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# FLIGHT LINE



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The publication of the Wings Of Rogallo Northern California Hang Gliding Association Volume-125, Number 4 Apr 2007



RoyS launching at Mission..... Photo by Janelle Spencer

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## ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO EAT !! 2007 Spring Flying Calendar & stuff

There likely be some flyin or event or somethin planned for sometime this Spring, but damned if there ain't nobody thats willing to drop me a line and let me know soos I can publish it.

Anyway, I'll be out at Mission most any week day that looks fine, drop me a line & I'll meet ya there & give ya a ride 408-756-6373

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#### Feb 2006 WOR Meeting Minutes

**New Members/Guests** Jim - started flying last year.

#### **Great Flights**

Pat Denevan flew 1 hr at Mission on an Atos.

Lee Gardner flew 2.5 hours at Marina. Carmela reported 30+ pilots at Mission on February 12th, and observed her 20th anniversary as a pilot.

Paul Gazis beat everyone to the LZ at Mission last week.

Chris Valley and Brian made their first flights from Diablo; launched from the towers.

**President's Report:** Wayne Michelson There are some issues with site insurance.

#### **Vice President's Report:**

Karl Allmandinger Nothing to report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Don Herrick Income from renewals is coming in. Income is exceeding expenses. There are 176 paid members.

Membership Services: Chris Valley Thanks to Brett, Don, and Diev, for their work on the WOR database. Members are urged to log in and update their info.

#### Flight Director's Report: Pat Denevan.

There was a recent incident in which a PG pilot was sucked up into a thunderstorm. The wing iced over and became rigid. There has been a history of this type of incident in hang gliding as well.

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#### Ed Levin Site Committee Report:

Steve Pittman

The gate combinations have been changed. Thanks to Don and Chris for making up the membership cards with the latest combos. The site procedure update is still in process.

Steve plans to seek permission from the park rangers to roll the LZ. Steve has offered the parks the cost of a regular line, \$20 per month rather than \$100 per month we now pay for the pay phone.

Wayne reported that the new fence in the LZ looks good.

The weather robot has been fixed, but the direction may be off.

## Mission Peak Site Committee Report:

Steve Rodrigues

February 28th is the last day to submit This month we proudly feature another key applications.

This month we proudly feature another in the (hopefully) continuing series of

Ranger Neil Spargur is expected to be at the next meeting.

The windsock in the LZ needs to be replaced. Steve plans to get a new one.

### Mt. Diablo Site Committee Report: Mark Grubbs

An upgrade to the weather station is being considered.

Site Acquisition - Jim Woodward Coyote Creek is probably cross-able. Flying prospects are not certain. It is hoped the site will be open this year. If you want to fly on a test day, contact Gene Pfifer.

Ben Rogers reported that some roads at Goat are to be improved. Details about the planned improvements are not yet available.

#### **Old Business**

None.



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#### **New Business:**

Pat Denevan plans a launch and landing clinic on April 1st.

Ben Dunn will organize the WOR X-C competition for 2007.

Ben Rogers plans fly-ins in the Panamints and in the Owens Valley. Karl Allmandinger proposed a contest for most flights from the top of Ed Levin in one day.

#### 

Editor's Turn

Hi Kids! Uncle Colin here again for yet another late issue of y'alls favorite fish-wrapper.

This month we proudly feature another in the (hopefully) continuing series of entries in the 007 WOR Best Flight Contest. The author this time around did not request anonymity, he is well known to all the Mission regular crew-Roy Spencer

On the subject of the regular Mission crew, now that the Spring season has sprung upon us, I hope that y'all don't hesitate to give me a call iffen the weather looks good mid-week. I am keeping my wing atop my wheels at work, and will welcome any excuse to give y'all a ride up the hill. I am obligated to keep my billable hours to less than 30/week, and I might need your help in this regard! The work phone is 408-756-6373, work email ==> colin.perry@lmco.com

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#### Weird and Wonderful

By Roy Spencer

March 4, was a weird and wonderful day at Mission.

I headed up the hill around 12:30. When I got to launch the wind was fairly light, about 0 to 11 MPH out of the WSW. I waited a short while and observed several nice cycles. So, I decided to set up.

I set up my Falcon 225. A.K.A the Circus Tent. (Queue the circus music) I did not expect too much from the day. I would be happy if I could scratch on the ridge for a while and squeak in a top landing. Still it was worth trying.

About the time I finished setting up, Rex showed up and the wind sock went limp. Carm was hiking up. I discussed my low expectations with Rex for a few minutes. Then Michel and Cheryl showed up. A few nice cycles came through and the direction seemed a little better. The birds were having a good time. So, I decided to launch.

On launch the cycles were nice yet very light. About 11 or 12 MPH. I launched and headed for the slide area. I immediately found good lift between launch and the slide. I did a couple sturns and gained enough altitude to make a 360. In no time at all, this nice thermal had me at 2500 and slightly behind launch.

I flew back in front of launch and found more nice lift. I drifted back behind launch and towards the peak. The wind on launch was anywhere from WSW to W.

I was now at about 3400. Seemed too easy. I flew over the peak even though that is not a good place to go if the wind has any south component to it. My sink alarm sounded and continued to sound. The sink alarm changed to a new and unfamiliar tone. I think that meant I was sinking faster than I ever had before.

When I got down to about 2700 I decided to go back towards launch. On the way I found more friendly lift and went back up to 3100. This climbing

stuff is easy. About that time I noticed a Rigid Wing, a Hang Glider, and three Paragliders headed over from Ed Levin. Soon I was joined by the Millennium (Is that you Art?). I stayed near the peak until my sink alarm started going off again. As I scratched I noticed that the wind on launch had turned NW. The people on launch were not going to get to launch in this.

A short while later I was starting to get low. I decided to go back out in front of launch while I still had enough altitude to get back to top land if needed. Just then Michel came over the radio and warned that the wind had turned East. That was weird.

When I got back in front of launch again I found fat smooth lift. A theory started to form in my little brain. So, I tested my theory. I flew towards the peak and my sink alarm went off. I flew in front of launch and started going up at about 200 to 400 FMP. In between I noticed a brief area of mile turbulence. Also the air seemed to have a different texture, taste, and temperature in each area. Ahh! This is one of the convergence thingies I have heard tell about. Cool!

So, I went back out in front of launch and allowed the lift to take me up to 3700. Sweet! This was of course, one of the wonderful days at mission with green grass stretching out for miles towards Livermore. It was strange to face Livermore in a head wind and have 680 Freeway being down wind. Very strange.

After a short while I decided to land. Not sure why I did not stay up longer except that the convergence was moving farther away from launch and I did not want to wait until the wind shifted to the SE.

It is a very strange thing to top land in the opposite direction you launched. I made my approach facing the ridge pulled in on final and dropped fast. I came up short of where I had planned but made a tinker-bell, tip-toe, no-step landing. Swhatiamtalkinabout!

Not bad for a day that looked like it might be a sled ride.

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