



FLIGHTLINE

The publication of the Wings of Rogallo
Volume 139, Number 8 August 2021



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WOR Officers

President

Ben Wedlock

president@wingsofrogallo.org

Vice President

Pam Kinnaird

vicepres@wingsofrogallo.org

Treasurer

Tristan Horn

treasurer@wingsofrogallo.org

Secretary

Evan Cohen

secretary@wingsofrogallo.org

Membership Services Director

Richard Sibley

memberservices@wingsofrogallo.org

Safety Coordinator

Dan Zaslavsky

safety@wingsofrogallo.org

Communications Director

Isaiah Clapp

editor@wingsofrogallo.org

WOR Business

PO BOX 361885

Milpitas, CA 95036

<http://www.wingsofrogallo.org>

WOR Member Database

<http://wingsofrogallo.org/memberdb>

In Lieu of Meeting Minutes

Wings of Rogallo General Notes

2021-8-1

- Diablo LZ Reminder: Please note that Arbolado Park is not an “official” LZ and that pilots should land in the official LZ next to it in Lime Ridge, per Robert Moore.
- See website for new Mission Rules
- No meeting occurred due to lack of discussion items.

END

Editorial August 2021

The previous Flightline laid down some hype for July soaring while also seeking atonement for a less than accurate forecast of the month prior. July was typical Summer weather but the hype was not unplaced. The great days were rare but placed squarely in the center of the month.

Ed Levin, active as always, was filled with sled runs and practice days. Evan reports a Golden Eagle 7/16 and that same day, Susan got airborne after a short hiatus. Although Ed Levin is not known for cross country potential it is still possible even in the most stable months while also being an unmatched resource for fun mountain practice and good folks.

Mission was decent on days with reports of good bumpy air and morning white pelican gaggles. Evan forecasts more unstable air as Summer changes to Fall and the offshore wind gains ground over the marine layer. There is a community meeting with the parks coming up at the City of Fremont Teen Center in Central Park on August 10th at 6:00 PM with a Zoom component.

About a half dozen paragliders have become regulars at our beautiful coastal ridge site, The Stables. One of them says that they tend to head to The Stables when it is too light and South at Mussel Rock usually due to a heat block and the standard South bias there. The wind tends to be about 30 degrees more West on those days and the heat block has a muted effect there making the wind considerably stronger. Top landing is possible and the range of workable wind direction for launching and landing is better

there than Mussel Rock and Fort Funston. Improvement hoped for is a better launch zone closer to the actual stables because the approved launch has a backward slope that creates some rotor to fight when inflating the wing. Other feedback is that the P3 rating requirement with the site intro is perfectly appropriate.

It was the middle of the month, July 16th that not only provided workable conditions at Ed Levin but also 300 miles away at Owens Valley. Zac Majors had been working the area frequently and on that day broke the previous record by a few miles that was 20 years old. He launched at Walt's Point and skirted virga and blue holes to make it into Nevada. The days before that, many Bay Area and Wings of Rogallo paraglider pilots made great results at the Ozone Chelan Open near Seattle.

The community has been active on Telegram with useful reminders and tools. Susan shared info in the Telegram about emergency procedures which can be found on the Wings of Rogallo website. On that same thread, there was extensive discussion about weather forecasting with links to talks that have been recorded on YouTube over the years to show how Evan and others forecast top of lift and other soaring metrics for any particular day using tools like balloon soundings.

May there be ongoing free-flight hype for August in the Bay Area. The new variant of COVID-19 shouldn't be the only thing launching into the air and going up. Let's listen intently for hints of unstable air and stay up as long as we can.

Skydancer

Wings of Rogallo <<
P.O. Box 361885
Milpitas, CA 950361885



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