



# *FLIGHTLINE*

The publication of the Wings of Rogallo  
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## November 2020 Meeting Minutes

Wings of Rogallo Meeting Notes  
2020-11-17

[Juan] President's message

[Ben] Treasurer's report

~18k in the bank, club's finances are in good shape.

Site reports

[Soham] Ed Levin

- Reminder about COVID-19 protocols regarding ride sharing. Household members only! Several pilots have been observed ignoring this rule.
- Spot landing circles - please reset toppled cones immediately after landing, and then exit the area. Several pilots were observed lingering in the spot landing circles, preventing inbound pilots from landing there.
- Revised site procedures - awaiting reply from park.

[Steve] Mission

- Electronic Sign-In for Mission is now official! The process is very simple:
- **Every pilot signs in electronically before flying.** This includes, hike-and-flyers, passengers, and drivers.
- **Keyholders also sign out a key on the paper log inside the lockbox.** You may optionally record the names of passengers, but this is not strictly required.
- If you forget your phone, or are unable to use your phone, use someone else's phone to sign in.
- If you do not have a smartphone, buy a smartphone. It's 2020.
- The paper log may be used as backup if all else fails.

[Evan, for Robert] Diablo

- There was a sailplane mid-air collision over Mount Diablo two weekends ago when several paragliders and hang gliders were flying. Both of the

sailplanes were flying out of Byron and are experienced pilots. Both pilots ejected from their aircraft and descended under parachutes and are going to be okay! One had only minor scratches, the other had two fractured vertebrae and is expected to make a full recovery. NTSB investigation is ongoing.

Elections

[Evan]

- From Roy Spencer: Reminder for prospective board members that one of the primary responsibilities for officers is to complete site renewal paperwork with the RRRG on time.

[Julie Spiegler]

- Julie reviewed the important dates and timelines
- Nominee statements
- Important dates:

Date	Item
Oct 23, 2020	Email membership asking to submit nominations
Nov 17, 2020	Nominations close; Candidate forum at WOR meeting
Nov 19, 2020	Final candidate statements
Nov 21, 2020	Election window opens
Dec 8, 2020	Election closes
Dec 15, 2020	Results announced at WOR meeting
Jan 1, 2021	New board takes office

[Evan] Member Q&A

Mark Mullholand asked about BAPA and WOR merging.

- Details are being discussed by both boards. Will likely happen in 2021

Ed Levin lawnmower

- Soham has asked Santa Clara Parks if they will be willing to cut the grass in the LZ for the club. Club would reimburse them for labor. Awaiting reply from the park.
- Spencer Balona initiated the fundraiser and is working on it.
- Club will chip in money as needed to purchase a lawnmower, if the park will not mow the grass

- Unclear what happened with the old lawnmower that was owned by Mike Jefferson, that people contributed to.
- Wayne Michelsen advises caution since something similar happened at Fort Funston. Lawnmower was bought but seldom used. Caution - unless there is a workable plan for people to cut the grass, the same thing may happen.
  - Spencer has volunteered to cut the grass and store the lawnmower. Thank you Spencer!

#### Takeo - club recognition

- Club should announce when people attain new ratings or other notable achievements. -- Board thinks this is a great idea!
  - Communications director could help facilitate this. Club members or instructors could submit information to be included in newsletter
  - Could send out monthly email or newsletter.
  - We need to make sure to not spam people though, so this should be sent on a separate mailing list from general club communications that people can opt in/out of independently.
  - Tech project idea - could poll USHPA database to detect when ratings change month-to-month.

#### Mark Mullholand

- Suggested that the club organize a competition to encourage people to go XC since nobody flies XC anymore.
  - Julie suggested that Mark organize it and disputed the assertion that nobody flies XC.
  - Mark is unable to because he is busy, but invited people over to his house.

#### Epic flight reports from November 7th

##### Mission

- Mike Vergalla - 5200ft at Mission on tandem, top landed, and went up again.
- Ed Stein - Tandem XC to Evergreen in San Jose

##### Diablo

- Many pilots went XC, including several personal bests (Tristan, Dan Z, Ismo, Pam, Evan, Vlad, Josh C, and more).
- Top of lift at 6000ft+, amazing for November.
- Ben Wedlock won the day, 95km to Crows Landing.
- Several HG flew later in the afternoon, at least one to Tracy.

END

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

## **Wings of Rogallo 2021 Election - Nominees**

### **President**

Ben Wedlock (97368)

“I have been paragliding for 5 years and became the WOR treasurer last year and would like to continue serving the club as president”

### **Member Services Director**

Vadim Furman (99589)

“I learned to fly paragliders 3 years ago in Ed Levin. I’m very excited to be a part of the local community and want to give back! As membership director I will make sure members have smooth interactions with WOR and park authorities and we have an accurate records of membership. About myself: native Russian speaker, I have been living in the Bay Area for the last 24 years. I program self-driving cars as my day job, and my other hobbies include sailing and DIY electronics.”

Richard Sibley (90580)

“I’ve been flying hang gliders for just over 10 years, and para gliders just over 5 years. I haven’t helped with running a club yet, and thought it was time I try being more involved. My main goal would be to get up to speed observing how things are being run, and keep them going as smoothly as possible. If I see anything that I think could be improved along the way, I’ll ask questions and make suggestions.”

### **Secretary**

Evan Cohen (88630)

“I have been flying paragliders for about 12 years now. I fly frequently at all sites in the Bay Area, and these day, mostly enjoy cross-country flying at our local mountain sites. I am currently the club’s secretary and have decided to run for a second term, in order to ensure continuity and progress on the board. My goals for the club are to keep our sites open, reduce bureaucracy for club members and visiting pilots by working collaboratively with site chairs and park agencies, and establishing new site procedures for Ed Levin that are based on common sense and instructor input.”

### **Safety Coordinator**

Dan Zaslavsky (97516)

“I am a T3/PG Observer who’s been paragliding for five years. I love flying all the WOR sites and am interested in giving back by running for Safety Coordinator. I believe Hang Gliding and Paragliding are as safe as we make them and my goal is to help continue supporting safe yet fun flying sites in our Bay Area.”

## Vice-President

Pam Kinnaird (101090)

“Hello fellow pilots! I’ve been flying paragliders for a little over 2 years and it has changed my life (for good)! I took my P2 lessons at Ed Levin and recently started dipping my wingtips into local mountain XC flying at Diablo and Mission.

As a BAPA club VP this past year, I’ve experienced first-hand the amount of behind-the-scenes work required to keep free flight accessible, even for a single USHPA-chapter site. I’ve also invested a fair amount of time and energy in maintenance and improvement at various non-chapter sites. These experiences have helped me understand just how incredibly lucky we are to have so many sites to pursue our love of hang gliding and paragliding in the Bay Area!

I’d be honoured to continue giving back to the community as the WOR VP. My goals would be to keep operations running smoothly so that our sites stay open and to support modernization of site procedures at Ed Levin. This year has been a tough one for us to stay connected, and once it is safe to do so, I’d love to help organize bi-wingual cookouts, clinics and more to cultivate community amongst WOR members and visitors.”

## Treasurer

Tristan Horn (98744)

“Hi all! I started paragliding 3 years ago, and am currently working on my tandem rating. I think hang gliders look way cooler, but I’m still crashing them into the 50 foot hill...

I try to help out where I can at a few of our local unregulated sites, and am excited for the opportunity to serve. As Treasurer, beyond the duties required by the bylaws, I will seek ways to improve internal and external processes – including hopefully adding an auto-renew option to our memberships. Thank you for your vote!”

## Editorial December 2020

Positive change is rarely accepted as readily as a lifty downwind glide and it can be difficult to adopt fresh procedures, but change is a team effort and requires full participation to earn maximum efficacy. Wings of Rogallo made such changes Mission, easing fling barriers and communication with the park. The club continues to pursue changes that will make flying Wings of Rogallo sites easier for all stakeholders.

Further evidence of good governance is the effective planning and execution of the election on-time even during a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic in the night-mare year of 2020. Hitting the target is expected when you plan your work and work the plan. Expect similar follow-thru with RRRG renewal.

Mission shows improvement in behaviour of free-flight pilots as there were no reports of rule-breaking but Ed Levin has seen its share of scofflaws in November. Breaking rules puts local sites at risk by making governance harder, which exacerbates the issue of low governance participation. Without a board, there is no site, since the function of governance is to maintain vital relationships and documentation. It is no coincidence that less than 30% of the board from 2020 is willing to serve another year while having met the core functions of governance and beyond with pleasure.

In the Winter, the air still moves. By the echos of the meeting minutes, we can expect a WOR merger with BAPA along with new WOR site between Mussel Rock and Fort Funston, the seldom used Stables

Launch. Further coordination with Santa Clara Parks to outsource grass maintenance can also be expected or at least investment in new club equipment.

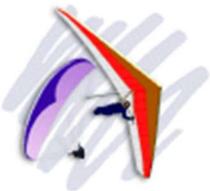
Meaningful commitments of service from Spencer and all of the nominees for the 2021 board election, show that we can expect another year of devoted governance and maintenance. Suggestions from the members may result in more monthly content in the form of more announcements such as ratings and skills earned and competitions planned. Members are urged to send such info to your newsletter editor/communications director.

November was an awesome month to fly as your newsletter editor forecasted. November 7<sup>th</sup> was a productive day at Mission with tandems getting to cloudbase and going to Evergreen for XC and Diablo with more than an octet making personal best XC flights reaching over 6 grand and distances up to 95km. That same day, your editor launched late and sunk out on a long-awaited first flying day at Mission.

Although the goal is always to have competition for each board member in the club, our vibrant club was only able to muster competition for one position. Your newsletter editor channels immense thanks from members and admirers to those who currently serve and those who commit to serving the Bay Area's biggest free-flight club. The nominees have shared their appreciation for the sport and community and their intentions to expand enjoyment for all.

Skydancer

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To: