



FLIGHT LINE

THE PUBLICATION OF THE WINGS OF ROGALLO
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HANG GLIDING ASSOCIATION
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The Editor's Turn

It looks like it will be a short issue this month. One reason is that your Editor is headed to Maine for a week to sit by the shore, listen to the waves, and watch the gulls fly by. Which reminds me, do you know how to make a seagull whack? It's easy. Just find someplace where gulls cage food from tourists. Wait until a gull flies by headed upwind, then toss out a bit of food. The gull will crank in a quick 180 degree turn and try to land downwind, to grab that morsel ahead of its competitors. There is, of course, very little future in this sort of maneuver, and the gull will end up running out its landing on (flippety floppety!), until it drops a wingtip ("Gurk!"), ground loops ("Squork!"), and noses in ("Whack!"), just like... hmm...

The other reason this issue may be short is that it's summer, and everyone is off flying at distant and exotic locations, accumulating stories, tales, and drama for the spate of articles that they will enter in the 2003 *Flight Line Hang Writing Contest* to win our club the Nobel Prize for Literature. We should also have a good shot at the prize for physics, and we could probably go for that spiffy Peace Prize too if it wasn't for some of our landings.

Speaking of flying sites, I've heard that Pat has sold Dunlap. I believe that Steve now owns the LZ and campground while Connie owns the launch, but I must emphasize that *I do not have any accurate details, so this information should not be considered reliable*. I imagine that the situation is in a state of flux right now, so I hope we can all work together to keep the site open. It's a great place to fly. As far as I know, there is still a Dunlap trip planned for June 21-22. I plan to be there myself... so I hope no one throws out any tasty bits of food while I'm on my landing approach.

Coyote Lake and Strategic Plan Update

by Gene Pfeiffer

Jim Woodward and I attended the Santa Clara County Planning Commission meeting on June 4, 2003. The main purpose of the meeting was to "Endorse Board Approval of Proposed Strategic Plan" and "Endorse Board Approval of Proposed Coyote Lake Harvey-Bear Ranch Master Plan". The first was approved by all board members. One of the board members came down to us at the break and thanked us for attending many of the Strategic Plan meetings. He said that helped our position of hang gliding and paragliding in the County Parks. I want to thank all of the pilots who attended the various Strategic Plan workshops and meetings regarding the two and one half year process.

The Park then gave a report on Coyote Lake Master Plan. The good news is that hang gliding and paragliding were included in the north and south Western Front Ridge. The main LZ off of Roop Road is still included for the future. Jim submitted a hang gliding report and I submitted a paragliding report of our test flying the front ridge to the Park Department prior to this meeting. Due mainly to weather problems this spring, we were only able to test site fly one day. Some details need to be worked out, and it seems that we are included in Phase One of the Master Plan.

The bad news is that 10 PM came without the commission having time to review all of the reports. The report will be reconsidered at their August meeting. This means no flying this year at Coyote Lake.

The Virtual Flight Surgeon Web Site

For those who are interested in aviation medicine, and even those who aren't, the *Virtual Flight Surgeon Website* is at aviationmedicine.com. It contains more information than you ever wanted to know FAA medical exams, the effects of altitude and medications, and other medical hazards. Though when I searched the site for "ground squirrels", it came up blank.

[Thanks to Mike Connell for this information. Ed]

The Fence Comes Down

On April 19, 2003 -- a day that will live in the history of the Free World (or at least that portion of

the Free World that participates in foot-launched aviation) -- a work party was organized to remove the fence at launch on Mission Ridge. The party was successful, the fence is gone, and here, in this issue of the *Flight Line*, are photographs of the noble crew who usshered in the dawn of a new era!

As usual, your Editor has cleverly managed to forget just who was responsible for these historic images, so send me a note so that I can acknowledge this epic contribution in the next issue.

Paraglider Instructor Training Clinic

Juan Laos will host a Paraglider Instructor Training clinic here in the Bay Area June 13-15. This clinic is open to all Novice or higher rated pilots. These clinics

are designed to progress/qualify candidates towards their Basic or Advanced Instructor ratings. The ITP will serve as an Instructor Training Seminar (ITS) as well as an Instructor Evaluation (IE). Although some attendees may not qualify for the instructor rating they should find this an educational program and it should certainly apply towards personal growth in knowledge and skills.

For details, check the **BAPA** Web site at www.sfbapa.org, or check the Kin Galvin's article in the May issue of the *Flight Line* at www.wingsofrollo.org.

May 2002 Meeting Minutes

by Paul Clayton

NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS

Doug - flies an Eagle



Mission Ridge Groundskeepers: *Fences Removed While You Wait!*

Roger Reinhart - 1st meeting attended in 20 yrs. Roger developed the Avocet altimeter/watch.

GREAT FLIGHTS

Mark Mullholland - bought a Liteswift; won the Flytec meet in Florida; flew 800 miles X-C in 40 hrs.

Mike Foy - made a 5 hr flight at Mission.

Nick Mora - Golden Eagle flight; has flown Ed Levin over 500 times.

Phyl Hamby - flew a Point of the Mountain in Utah; finished 2nd at the McClure fly-in.

Art Thompson - got to cloudbase off a 600 ft tow.

Ed Stein - Flew from Diablo to West Sacramento, also to a point south of San Luis Reservoir.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Phyl Hamby.

Nothing to report.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - George Morford

Nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Phyl Hamby

The club is solvent; Don Herrick is out of town.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - Carmela Moreno

So far we have 408 members for 2003.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Juan Laos

No incidents to report this month.

ED LEVIN SITE COMMITTEE

REPORT - Steve Pittman.

The grass in the LZ may need mowing soon. There are a lot of ground squirrels and rattlesnakes this year.

MISSION PEAK SITE COMMITTEE REPORT - Steve Rodrigues

RC gliders are not allowed on the ridge. Please be diplomatic if there are conflicts. There is a potential conflict between pilots doing touch and gos and those launching. Check for other gliders in the area before launching. The east side launch uses a restricted and sometimes turbulent LZ. An X-C sign-off may be required. A site intro will be a requirement before flying there. Ed Stein commented that the east side is a challenging site, and an advanced rating is a bare mini-



Pat Denevan straightening a badly bent downtube

mum for flying there. Pilots are reminded that landing on private property along Mill Creek road is forbidden. Vehicles are restricted to the access road used to get to the west launch site, and are not to be driven up the trail to the east launch.

MT. DIABLO SITE COMMITTEE REPORT - Mark Grubbs

The weather station needs repair.

SITE ACQUISITION - Jim Woodward

Gene Pfifer and several other PG pilots flew the south launch at Gilroy. Jim Woodward got his gear up to launch using a bicycle. He had help from several other people, and believes that transporting hang glider equipment to

this launch without motor vehicle access will not be very practical. Jim and other HG pilots flew from the north launch.

COMPETITION COMMITTEE - Mark Mullholland

A speed gliding meet is tentatively scheduled for August.

NEWLETTER -- None

OLD BUSINESS -- None.

NEW BUSINESS

Juan Laos is planning a chute clinic for next winter. Eric Hinrichs announced that he has started his own hang gliding school, and will be offering launch and landing clinics.

A helmet will be raffled. Tickets are on sale for \$5.

Prizes were raffled.

END OF MEETING MINUTES

Quotations

Something about altitude has always had always seemed to transcend the physical world. From Moses, to Mohammed, to Antoine de St-Exupery, to Richard Bach, generations of prophets have climbed mountains, flown, and looked into the sky to find inspiration. It is no accident that mankind has always placed its gods in high places: Olympus, Valhalla, and the very heavens themselves.. And those



Mike Connell adjusting the orientation of launch

who travel to such heights often return with insights denied to ordinary folk who spend their lives in the lowlands. Here are some quotations from mountaineers, pilots, and one astronaut that seem to capture the special inspiration they found at altitude. Of particular note is Michael Collins's profound reflection upon the unique challenges of the Apollo Program.

"You cannot stay on the summit forever; you have to come down again. So why bother in the first place?"

"Just this: What is above knows what is below, but what is below does not know what is above. One climbs, one sees. One descends, one sees no longer, but one has seen. There is an art of conducting oneself in the lower regions by the memory of what one saw higher up. When one can no longer see, one can at least still know."

- From 'Mount Analogue' by Rene Daumal, 1952

"The first question which you will ask and which I must try to answer is this, "What is the use of climbing Mount Everest?" and my answer must at once be, "It is no use." There is not the slightest prospect of any gain whatsoever. Oh, we may learn a little about the behavior of the human body at high altitudes, and possibly medical men may turn our observation to some account for the purposes of aviation. But otherwise nothing will come of it. We shall not bring back a single bit of gold or silver, not a gem, nor any coal or iron. We shall not find a single foot of earth that can be planted with crops to raise food. It's no use. So, if you cannot understand that there is something in man which responds to the challenge of this mountain and goes out to meet it, that the

struggle is the struggle of life itself upward and forever upward, then you won't see why we go. What we get from this adventure is just sheer joy. And joy is, after all, the end of life. We do not live to eat and make money. We eat and make money to be able to enjoy life. That is what life means and what life is for."

- George Leigh Mallory, 1922

"Courage is the price that Life exacts for granting peace, The soul that knows it not, knows no release
From little things,
Knows not the livid loneliness of fear,
Nor mountain heights where bitter joy can hear
The sound of wings

"How can Life grant us boon of living, compensate
For the dull grey ugliness and pregnant hate
Unless we dare
The souls dominion? Each time we make a choice, we pay
With courage to behold the restless day,
And count it fair"

- From 'Courage' by Amelia Earhart, 1927

"On the way back, we stop in Saint Johnsbury at the diner to mull over and digest events. We wonder how anyone could possibly be interested in the many mundane and often artificial things that seem to absorb so many people, when nature is so exciting and so available."

-From 'The White Spider' by Berndt Heinrich, 1954

"But nowhere else on earth, not even in the harbors of reciprocal love, have I felt pure happiness take hold of me and shake me

like a puppy, compelling me, and the conspirators I had arrived there with, to stand on some perch of rick or snow, the uncertain struggle below us, and bawl our pagan vaunts to the sky. It was worth it then."

-From 'Moments of Doubt' by David Roberts, 1980

"No plane is a person; no person a plane. No person is anything but a person - a single entity, in charge of his own mind and body and to some extent his destiny. But there are times when the interplay between the two is so intense and absorbing that they do indeed seem fused into one. And I think that one of the two can be a machine.

"I knew, flying onto the strip that marvelous day, that I had touched something strange and secret..."

-From 'Nanette' by Edward Parks, 1977

The manual opens on a cheery note: "Anything that creeps, crawls, swims, or flies is a potential source of food." Then it gets a bit too specific for my taste. "People eat grasshoppers, hairless caterpillars, woodboring beetle larvae and pupae, ant eggs, and termites..."

...At least there is some solid practical advice scattered about ("Don't eat toads") with which I can wholeheartedly agree.

-From 'Carrying the Fire' by Michael Collins, 1974

WINGS FOR SALE



Wings for Sale

(Ad policy: ads are marked by date run for 6 months, then are cancelled automatically unless they are renewed. Ads are free to WOR members)

Rigid Wings

2000 Ghostbuster. Exc cond, about 50 hrs. Includes spare down tubes and custom XC bag. \$7000. Contact Steven Wertheimer at (415) 385-0423. (01/03)

Flexwings

Dream 220. Black /spectrum colors, w storage tube, \$900 with stripdown or \$500 without. Contact Rudy Visaya at (510) 579-4661 or rudyvisaya@attbi.com (01/03)

Seedwings Topless Sensor 144. Very low hours, still crispy, mostly used for a couple of speed gliding meets. Excellent performance and handling. *Name your price!* Contact Mike: (510) 770-0544 mike@vorhis.com. (12/02)

Wills Wing Falcon 225. Blue/yellow, 150 hours, 5 yrs old, poor condition but still a good flyer, \$500.00, some spare parts available at half retail, Tom Adams, 925-933-1757 (6/03).

Wills Wing Raven 229. Exc cond, great beginner to intermediate or tandem glider. \$500 obo. Contact Paul Sussman (650) 994-8215 (03/03).

Wills Wing Super Sport 153. Blue/white, previously owned by Mike Donahue and before him Dan Boatright, hours unknown, very good condition, \$750.00, Tom Adams, 925-933-1757 (6/03).

Paragliders

Advance Epsilon 3/30. Large (DHV 1/2). Blue with gray leading edge. about 40 hours. One flight since last annual inspection which puts the wing as new. Package includes wing, backpack, speedbar + bag. \$1500 obo. Contact Alex Chattaway at 408 2307388, bapa@chatty.org (01/03)

Equipment

High Energy Pod Harness. 5'5" to 5'11", great cond. \$75 obo.

Robertson Cocoon Harness. great cond, \$60 obo. Other harnesses also available. Contact Paul Sussman (650) 994-8215 (03/03)

Wanted: New or used **Thin Air** or **Vapor Harness** by ThinRedLine. Contact Rudy Visaya at (510) 579-4661, rudyvisaya@attbi.com (01/03)

Powered Aircraft

Bede 5B airplane kit. Skin and structural pieces only, unbuilt and still in shipping boxes, \$850.00, Tom Adams, 925-933-1757 (6/03).

Lost and Found

Lost. Black jacket. Nylon outer, fleece lining, "West Marine" over left breast. Please call Steve Rodrigues, 415-467-2226. Thanks! (05/03)

Found. A blue soft lunchbox/mini-cooler container, with a note pad inside containing notes, names, phone numbers, etc. Owner can claim it by calling Mike at (510) 710-5394 or with an email to mike@vorhis.com. (12/02)

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The next Wings of Rogallo Meeting will be
Tuesday, June 17.
at the Summit Point Golf Club in Milpitas near Ed Levin Park
Check the Wings of Rogallo WWW Page
<http://www.wingsofrogallo.org/meetings.html>
for details and directions.

Entertainment at the meeting will be... uh... er... Great!