

Season of '12

Probably for the most of the pilots the acro season is over so for me. I have a truly great and successful year behind me.

It all started in the middle of March after I came home from my working season in the Austrian Alps and I had to facet to the difficulties of finishing my university. I knew I have got not much time left to satisfy my exams and then get ready for the upcoming season. After I managed my duty till the middle of June I could recently start to think on flying again. I realized that I have got only a few days left for training on Gerlitz before the first China trip of the season.



I knew already before that there is something big being planned at the East side of the World because we had the luck to visit China the year before to have a look around and check the location for further acro events. In 2011 the official even was cancelled because of some reasons but the organization could manage to make their dream come true finally in 2012. They invited around 20 pilots from all around the world, included

some U-Turn team pilots such as Sebastian Kahn, Daniela Martin and Gábor Kézi. We had 10 great days there with happy public, some sightseeing and culinary experience. It was not an official competition, it was more like a test event. Great country has great plans. They are planning to organize an event similar like this every year in the next 10 years and I hope they expect us to return all over again!



Returning home from China was not easy, requires lot of patience and a hard butt. The problem was the fact that at the evening when I arrived back to Budapest was the registration for the first acro competition of the season, Acrojam in Obertraun, Austria. My Hungarian friend Attila Pethe - who had been with me in China as well – and me we decided to jump immediately in a car and drive there not to miss the first task at the next day. Arriving at the early morning 30 minutes before the first briefing after 2 days of travelling, the feeling was invaluable. Felt like zombies but we both managed to survive the difficulties of the first day so the rest of the competition was no problem anymore. Personally this competition is not my favorite probably because I could have never managed to win so far, I mess up something frequently. At the end I finished 2nd between Daniela and Nicole. It was a good warming up session for the upcoming events.



Luckily after Acrojam a longer training session began on Gerlitzten before the season's first APWC competition and I could manage to get mentally and technically ready for the important event. The world cup called AcrobatiXX is held every year in Zell am See, Austria since ages. Usually we had quite bad weather condition but the last 2 years even with the rain showers between we could manage to finish a successful event with many runs. Somehow this is my favorite competition, I had always great success here and I have many good memories as this was my first official competition in 2007. It was not different this year, the world's 40 best pilots came again to show their skills for the judges and for the great public but this time with a new system called 'Evolution'. Many things changed, the basic idea was to make the competition more interactive. In my opinion it worked out quite well but of course there are many things to be changed or improved. After some surprises of the new system I could get the rhythm of the competition and I was very happy with the results of my runs. I finished 1st in my category before Leila Simonet and Nicole Schmidt, overall 20th.



As I arrived back to Gerlitzén I realized, I had not much time left for the next competition. The next event was held in Brienz, Switzerland which was only synchro APWC and Swiss championship so no solo at all for me. We decided with Nicole to make a last minute synchro team as we barely had time to practice together before the comp. We had got 2 days of training which was not much without any synchro experience. After the first difficulties we managed to put a program together and hit the road to Switzerland to test it. It was a real challenge for both of us but I can admit that we enjoyed a lot working and flying together. Our mission was not to be the last and I can proudly say that our goal had been achieved! 😊



After 4 days of training in Mürren I headed to Villeneuve for the Sonchaux Acro Show where I was luckily one of the invited pilots. It is a battle system which is more interesting and spectacular for the public than a standard competition. Between little rain showers the twelve invited international pilots and the four best Swiss were fighting for the finals with announced runs such as Rhythmic SAT - Misty Flip - Helico and of course the freestyle part in the end. All the four qualification pools were hot, the

technical level in the air didn't make a big difference and 360 landings to the raft were almost standard. As the only female in the team I had not too big chances against the best men but I hope for the future will be a pool just for us to make the sport maybe more popular between girls.





There was only one competition left in the summer of '12 in Annecy, France. AcroWing tour the last big challenge of the year in both categories, solo and synchro. We were there few days earlier to catch some training flights before but unfortunately the weather was not good so like the first 2 days of the competition. Because of this this we had only 2 days to finish all the runs what finally was possible so at the end we had 2 runs in every category. It was the final event of the season we also found out the overall ranking. With a major

failure I messed up my last run and finished 2nd but still I had enough points to keep my 1st position in overall. Last but not least our synchro team finished as 3rd overall what gave a lot of motivation to continue and we are planning to take a step higher next year. Thanks Nicole! ☺



The last competition was over but there was still some events left, no time to rest. Next stop was the biggest paragliding event, the famous Coupe Icare, St. Hilaire, France, which was held for the 39th time already. For the acro pilots and so for the manufactures it is an important festival to meet and speak about the next season. With many show flights and side events we celebrated the end of competition season.

After Coupe Icare the time for the second China trip of the year came. They invited 10 pilots from Austria, Switzerland, France, Austria, Israel and Hungary. Unlike the previous time we went to the South of the country to a “small” city, Gejiu, with around 300.000 inhabitants.

Personally I like China. The culture, the people are so different and it makes the trip every time special. This time the contrast was even bigger because this place was not touristic at all and probably most of the locals had never seen European people before. The happiest public I have ever seen is also there. It is amazing how people like our show and happy to see us doing a sport what they do not really know.

The location was almost perfect this time. A city with a lake in the middle and a mountain, great conditions to organize an event. We had a unforgettable 4 days there with big publicity so as the National Chinese Television.



Time was running, the autumn arrived to Europe. It was time to hit the road and fly to the most beautiful spot for paragliding, to Ölüdeniz, Turkey. The place has a history for me. I decided to start flying here exactly 9 years ago. The reason why we came to this awesome spot is an event called Airgames. I cannot imagine better place to say goodbye for the summer and for the flying season. It was just amazing with nice show flights and parties. See you guys next year! ☺