

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

Officers for the fiscal year of 1978 were elected at the April meeting. James Burrill (President Jimmy), our former Vice President, was elected to the post of President. Jim holds a Novice rating, and has been active in all facets of club activities. He has represented the Association in dealings with the Greenfield City Council, The State Department of Environmental Management, Northeast Utilities, and several land-owners.

Dave Scheumann was elected to the Vice-Presidential post. Dave has also been very active in club activities, including being the designer of the club emblem and the printer of the club T-shirts.

Sue McQuire was re-elected to the task of Treasurer to continue the fine job she has been doing managing the club monies. Sue is responsible for raising most of the money in our treasury, as it is her hard work that gets our club parties going.(and another one is coming May 20!!)

Rob Cummings, who just joined the Association in November, was elected Secretary. Rob can't help but get involved in area flying - he owns and operates The Hang Glider Center in Hadley. Rob holds a Hang III (an intermediate rating), an instructor's certification, and flies a different ship every time you see him!

This year will be a tough one for the new officers - the sport is just starting to grow in leaps and bounds. With more people in the sport, sites will become more crowded , and harder to keep and regulate. And there is always the FAA, MAC, USHGA, DEM,NU,

and all the other HGA's to contend with. GOOD LUCK and CONGRATULATIONS!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jim Burrill

Well, it looks like I got stuck. (Ed. Note - That's what you get for missing a meeting!) Instead of spending all my free time flying, I have to spend part of it being President. As President, I feel that my primary responsibility will be to see that the rest of you do some work as well.

In the past eight months the MHGA has made good progress. This progress has largely been the doing of Mark Droy helped by six or seven other members who have regularly given of their time. We owe Mark so very much. Without him I don't think we would have an organization now.

Which brings up the question of whether we need an MHGA at all. What is the purpose of the group? What does it do for its members? The MHGA does not exist to do things for its members. The MHGA exists to provide the means whereby the membership can do things for themselves.

As pilots, we should have one paramount interest in common - improving our flying! This includes obtaining and maintaining our flying sites- the single most important task before us. Other interests include self education, safety, and fellowship.

To obtain and maintain flying sites in this age of the mass mind, vicarious living, and the shunning of self-responsibility, requires us to develop power. Power requires money and standing. Therefore, I view our two most important tasks to be building up the treasury and incorporation. Having

obtained legal status and money, we will find it much easier to bargain with landowners and the State.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find articles concerning specific projects in the works that should help us. But we (that includes you) need your active help to progress. You cannot sit back and let the other guy do it or you will see our flying sites close one by one. Come to the meetings instead. Bring your ideas, your knowledge. Volunteer to help and mean it!

Finally (and if you read this far - thankfully) I want to say that I am proud to be President of the Massachusetts Hang Gliding Association. When I was in my down drop in 1976, and thinking of giving up flying before having really flown, I thought of the people I had met in this sport, the best I have ever known anytime. And I want to thank you again.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Rob Cummings

The May meeting of the MHGA will be the third Tuesday of the Month, May 16, 1978 at 8 PM at the ME Bar and Lounge, RT 47 in Hadley. Note the change of time, for the flying season. Entertainment has yet to be announced.

There will be an executive committee meeting at 7:30 PM. All are welcome.

The names, addresses, and phone numbers of the new officers are as follows:

President

James Burrill

31 King Phillip Ave. S. Deerfield
01373 413-665-3261

Vice President

David Scheumann

98 E. Circle Dr. E. Longmeadow
01028 413-525-7875

Treasurer

Susan McQuire

25A Pleasant Street Northampton
01060 413-584-5832

Secretary

Bob Cummings

4B Highland Ave. Northampton 01060
413-586-1150

Editor/ UPDRAFT

Mark Droy

c/o P.O.Box 652 Easthampton 01027
413-527-2805

DONNY RAYMOND IN HOSPITAL

Donny Raymond has suffered a fracture leg and hip in a hang gliding accident off Whittings Peak (The northern end of Mt Tom range) Don was attempting to soar the spot when he tip stalled the borrowed Dragonfly Mk II he was flying and half spun 20 feet into a tree and cliff. His leg broke as he hit the cliff. Donny unhitched from his seated harness and waited until help arrived to be aided off the mountain. He will be in traction for 5 more weeks before getting a body cast. All club members are urged to visit him, as he is still hot to fly, but has a summer in bed ahead of him. He is in room 500 at Cooly-Dickenson Hosp. in Northampton. Visiting hours are from 1-2 PM and 6-8 PM. Cheer him up!

The accident was reported by the news media in the worst way imaginable. The Daily Hampshire Gazette had him "dangling from the cliffs for hours" and said that the accident was reportedly caused by a passing 747 jet!

WHMP radio reported a "brush with death" and had such expert aerodynamical people such as the town ambulance driver commenting that Don "ran out of wind", and that Don was probably wrong in stating that he stalled.

The reporting was not only wrong, it was...stupid. And it necessitated Chuck LaVersa, Matt Chapman, and Mark Droy to do some office visiting to straighten the story out and leave our names and numbers which the media can contact for future reference. It is better than ambulance drivers.

The club has owned a windsock for some time now. Any member wishing to use it for flying may pick it up at

the Hang Glider Center in Hadley.
First come, first served.

HANG RATINGS GONE AWAY

The USHGA no longer has Hang ratings. But don't worry, only the names have been changed. In order to make the ratings easier for the public (the government and insurance companies) to understand, the program is now called the Pilot Proficiency System. Ratings which were called Hang I through V are now Beginner, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Master.

A few minor changes were made in the requirements, including doubling the length of time one must hold a Novice or Intermediate Rating before moving up. Another nice change is that the prices have gone down for the higher ratings, and up for the Novice. Novice is \$7.50, Intermediate are \$5.00 each. The higher Novice is necessitated by a new filing system which has to be paid for.

Instructors are still responsible for issuing Beginner and Novice Ratings, while Observers are responsible for Intermediate and Advanced. Pilots should keep in mind that the upper ratings not only require a mastering of flying, weather knowledge, and FAA flight regulations, but is largely a test of judgement. For example, you may get a Turbulance Special Skills sign off for flying in rough and bumpy air, but if you choose to fly in it just for the sake of getting the sign off, don't expect to leave the impression in the mind of the Observer that you are a safe pilot!

Instructors in this area include Rob Cummings and Chuck LaVersa, who also gives advanced instruction. Observers are Chuck LaVersa(a Region 8 Examiner for the USHGA) Mark Droy, and Brooks Ellison. There is no charge for being observed. Rating are highly recommended.

The new written tests for the Intermediate and Advanced ratings are comprehensive. The written intermediate test covers FAR's on rights of way, VFR and IFR minimums, and FAA positions on Hang Gliding. The Oral qualifying test covers weather.

The Advanced written test covers the use of air sectionals, even/odd traffic separation, and some altitude calculations. Sound mind boggling? If it does, see an Observer, who can get you started on study materials. It isn't that hard.

And a word to the die-hards. If all this knowledge crap threatens your seat of the pants flying, stick to standard Rogallos. These regulations are meant for pilots who are acheiving altitude gains enough to put them up with conventional aircraft, and this necessitates that we all follow the same rules. The FAA could just ban cross country and high altitude flying. Instead, the rules have been there, let's follow them.

The Advanced Oral qualifying test covers more advanced weather phenom-anom.

And lastly, the USHGA has decided to can the rating renewal program for now. So for now, you can remain rated at your present level, even if you never fly again. I think they made a mistake.

MORE ON INCORPERATION

The MHGA is becoming incorporated for a very down to earth price, do to a lawyer in western Mass. who doesn't like to charge poor non-profit organizations any outrageous fees. Lots more info from Mark LaVersa at the next meeting.

This is one of the largest steps the club has taken since forming, and should well pave the way for more efficient and profitable dealings in the future. The chapterization into USHGA has been held up pending the outcome of our efforts to incorprtate.

CLUB PARTY AND FLY-IN MAY20

On Saturday, May 20, the MHGA will have its occasional club PARTY for fun and profit. Sue Mcquire is in charge of ceremonies. Call her and volunteer your time! The Party will start at 7:30 PM at Sue's apartment on Pleasant Street in Northampton (See Map). It will cost you \$2 to get in, and for it we will have food and beer provided. You are welcome to bring whatever other poisons you may be addicted to, and bring your friends!!!

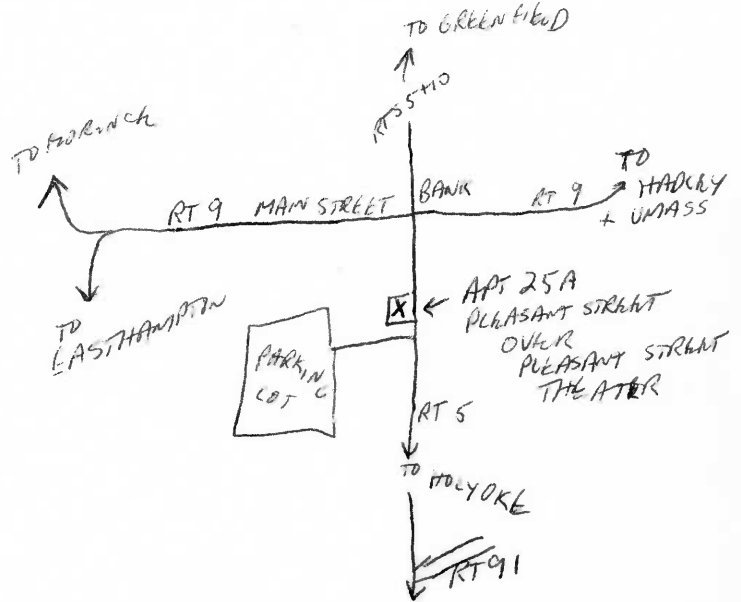
President Jimmy is in charge of the raffles again, some of which will be a bottle of booze and club T-shirts.

(Buy a club t-shirt and show your support of the best damned group of flyers around, of which you'll be one of)

All this after a day of fly-in competition against the infamous Windward Kite and Glider Club. The competition will be keen, but simple: a bomb drop or spot landing, with the losing club paying for the keg of beer at the party. Competition will

start at 10:00 AM at Skinner State Park. If it isn't flyable there, we will go some place that is. If it is blown out or raining, I pity the bar that will get our business for the day, until the party starts. See you all there!!!!

A MAP



OFFICIAL CLUB T-SHIRTS

Club Emblem



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

CHILDREN'S SIZES

SMALL

MEDIUM

LARGE

X-LARGE

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

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

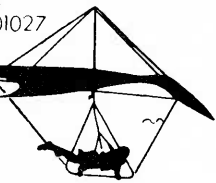
_____ Total number of shirts
 \$ _____ Payment enclosed
 \$ 4.00 each for adult sizes
 \$ 3.50 each for child's sizes

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

P.O. Box 652
Easthampton, MA 01027

**Mass
Hang
Gliding
Association**



May 12 1978

To whom it may concern,

For the last six months, UPDRAFT, the monthly publication of the Massachusetts Hang Gliding Association, has been sent to you in hopes of receiving your organization's publication. This would serve to disseminate news of hang gliding throughout the region.

Our newsletter covers all news of the Association, as well as all current Western Massachusetts records and events, and major news of the region.

Complimentary copies of our newsletter cost us money, which can only be justified by receiving news from other clubs in return. We are very interested in trading publications with your organization for the purpose of extracting major information for use in each other's newsletter. Copyrighted material could, of course, be published only after permission has been obtained from the necessary parties.

If you are interested in doing so, please contact me at the address above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark Droy'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark Droy

Editor, UPDRAFT