, along with the Parafly Club and members from Axams, Steinach, etc. became more heavily involved in organizing the event. The year before there were only 4 companies present at the event. This changed quickly to 20 of the world’s finest parasail producers, who used the Cup as an open air convention to showcase their latest products and inventions. The Parafly team continued organizing the event in this manner. Soon it would become evident to the organizers and their staff that they needed to implement some new rules. The active pilot numbers started to shrink since the waiting time for groups of 10 between hundreds of other pilots was too long. For this reason, Hans –Peter and his team risked a new step. It would lead to the birth of elimination flying (KO System) for the professional group and producers pilots. Organizing the event in this way soon led to a spectator sensation. The crowds cheered and clapped from the soccer field to the landing field. The amateur class continued time and estimate flying.

**2000** – The new Fun Event conquered the skies over Stubai from the start. With over 450 pilots, an international record was probably broken!

**2002** – The Parafly team, along with the help of the Axamer, Inzinger, Steinacher and Innsbrucker clubs achieved its greatest press coverage ever. The team began to think of a way to keep the event as spectacular as it now was, and at the same time reduce the workload of the team and staff. The preliminary organization runs from Advent through the Christmas holidays. For this reason we decided to have the event every second year. Spontaneously, the Bregenzerwald decided to organize an interim event, and the lucky ones were blessed with beautiful sunshine.

**2004** - the event was described by magazines as “The Crazy Cup”. Who talks about “good weather sports” Hans-Peter wrote “the Stubai Cup is never canceled, regardless of the weather. In Stubai we fly if it snows, and the landing field is like our living room.” The Stubai Cup was a winner again. Anyone with a rank and name on the flight scene showed up in Stubai in January. The innovative newcomers like Skywalk, exotics like Kimfly and all the established producers were represented. At the Stubai Cup we don’t just talk the talk, we fly the fly! Over 50 pilots showcased the new products from Wings of Change while flying down the mountain. The helicopter jump by Mike Kung (Mad Mike) and following acrobatic flying left the spectators with goose bumps. Next was Manier, who brought even more thrills to the landing field. The Renegade Team invented a new acrobatic configuration in the Acro flying world. One of the three pilots dangled with his head toward the ground.

**2006** – Hans-Peter and Monika started the new year with great momentum, enthusiasm and many new ideas as they had for the past 20 years.

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, everything changed. Hans-Peter was a passenger in a car accident in the Stubai valley, and was killed. The whole team stood behind Monika and her two daughters, Florina and Johanna. The team pulled together as the Stubai Cup was only one week away. They were able to pull it off with great success. I, Monika Eller want to give great praise and thanks to all the helpers, the Parafly team, my friends and family, and all the attendees. We all miss the cheerful and helpful Hans-Peter, and his unforgettable laugh. He will live in our memories forever. The Airman magazine wrote “with the death of Hans-Peter the paragliding scene lost one of its friendliest and most competent pioneers.”

**2008** – Quoted from the DHV magazine February 2008 : “Stubai Cup : A Screamer”

On the Eurobridge the Fon (falling south wind) blew at its strongest. Luckily in the Stubai valley we could fly all three days. We have three take off places and three landing fields (Neustift, Medraz and

Schlick) for our use. Having the flight convention in the Stubai has a big advantage for the pilots. They can admire the products while they are being used by the best pilots and try them out for themselves.

**21<sup>st</sup> Stubai Cup** – Preliminary organization is in full swing.

**2010 - Stubai Cup with a new date – March 20-21<sup>st</sup>. The event landing field now in Neustift.**

Against the will of the PMA (Producer Manufacturer Association) but with pressure from the 20 years faithful pilots the Parafly Club has decided to invite you to another Stubai Cup. (in the living room of the flight scene) The Stubai Fun Cup prize money is 5000 Euros. We will have the most important and trusted producers present. They will display their products not in large tents but in their trailers. The registration is running at full speed, and some countries already announced that they will charter buses (50 seaters) that say "Let's go to Stubai". The international press will be present. Thanks to one of our great sponsors, Tourism Organization Stubai, we look forward to a successful event, with good weather and accident-free!

Good wishes form from the Stubai Cup Team and the surrounding clubs, the Parafly Team and the Tourism Center Stubai.

Monika Eller