

UPDRAFT

NEWSLETTER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HANG GLIDER ASSOCIATION (WESTERN CHAPTER)

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 11 NOVEMBER 1977

Editor: Mark Droy ©1977 MassHGA

MEETING NOTICE

The November meeting of MassHGA will be held at our usual place, the ME bar and lounge on Rt 47 in Hadley, two miles north of Skinner State Park. Date and time will be Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 PM. Note the time will be half an hour earlier than our summer meetings. The meeting will be short but we hope to have a few slides to show.

It should be pointed out here that a lot of decision-making and discussion happens in executive meetings, but that these meetings are certainly open to all members. These executive meetings get together the people in the club who want to see things get done, and leave the regular meetings for filling in the general membership on recent developments, committee selection and reports, and plain socializing. Again, anyone is welcome to sit in on an executive meeting. The next will be one half hour before the general meeting, at 7 PM at the ME.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I assume that I am supposed to use this space for discussion of some awesome problem confronting us poor, innocent, and unassuming hang glider pilots; but things aren't that bad lately. And since I'm this month's editor, I can write about anything elsewhere.

We (the club) function better when we have a variety of ideas to work on and a bunch of alternatives to choose from.

So as to aid those with big ideas, here is a list of listeners-of-big-ideas and when they are around:

President:
Mark Droy 527-2805 until 10 AM

Vice-President
Jim Burrill 665-3261 Evenings

Secretary-Treasurer
Sue McGuire 527-9075 Evenings

Flight Director
Chuck LaVersa 665-3602 Mornings

SECRETARY-TREASURERS REPORT

As of this writing, our treasury holds a total of \$47.44 with no income due (unless we sign on some new members) and expenses still forthcoming for this issue of UPDRAFT. We currently have 42 members.

FLIGHT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hi! Guess I must have inspired you. It seems there has been more of us looking closer for those good days-and getting them. Seven of us logged over 12 hours on Friday, Oct. 21 at Mt. Tom; and Greylock has been producing rumors of multiple take-offs and landings on top!!

The Mass. Aeronautics Commission seems to be concerned about the qualification of the instructors teaching hang gliding in this state. If you are looking for an instructor, ask for a current USHGA Basic Instructor's card for Hang-I and II lessons, and an Ad-

vanced Instructor's card for Hang III or IV. They are worth the extra effort to find. If you are an instructor looking for a certification card call Dave Pinkston at Aeolus Hang Glider Inc., Box 184, Littleton, MA 01460 Tel. (617)-486-8278. There will be a certification clinic on November 16, 17, and 18, held at 14 North Main Street, Westford, MA 01886. Cost is \$30 for an Advanced Card and \$25 for a Basic. Call Dave for more info.

NEWS ON RATINGS

Chuck LaVersa

USHGA is getting expensive with their efforts to run in the black. Ratings now cost: Hang-I, \$5; Hang-II, \$10; Hang-III, \$15; Hang-IV, \$20. This is a fee you must send directly to USHGA. Be sure you don't let your current rating lapse or you may have to start all over!

In an effort to reach more people, USHGA directors of region 8 appointed me an Examiner and I, in turn, appointed Brooks Ellison and Mark Droy Observers. Basically, this means Mark and Brooks can now sign-off flights and necessary achievements toward your Hang-III and IV's.

CURRENT RECORDS

These are the records in the area as we currently have them. Corrections are encouraged and new records are welcome.

Duration

Greylock- 4 Hrs. 45 Min. James Fenamore
September 1975
Skinner- 3 hrs. 40 min. John Dempsey
February 20, 1976
Mt. Tom - 3 hrs. 30 min. Bob Stewart
1975?
The Trail-2 hrs. Brooks Ellison
Summer 1977
N. Sugarloaf- 45 min. Spencer Smith
April 22, 1976

Distance-measured from TO to LZ on
USGS maps

From Skinner to Granby- 5 mi. Bernie
Wolfard Summer 1976

From Mt. Tom to Skinner LZ- 4.7 Miles
Spencer Smith and John Dempsey
Summer 1977
From The Trail (Hoosac Range) to North
Adams- 2.5 mi. Brooks Ellison
Summer 1977
From N. Sugarloaf to Chuck LaVersa's
back yard- 0.7 mi. Many holders

Altitude- measured with altimeter

4100 feet- Don Raymond September 1977

Other Records

Winter- Moonless Night- Duration-
25 min. in 14 F - John Dempsey Feb 77

Dual Duration- Bob Stewart and Student
25 min. March 1977 Mt Tom

Softest Crash- Chet Barry at the Trail
Belly landing in meadow muffins
August 1977

Any others??? Contact Mark Droy.

SHORT CIRCUIT

Vice President Jim Burrill has been hound-dogging the Mass. Electric Co. trying to get the high-tension wires removed from Mitch's field(The Slot). We had heard rumors that the wires were useless to the company and were perhaps there only because no one had bothered to remove them. This has NOT been confirmed, and, in fact, Jim has been notified by the company that it plans to rebuild the lines in the next 4 to 5 years. This puts a damper on our efforts to have them removed or buried, but we'll keep trying. Until such time that they are removed or buried, they should be considered LIVE and DANGEROUS. Don't end up fried turkey. In the days of the old standards, it was rare for anyone to fly out of the slot and get far enough down the field to worry about the lines. Now, in the days of hot standards and high performance ships, it is becoming even more important to be aware of these power lines.

Donny Raymond got a job. Let's get him to join the club.... Spencer Smith and Kammy Low are on their way back West. Good Luck.

SAFETY STATS

We are attempting to statistically evaluate the safety of hang gliding in this area and for this we need some numbers. We are asking that all members spend some time to fill in the needed info on the form provided. We are assuming that all pilots worth their stuff keep a log, so it's a fairly simple matter of going through the book. It would be nice to have info for three periods- the two halves of 1976 and the first half of this year.... It's nice to say that we haven't had many accidents, but we haven't the foggiest idea of how many flights are taken. **HELP US FIND OUT!** Please fill out this form, and on back list any and all accidents you've had- tree landings, swimming pool landings, broken bones, stunched launches, equipment failures, etc., etc, etc.... Be sure to give the date and location. If it was serious (an injury or legal implications) give those details and any witnesses. Please get this form to any club officer by the December meeting (December 20) We'll list the results in the Jan. UPDRAFT, and also prepare a news release on local hang glider safety. Thank You.

@#\$\$ BOOGIE @#\$\$

The club is in need of money and a good bash; hence, it has been decided to have a dollar-per-person type bash. We need ideas on a place, time and date for a full-tilt boogie- any and all will be appreciated. Sue has taken the chairwomanship of the committee and will be volunteering members to help out. Details will be available at club meeting or the next UPDRAFT.

NEW SHOP

UPDRAFT and the MassHGA sends friendly zepthers and good luck to The Hang Gliding Center, located on Rt 9 in Hadley (in the same group of shops as Hahjee's place and Campus Pizza). They carry kites and supplies for UP and Seagull Aircraft, as well as lessons and all the other good stuff kite shops carry. Stop in.

TEAR HERE

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HANG GLIDER SAFETY SURVEY

Name _____
 Age _____ Sex _____ Wt. _____ HP _____
 Flight Experience _____ Yrs _____ Mos. _____
 Total Flight Time to Date _____
 Total Number of Flights to Date _____

Mountain No. Flights Total Time

From	To	HR.	MIN.	SEC.
1/1/76	6/30/76			
Mt. Tom		•	•	
Skinner		•	•	
N. Sugarloaf		•	•	
Poet's Seat		•	•	
Mohawk Trail		•	•	
Greylock		•	•	

From	To	HR.	MIN.	SEC.
7/1/76	12/31/76			
Mt Tom		•	•	
Skinner		•	•	
N. Sugarloaf		•	•	
Poet's Seat		•	•	
Mohawk Trail		•	•	
Greylock		•	•	

From	To	HR.	MIN.	SEC.
1/1/77	6/30/77			
Mt Tom		•	•	
Skinner		•	•	
N. Sugarloaf		•	•	
Poet's Seat		•	•	
Mohawk Trail		•	•	
Greylock		•	•	

Any other Hang- III or IV sites flown often? List 'em!