



FLIGHTLINE

The publication of the Wings of Rogallo
Volume 138, Number 9 September 2020



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August 2020 Meeting Minutes

Wings of Rogallo Monthly Meeting
2020-08-18

President's message (Juan)

- Bylaws passed by 98% and 21% voter turnout.
- Thanks to Exec team for executing and membership for passing by large margin to simplify all processes.
- Thanks to Site chairs and execs for staying on top of site management and issues, please make sure that you follow in place site procedures and make sure others do as well to the degree possible. Going forward, exec is working hard with site chairs to update site procedures and processes to make it easier for pilots to fly safely.
- Big thanks to Ed Levin Observers, particularly Dave Oddy for helping P2s get through a difficult process during these difficult times.
- We have a new site chair for Mission. Welcome Steve Welch, and thanks for stepping up for a somewhat thankless job!
- Finally, we have some great flight reports.

Treasurer report (Ben)

- Nothing notable.

Site reports (Site chairs)

- Ed Levin (Soham)
 - Reminder about carpooling and social distancing guidelines.
 - Soham will follow-up with the parks about resuming non-commercial instruction. Need to be careful that we don't cause more harm than good by shedding light on the fact that there has been some informal "coaching" that has been happening.
 - Some WOR execs have proposed changes to Ed Levin site procedures, to make rating progress easier (e.g. allowing P2s to launch from 1750 more easily). A full review of the site procedures has been due for a while now, so I will work with the execs and the committees to get started on that.

• Mission

- Roy's final report:
 - Roy has given up his Mission Site Chair appointment.
 - Juan has appointed Steve Welch as the new chair.
 - Roy will continue to be a resource for Steve.
 - Roy sent an email to the EBRPD Park Supervisor and Mission head ranger letting them know about the change. Roy also requested a meeting with the Park Supervisor to discuss renewing the Special Use Agreement and clarifying the top landing area.
 - Roy received no response from EBRPD.
- Steve
 - Mission is closed as of a few hours ago by East Bay Parks due to the proximity of the Marsh Fire Complex. Had an initial meeting with Marie at Mission.
 - SUA is still month-to-month, contingent upon EBRPD's own lease agreement with the City of Fremont.
 - Marie expressed concern for a small set of low frequency pilot issues
 - Climbing over back gate
 - P3 pilots showing up without committee member
 - Unnecessary vehicles in HG pickup area
- Diablo (Robert)
 - All administrative issues have been handled by the park.
- Bylaws (Evan)
 - New bylaws are in effect as of Aug 15. They are posted on the website.
- Wildfires and TFRs (Bob)
 - Bob explained the current TFRs in the Bay Area, and how they affect our sites.
 - None are directly affected as of this writing, but the current TFRs are very close, and are likely to change frequently based on the evolution of the fires.

Awards (Juan)

- Thanks to Phyl Hamby, Stan Boehm, and Roy Spencer for many years of service as club officers and site chairs.
- Award: Lifetime WOR membership, \$100 gift card, and a commemorative plaque.

Epic flight reports (Bob)

- Victor Berchet - 200km out and back from Slide
- Clemens, Ben, Evan - circled lake Berryessa from Mt. Vaca. Clemens did it on an EN-B glider, keeping up with Ben and Evan on 2-liners. Ben set the site record for largest FAI triangle, with an optimized track point East of Berryessa Peak
- Evan - 196km open distance from Mt. Vaca to Lowrey, beating Josh Cohn's previous site record.

Member Q&A

END

Next Wings of Rogallo Meeting: September 15th
2020 7:30 PM with Zoom component emailed to
members

Editorial September 2020

Covid be damned, 2020 is the year for free-flight. Records have been made with awesome use of conditions and time. As if the pandemic wasn't barrier enough, the wildfires blocked roads and skies.

Ed Levin is beginning to open up cautiously to instruction and not a moment too soon. The parks are working directly with instructors as progress is made to reach something that may resemble the simpler time pre-COVID. Normal may be a thing of the past.

Nature's light and audio show was a Trojan Horse bringing an almost forgotten use for the pandemic masks. Wildfires spread rather close to home and filled the air most days with evidence of the widespread and devastating damage. PG&E and the firefighters have revealed lacking funding and support in response to the fires. With the recent annual California wildfires for practice and their inching closer to bigger cities for a sense of urgency, the apparent fragility of infrastructure is disconcerting.

Mission Peak has been an active site as could be expected with decreased barriers to entry. H3+ pilots have been getting flights for the first time at the legendary site. As could be imagined, with more visits have come more mishaps of over-comfort. It is important that pilots are careful not to out-stay their

welcome at any site as they are all more fragile than we wish.

The Wings of Rogallo are working towards easing restrictions for P2 and H2 folks at Ed Levin after having successfully updated the by-laws. Sentiment that the rules at Ed Levin are overly restrictive and in heightened need of refreshing is common. It is no secret that the barriers to H3 and P3 in the Bay area are detrimental to the sport and free-flight and WOR is working to understand the existing barriers and rules in order to plan revision.

Wings of Rogallo has made strides in 2020, but that is not to diminish the roads laid out by the people who served previously. Their contributions over the years have laid the foundation for the current administration and all free-flight pilots owe them a debt of gratitude. Wings of Rogallo has all agreed to offer several gestures to that effect for a few of these legends of free-flight governance.

The Summer season is over and free-flight pilots welcome the season of Autumn in the Bay Area. If the performance seen in Summer was any indication then the Pumpkin Spice season will be a banger. Let's hope that the record breakers aren't too tired and their record setting has inspired others to break records of their own and put in the monumental efforts to break the records of legends. Skydancer

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