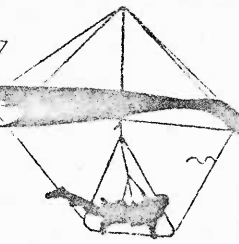


Mass
Hang
Gliding
Association



UPDRAFT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HANG GLIDING ASSOC. INC.

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MEETING NOTICE

The July meeting of the MHGA, Inc. will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, July 17, at a NEW LOCATION. The new meeting place, as selected and approved by vote of the general membership, will be the Northampton Moose Lodge, on Cook Ave. in that city. For detailed directions to that hall, read the section on that subject further on in this issue. If the Moose Lodge seems to be a good place we'll likely be meeting there for awhile, so come to the meeting, which starts promptly at 8:00 pm, to see if you'll like the choice you've made.

On the agenda will be: the choice of a new date for the MHGA, Inc., FLY-IN; formulation of plans for the L/D meet Murphh's organizing for Sunday, July 15th; plans for MHGA, Inc., members (and guests?) to go on some outings to Mt. Greylock, sailplane rides, and other flight-related trips this summer.

Also on the agenda are such things as these: MHGA, Inc., land purchase plans/ideas; site improvements; and possibly the prototype for a MHGA, Inc., promotional and fundraising pamphlet. If there is anything YOU think needs doing or discussion at the next meeting, then please get in touch with your officers and co-members soon, so we can do some thinking and research before the meeting. That way we save a months time by being informed and prepared to discuss things while they are current, instead of shelving them another month for study. Thank you.

PRESIDENTS JOURNAL

Hi guys! Well this has got to be the record for the shortest month of the year. Maybe it's just the busiest, but I can't believe how rapidly it zipped by. The weather has been nicely unusual, with cool, cool nights keeping us thermalling on these warm days, but the assumption is that the summer doldrums will arrive and last their usual two months. It'll be August and September instead of July and August is all.

Of course you've heard the results of the Regionals, if not the June RIDGE RIDER from NEHGA has a good write up and the final scores. Region 8 is being represented at the Nationals in California by Mark La Versa, Al Copertino, and yours truly, me. We'll be heading out the first week of August and back the last. (Sorry, but we'll be missing the August meeting. We'll check out who can organize it in our absence.)

Bring your brains to the July meeting, we need to collect some though on ways to improve Greylocks launch. If you haven't heard yet, it bit me, and I'm upset enough about it to do some work up there (work that's been needed for awhile, anyways. We'll be forming a work party for Skinner also. the last four meetings with Roger Ward have been great. We can take a work party up there with a ranger and remove some dangerous stumps and relate growth anytime we can get ourselves together. Anybody care? Speak up!

continued →

The slot is getting kinda grown in also, and hasn't received its annual trash pick up yet. "So why is he writir about all this work to be done?" you ask. This is it guys, the best time of year for a club outing at Skinner for a cookout, families and all, regardless of weather. We could send out two small work parties of volunteers for a couple of hours and get this all done. These days of still, hot air you won't be flying too much anyway, and we'll have a keg of beer to guzzle. Just be sure to bring your own burgers and groupies. Let's talk it over at the Moose Lodge, see you there.

Pres. Chas

VP's RAMBLIN'S

FLASH.....

WE ARE INCORPORATED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 Yes, I finally got through the heads of the state gov't that something was radically wrong with their procedures and habits 'cause we'd been waiting a year. So some people from the Gov's Boston office and the Atty. Generals office stuck their mitts in and came up with the fact that we'd been incorporated since last November, and the reason nobody could find our incomplete paperwork was that all that time the papers were in their files as completed stuff, so they weren't even checking in the right places. Mass. Hang Gliding Association, Inc. is the states only Non-profit Corporation devoted to hang gliding and ultralight flight, and though they claim to have sent us the paperwork we have received ZILCH. So I'm sending official requests to the appropriate places for copies of the paperwork, and d we'll have it all together soon.

NEXT ITEM; T-SHIRTS-----

The T's are done, come to the next meeting for yours, or get in touch with the Pleasant St. Raiders (M&M) ahead of time. The shirts came out really well, and it only took a bit over two weeks with Forte Printing. REORDERS will be quicker, now that they have perfected the screen design we wanted. The shirts are 50/50 cotton/polyester

high quality shirts which the club will sell for \$5.50 each. We have to cover the screen costs, etc. as well as the other expenses involved, but rest assured that the boost this will give our treasury, our public image, and our cohesive appearance at flight functions and events will be substantial and positive.

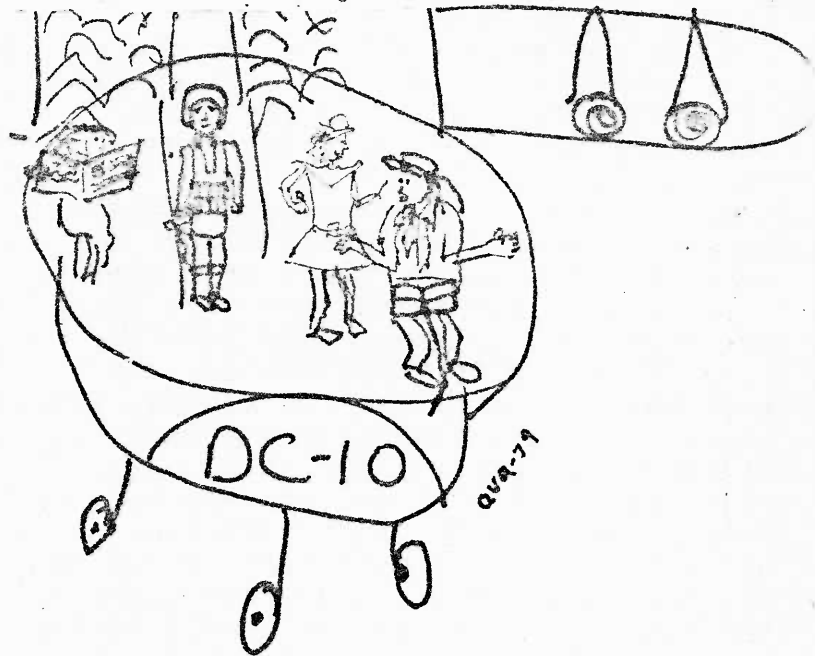
Among this months other goodies was this poem submitted by a fellow pilot who refuses to let his name be attached to it.

PLEA TO THE GREAT REDTAIL

Oh, Great Redtail, windancer, entrancer
 With your russet wings spread wide,
 Unravel this windy mystery for me;
 Reveal the soaring secrets that you hide.

Oh, Great Redtail, hear me, now
 It is your flying skill I seek;
 You already have, most generously,
 Gifted me with your beak!

That wasn't so bad for a first effort, I don't have any idea why he wouldn't sign his name to it. If it's because he's embarrassed by a larger than usual probocis then he's just being self concious and overly sensitiv Hell, I gotta coupla them myself. One must learn to think of the positives; after all, how many pilots do you know who can actually SMELL thermals?



"Captain, this man wants to see our HGMA Certificate of Safety before takeoff."
 "WhatdaHellzat, dammit, why do all the loonies get on MY flights?"

SECRETARYS REPORT

MURPHS L/D MEET SOON

The June Meeting of the Mass. Hang Gliding Association, Inc. was held on the 19th of that month and was called to order at 8:15 pm. After the reading of the last meetings minutes by the club Secretary the Pres. reported on the latest happenings. Several issues were discussed that led to some plans to get rates for sailplane rides and for the overniter to Bascom Lodge on top of Mt. Greylock. Chas will get all the rates so we can make definite plans and dates at the July meeting.

Pres. Chas will take care of the outing info.

John Hayward gave his report on Mass Aero, saying that they have a substantial authority and seem like a very respectable and expert group.

Jim Finkowski will check on the meet dates ,etc, of the Conn. HGA and postpone our fly-in indefinitely, at least until we can set up something that won't conflict with other events. (See MURPHS L/L MEET SOON)

Murph is making available to the clubs members a really good thing. Murph can take your photo or slide and have a T-shirt iron-on made for you. For only \$4. you can have your self on an iron on for your favorite shirt. See Murph at the meeting.

Pres. Chas is carefully and concisely drafting a letter to the FAA, at the urging of members, about their views on the proposed FAR. A great deal of input is leading to a very well thought out and coherent letter expressing the collective concerns of us all, that we don't need or desire FAA involvement in hang gliding.

Chas is also checking with the USHGA about liability aspects of us putting an improved launch at Mt. Greylock.

Murph is getting a topo and checking out the possibility of the Association purchasing some land and a lodge for a permanent home for the MHGA, Inc.

Jim Burrill is checking with Ray Bradley about the closing of the road up North Sugarloaf.

Matt Chapman distributed the official MHGA, Inc. waiver forms that he produced. Feel free to photocopy more if you'll be needing 'em.

Murph and Co. have laid out the course for the fast-approaching L/D meet, and completed basic operating rules. Looks like there'll be a great time to be had, as we compare the L/D performance of the MHGA, Inc.'s varied members pilot/glider combination. So come on out, bring your wing, tote the wife and kids along. Don't forget to take a nice picnic lunch and some brew, and a few frisbees so we can make a day out of it.

There will be a very modest \$1. entry fee, half of whose total will go directly to the club treasury, and the other half will be used for prizes. The prizes we have had donated so far are these:

- one CASE OF BEER
- three BLUE SKY LOGBOOKS
- one BALSAWOOD MODEL PLANE
- one D. PAGEN H.G. BOOK (choice)

And don't forget there will be some cash prizes too. AND.....there will be some provision to separate the Standard class gliders from the Open class models, so don't stay home just 'cause you own a standard. If you want to have a great time, get some airtime and good practice in, and maybe pick up a prize, as well as show some support for the MHGA, Inc., the organisation that represents YOU, then remember to be there.

The L/D Meet happens this Sunday, July 15, at Murphs intermediate hill in Huntington. If you haven't been there you should check it out, for sure. For those who need directions call Murph in Huntington at this # (413) 667-3417.

SECRETARYS REPORT CONTINUED

The MHGA, Inc. site book project is getting underway with these member pilots writing about these sites

- JIM Burrill- N. SUGARLOAF
- MURPH- SHATTARACK
- JIM Finkowski- SKINNER
- CHUCK- MT. TOM
- MARK-MOHAWK TRAIL

MHGA, Inc. would like to express its sincere appreciation to Mr. Gary Bishop, of the Barnes Control Tower, for his excellent presentation at the June meeting, and for answering

many questions and clarifying a number of matters for us all. Our best to you Gary.

The arrangement we now have with Windsor Locks Flight Service Station is also attributable to Gary, and to our man on the phone, Matt Chapman. Thanks again for a job well done.

WINDSOR LOCKS NUMBER

Whenever we need or desire, we now can call this flight service station and request aviation briefings for hang gliding activities. Please tell them when and where you'll be likely flying, and they'll notify pilots they're in radio contact with that we're out there and remember to tell them you'll be from ground level to several grand over so they'll know where to tell pilots to look. The number is: 1-800-243-0310. And please give 'em your name and be polite and sensible, this is an important contact with them, and in addition to weather info they'll have the chance to find out that we too are sensible, sane, and skilled aviators.



NEW MEETING PLACE: MOOSE LODGE

This month we'll be meeting at Northampton Moose lodge on Cook Ave. Leave early so you can find it if you think you'll have trouble. But if you follow my directions you can get lost in very little time at all!

Anyways, our little skywriter in the other column (look leftwards a bit) has labelled Chucks map for us. Just get on Rt. 5 (King st.) in Northampton. Just north of Caldors-and-all and on the same side of the road is Hatfield St. Take this south and take the first right turn off it. This road has a single split in it, so just stay on the left and drive to the last (that means second, there's only 2!) building, it's on the left side. That's the Moose Lodge. SEE YOU THERE.

(If confused, call 586-1067 and let us know, but don't wait til the last minute to check 'cause we'll be out the door ourselves, ok? thanx.)

GREYLOCK PROCEDURES UPDATE

New stuff from the operation of the states highest peak/best vertical drop will be used henceforth, and it's a real improvement. Thanks to the efforts of Brooks Ellison (Berkshire Hang-Gliding School Ltd.) and Chuck La Versa (La Versa Airsports) in working with a very realistic and responsible crew of state reps, Doug Poland et. al., we now have a more modern and workable relationship with the DEM. Thusly it runs:

POLICY MEMORANDUM

Subject: Hang glider policy-
Mount Greylock State Reservation

A. Eligibility:

Pilots must hold an Advanced 4 rating or Master 5 rating with an Altitude Special Skills signoff or, hold an Intermediate 3 rating with Altitude signoff and be accompanied by a pilot holding an Advanced 4 or Master 5 rating.

B. Rules:

1. All pilots must comply with all park rules.
2. At any time, or to any individual, the launch may be opened or closed by the park personnel on duty.

3. All glider pilots must comply with U.S.H.G.A. Part 100 Basic Safety Regulations.

C. Operating Procedure:

1. The launch is sometimes closed during the p.m. hours or all day because of unusually large traffic problems in the park.

a) Usual times when the launch is restricted on part of or an entire day:

- The Columbus Day Weekend
- The Fourth of July Weekend
- The Labor Day Weekend

2. All pilots must produce proof of eligibility upon request of park personnel.

3. All pilots are requested to sign in at the register in Bascom Lodge. Intermediate 3 rated pilots must be co-signed by accompanying Advanced 4 or Master 5 rated pilot.

The overtures are also being made to DEM administrators to let the MHGA, Inc. have the launch at Greylock for a real facelift operation. This, along with the new rules & regs memorandum, is a very significant move for the sport of hang gliding in the entire Northeast, and particularly for the pilots right here at home in the best of central New England. The reasons for this are manifold, but for the moment consider these primary aspects of the current efforts at Mt. Greylock State Reservation.

1. Mt. Greylock is the states highest peak, scenic panorama, and highest point that the 2000 mile plus Appalachian Trail crosses in this state. It is also among the most visited points of interest to tourists from all over who visit this state. For those of you who may not know, the summit is the site of the famous Memorial Tower constructed to honor all Veterans from all Wars and Conflicts who were citizens of the Commonwealth.

2. This reservation is the "model" DEM park for the state, and as such any new projects and concepts that are successfully "piloted" (no pun intended- Ed.)

FOR SALE: 1977 Seahawk 190. Includes large control bar, prone seated rigging option, and multicolored sail. Best offer. Dave Scheumann @ 739-3088.

FOR SALE: 1977 UP FIREFLY 174. Red and yellow sail, rigged prone. Comes with a lesson from a certified USHGA instructor. Matt Chapman @ 586-1067.

FOR SALE: 1977 UP FIREFLY. Never been crashed or broken. All original sail and frame; in very good condition. Custom sail with split panels. An excellent ship beginner to advanced. Comes with a lesson from experienced certified USHGA instructor. Mark La Versa @ 586-1067.

FOR SALE: 19' SUN Standard with seated harness and helmet, at low price.

SKY SPORTS Bobcat 3- 205. New, new new. Just too big for its owner.

UP Redtail 18' with seated rigging. Flies really well. Very clean and well maintained, at a low price.

For more info or a flying date with any of the three preceeding gliders please call Mark La Versa @ 586-1067.

FOR SALE: SKY SPORTS Lark 18' Standard. Low price. Seated rigging and coverbag. Call Jim Burrill @ 665-3261.

FOR SALE: 1978 UP Firefly 174. Multi-colored sail, Brock box, graphite battens, very good condition. Must sell- getting married! B.O. over \$800.

here find their way into the rest of the state parks in the system, that includes places we already can fly, like Skinner and Tom, that could use a bit of cleanup.

3. Every opportunity the MHGA, Inc. has to create an environment that is safer, aesthetically more pleasant, and generally more conducive to the betterment of the sport for both its participants and for the ever fascinated public, is an opportunity to do EXACTLY what we love to do, that is, WE GET TO FLY AND TURN OTHERS ON TO THE SPLENDOR OF IT ALL!