

HAPPY SPRING !!

MEETING NOTICE

The April meeting of the MHGA will be on Tuesday, April 18, 1978. Time and place will be 7:30 PM at the ME Bar and Lounge, Rt. 47, Hadley.

This is the meeting of the year, as the elections for officers for the upcoming fiscal year will be held. Also, the new bylaws will be presented to the membership for a vote to adopt them.

There will be an executive committee meeting at 7 PM.

The May executive committee meeting will be at the Hang Glider Center May 6, at 10 AM. The new officers will be presiding at this meeting to appoint a Flight Director and UPDRAFT Editor. "Execommeetings" are open to all members. They are used by the officers to fill each other in on club business since the last meeting.

Show up- it's your club!

THE LAST MEETING

Nominations for officers for the upcoming year were taken. Nominated for President were Jim Burrill, current Vice President; and John Dempsey, a past Treasurer. Dave Scheumann, designer of the club emblem, is running for VP against the two presidential nominees.

Nominated and running unopposed for Secretary and Treasurer are Rob Cummings and Sue McGuire, respectively.

Discussion then turned to Skinner

State Park and the talks we have had with the State (and the talks with the town of Hadley we are still waiting to have.) It looks like both Skinner and Greylock will operate about the same - flash your Hang III for Skinner or a Hang IV for Greylock and go flying. We will be further discussing alternative cards and getting lower ratings off the mountains, but that hasn't come about yet.

Next, a seemingly spur of the moment deal was announced by Rob Cummings of the Hang Glider Center. Parachutes made by Oddissey Sails of New Hampshire were offered for \$174 - a 40% discount off retail - to anyone who could get a \$90 deposit to Rob by the next morning. 16 pilots got in on the deal - another plus for attending the meetings!!!

Ralph Bratton has offered to print MHGA stationary at no expense to the club... 1000 feet a minute to you, Ralph!!

A unanimous vote was taken to become a chapter member of USHGA, and work is proceeding to that end.

The meeting concluded with SUPER EXCELLENT movies and music by Walt Niemi and Jeff Kemp of the Windward Club. Entertainment like that will be hard to match in future meetings. Maybe we should invite them back?

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mark Droy

This month brings us elections, and a "passing of the windsock" so to speak, from myself to whomever the next president may be.

In the past six months, since I was

elected in the special election in September, my general plan was to take a step or two backwards, to re-group our forces and reorganize.

And we have done it. The final measure of success remains to be seen, but a strong groundwork has been laid out.

In my involvement with club activities and government bureaucracies, I learned a lot about politics and organization. I've ranted and raved over unity in some cases; autonomy in others, flying site management, etc., etc., etc. This club exists for one reason - we are all friends who want to keep flying free and safe.

I have always admired the Windward Club for that reason. They may not have a fancy newsletter, nor do they bring in scores of new members every year. But they have a strong, personal core, and that makes their club a good club.

Now we have a strong core. But we are growing - rapidly. The new officers must combine small club efficiency with large club political clout. The society we live in demands it.

The utopian association I've begged for, yet knew I couldn't have (due to human nature) was every member talking or writing to me about how they wanted their organization represented. Many have, though. When I attended meetings with other clubs or the State, it was this backing that supported me. I feel I represented this club accurately - as a powerful and influential voice in the area of hang gliding - and proudly.

It is this outlook I wish to pass on to the next President, that he isn't representing a bunch of "kids" who fly "those kites"; but that he is a representative of an organization of mature, knowledgeable, responsible pilots, concerned about the safety and future of their sport.

This club is going places. It is strong, organized, and recognized because it doesn't wallow in details and bull. I challenge the new officers to keep taking big, bold advances in club policies and ideas... chapterization, incorporation, site acquisition and management...and I challenge the general membership, who have not, to

become active in their club.

YOU are the Massachusetts Hang Gliding Association.

I won't be wearing dog tags until late August. Until then I'll be entering every competition I can get into, and spending the rest of the summer flying my favorite sites. I hope I'll be doing some flying with you.

SLOT CLEAN UP

Jim Burrill

The cleanup of the SLOT on March 25 was a qualified success. Those helping out included Mark Droy, Rob Cummings, John Dempsey, Dave Scheumann and a friend named Larry, Chuck LaVersa, Donny Raymond and myself. It was a qualified success because we picked up all of the trash (a dump truck full) and bagged it, but were unable to remove it because of the wet ground. Some brush was also removed.

Members should find it interesting that of the eight people who helped, two are not club members, and none were Hang I pilots who use the slot.

We will have another brush clearing in the near future. Let's all get out and help.

INCORPERATION

Mark LaVersa

Just as it is foolish and dangerous to fly by mere habit, so it is with the organization of ourselves as hang glider pilots. Shall we remain locked in some routine of a once a month commitment, however amusing it may be? Don't you think we have needs much bigger waiting to be satisfied?

There are those among us who have brought great insight and growth to MHGA and hang gliding everywhere - but does our mere existence as a social gathering accomplish all we need and desire? Think about it for a moment, really.

Are there sites you'd love to fly, and they're not open? Are there improvements to existing sites that would increase their safety and convenience? Wouldn't you like to see the hard work of club officers pay off a lot better for you? Right now, for all our growth and experience, regard-

less of all the hard work that has been (and is being) done, and despite the future that could be for hang gliding - WE ARE FLYING BLIND WITH OUR F----- HANDS TIED. This isn't said in anger, but in earnest.

In order to do the things we need most, we have to have public support, a good public image, and an ability to get things done in behalf of the group. And who doesn't know we need money? How can we acquire a power to fulfill our needs? LEGAL POWER!!

The only way open to us is by becoming a bona fide, legally sanctioned, licensed-to-operate organization. This happens through incorporation.

To incorporate means that someone has established with the government an agreement to function for a certain purpose in specified ways in return for a great many benefits. Among others, these benefits are:

A) Officers of the corporation, the club elected leadership, can legally function in behalf of the members to sign contracts, represent us to the government, and perform many other tasks they cannot perform now because

they are personally liable for their actions.

B) the corporation rules of site use and flight regulation would protect all members from any lawsuit resulting from an authorized, official act.

C) We can go out and make some money to accomplish things that no one else is doing and which we'd like done.

Want a ramp at your favorite site? Costs Bucks! Want to rent out kites to new members at low rates? Costs Bucks! Want to have sponsored rating clinics? Cost Bucks! Want to sponsor some meets for cash prizes? Yeah, you know it costs bucks! Throw some parties, get some new sites, BUY A PIECE OF A MOUNTAIN OR LZ? a corporation can do it, without paying a cent in taxes!

D) We get recognition and credibility and thereby some clout where we need it. Want someone to list the reasons why we should be able to fly Sundays and holidays and year round on public lands?

E) We can insure that our organization is capable of achieving the things we pay our money to enjoy. Incorporation provides safeguards to our operation to see that the club continues to function in the best interest of us all.

OFFICIAL CLUB T-SHIRTS

Club Emblem



ORDER BY MAY 1, 1978. Delivery on the May meeting, Tuesday, May 16, 1978

CHILDREN'S SIZES

# _____ size _____ color _____	# _____ white _____ white	_____ white _____ white	_____ white _____ white
_____ size _____ color _____	# _____ yellow _____ yellow	_____ yellow _____ yellow	_____ yellow _____ yellow
_____ size _____ color _____	# _____ Lt Blue _____ Lt Blue	_____ Lt Blue _____ Lt Blue	_____ Lt Blue _____ Lt Blue

Black and orange design on
White, Yellow, or light
Blue T-Shirt

_____ Total number of shirts
\$ _____ Payment enclosed
\$ 4.00 each for adult sizes
\$ 3.50 each for child's sizes

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

CLASSIFIED

For Sale: Seagull III, Very Good condition with extra seat, cover. Yellow/ Blue/ Red. Best Offer. and a Sky Sports 16', Bikini Harness Blue/ Yellow/ Red. Best Offer. Contact Bob Malewicz, 86 Shattuck St. Greenfield, Ma. 01301, 413-772-6608

For Sale: Dragonfly IIb with "C" kit, new leading edges. Tip to tip, Lime/yellow/gold/orange/red/purple 180 squares. \$400 or best. Contact Mark Droy, 527-2805

Classifieds are free to members, and a buck otherwise. Ads must be in writing.

UMASS BUY

The University of Massachusetts Hang Gliding Club is looking for inexpensive, easy to care for kites in good condition to buy. If you have a kite you would like to sell for \$100 to \$200, bring it to the Alumni Stadium area of UMass on Saturday, April 22, set it up and you just may sell it.

The club has limited funding, and needs these kites to loan out to members. Standards would be fine, as they are considering converting them later on.

IT'S PARTY TIME AGAIN!!!!

Remember the big bash we had last January (if not the details)? Well, we are out to do it again! To celebrate Lindberg's Flight and to raise some monies, we are in the process of setting up another bash at Sue's on May 20, a Saturday, at dusk. It will again be \$2 a person, with food and beer provided (Sue did it last time!) During the day we will be planning to accept the Windward Clubs challenge to a fly-in competition at a nearby site. The party will be held rain or shine, so plan on it! More details at the meeting and a map in the next issue of UPDRAFT!

MORE NEWS

The Region 8 qualifier for the U.S.Nationals will be held May 25 to 27 at the Festival of Arts at Pico Peak, Killington, NH. If you are a Hang III and interested, go for it fast, time is running out to register. Call Mark Droy at 527-2805 early in the morning (before 9am) for more details.

If you would like to be a judge, or a time- or score-keeper, get in touch with Region 8 Director Don McCabe at 617-489-1253.

It would be awful nice for a MHGA member to win!

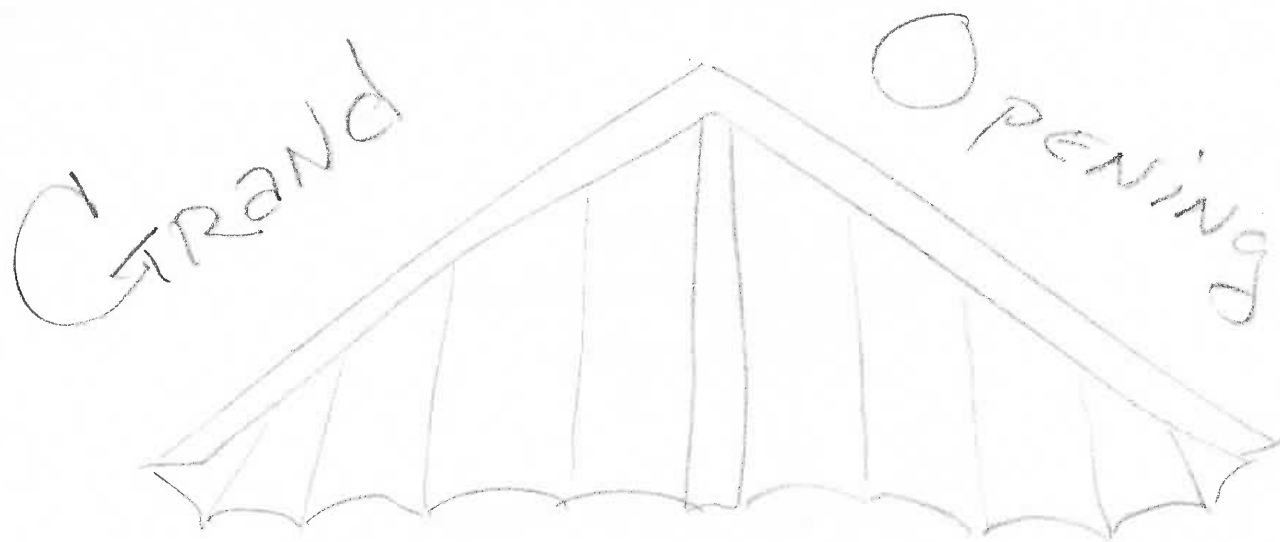
Something for advancing pilots to remember: be cautious about taking advice from unknown pilots, despite their Hang Ratings. Experienced pilots are as a rule the best people to learn from, but to take advice from someone you don't know about something you don't know is foolhardy. There are always a few turkeys around, some of them have hot ships and hang IV's, but that doesn't mean they know how to teach you advanced hang gliding. If you're taking advanced lessons from a stranger, demand to see a USHGA Advanced Instructor's Card. It is your responsibility!

July 1-2 is the New England Soaring Championships at Attitash Mt., Bartlett NH. Go for it!

July Second is an airshow at Pittsfield. We have been offered a change to sell shirts and balloons at a profit, and to set up a few gliders for display. More info at the meeting.

April 29-30 is the date for inter-collegiate hang gliding competition hosted by Lowell. Place will be announced.

Stu Smith was in the area over Easter. We didn't get to do any flying with him, but he did show us his 140 Oly. He's back at Grandfather for the summer..... Bob Stewart has re-joined the club. 1000 feet a minute to him!



The Hang Glider Center
of Hadley.

Welcomes the '78 season with a
spring Special!

10% off during the month of May



on any '78 Glider from your favorite company!
Plus you will get FREE the breakdown option!

If you need new wings Now is the time to
order! Don't be caught in the middle of
the season without a new glider!

Come to the finest flyers for
the finest feathers and now the
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The Hang Glider Center
206 Russell St. Rt. 9 Hadley, Ma. 01035
(413) 586-1150