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**Mass
Hang
Gliding
Association**

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HANG GLIDING ASSOC. INC.

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MEETING NOTICE

The April meeting of the MHGA, Inc. will take place on the third Wednesday of the month, April 16th. Starting at 8 pm sharp, the meeting will be at the Northampton Moose Lodge on Cook Ave. Among many items on the agenda the most notable are:

Update on the 1980 Region 8 Qualifier
Update on Skinner
ELECTION NOMINATIONS
Summer plans for events, exposure, competition.

There are a lot of things on the front burner this month, what with the season just crackin' open for those of us who've hung it up for hibernation, and continueing for those who just can't quit when the snow flies. So get on out, rub your eyes clear, and wake up this month at the April meeting. (Also, remember it's nomination time again, if you don't show you could get sponsored as club clown!)

PRESIDENTS JOURNAL

Hello, everyone! Well the ol' Fledge was out terrorizing the Skinner skies again and I'm still smiling. All I can say about that is " Give me more!". I had a wonderful time, and I'm looking forward eagerly to wrapping up some columns of warm air anywhere!

Another meeting with Mt. Greylock Director Carl Curtain has been fruitful. He's got his best minds looking into ways to improve our present launch, and spoke candidly with us about our desire to open a launch on the NW side of the range. We are now formulating a written proposal to the State concerning this issue. Our most optimistic projections have us flying there this season, of course, but we'll just have to wait and see.

The competition committee meeting on 3/30/80 was a productive gathering. We were well represented, and Jeff Nicolay is the meet director by popular demand. Mark LV, Matt C, and I took charge of sending out the registration forms to all 500 (or so) members in New England (with a little help from our friends!). I'm sure you've already received one if you're just now reading this.

Thanks to Gene, John, and Colin, as well as the other club members whom we expected for the super clean-up job on Chip Johnson's lawn. The ribbons are working well in keeping off the local tires, and the public relations are invaluable in keeping Skinner open on Sundays.

Well, got some more work to do, can't blab all night, ya know! See you in the sky,
Pres. Chas.

VP'S RAMBLIN'S

The Region 8 Pow-Wow was a great success on the 22nd of March. Every state but Maine sent representatives, but the meeting lasted about the length of a one way trip from there and we've been in touch with some of their people by phone, so they're keeping in touch. Representatives from almost all the clubs in the Region sat down around one room and talked about their sites, problems, solutions, plans, and the coming Regionals.

A great deal was accomplished at this gathering, which was organized and executed by WINDWARD KITE AND GLIDER CLUB and the MASS. HANG GLIDING ASSOC., INC., and which was held at the UMASS Amherst campus through the courtesy of the UMASS HANG GLIDING CLUB. Thanks to them, and to those clubs who sent reps, a competition committee was formed, basic dates and place for the Regionals were selected, and plenty of well thought out input was coordinated into a realistic and very satisfactory plan to have another great Regionals this year.

The registration forms have gone out so you know what's come of the whole effort, please get them back soon as you can. If anyone would like to help out during the meet don't hesitate to say so when you reply. The survey will be used to get more input about the pilots in the region, and thereby allow the plans, hopes, and goals of the whole region to affect what happens here. More knowledge about ourselves as a whole will enable us to interact and cooperate as a regionally cohesive group, this can only benefit us all in many ways.

The competition committee met on the 30th of March at Morningside Rec Area, as scheduled. After a really fun day of flying at Jarvis hill, swapping gliders and checking out some Lazor 2's Jeff brought out, we all went back to Phil's newly renovated glider barn, checked out Marilyn's great new sail loft, tried out the new flush conveniences, and settled down to the business of hammering out a meet that will send our best to this years' Nats at Ellenville.

What a session!!! But, the work got started, and we all pitched in and came up with the plans you've all received. Jeff Nicolay is Meet Director again this year, and Joe Robellaire of Maine volunteered by phone to be Launch Director again, too. Jeff will be selecting 2 assistants, and the tasks, scoring, and matrices are all being worked on.

This effort got underway only very recently with the initiative of our regions pilots themselves, and will result in another great meet this year. The fact that the pilots themselves are organizing and creating this meet demonstrates that there is more concern for the fate of hang gliding in New England among its participants (generally) than there has ever been before. In the past only a few people have carried this region, and up until only recently the majority of pilots reaped the benefits of the regions successes and screamed and moaned at its' failures without much input or assistance for the few who kept plugging. Now we find ourselves in a situation where the majority show a real interest in formulating and working on regional goals. Lets not let that slip from our grasp. Now is the time for us to commit ourselves to a regional pow wow periodically, like 4 or 6 times a year, meeting in a different area each time. Whaddaya say gang? Shall we keep the wing flyin' now that we've got it off the ground? Write and lemme know, ok? Remember, if we don't do it, it don't git done!

I was very glad to see the membership list Chuck LV got from the USHGA as it showed that there are MORE USHGA MEMBER PILOTS IN MASS. THAN IN ANY OTHER REGION 8 STATE!!!! What about getting together better on a state level more often? How about a meeting of the officers and board members of all Mass. HG Organisations every now an' then? Let us know

how that sits with you, so we can set it up if all are willing and able. Maybe we can just grab a little Mass. HGO's meeting whenever we settle into the Me Bar after soaring our brains clear at Skinner, if everyone comes prepared a little bit?? Let us hear from ya, ok?

Well, things are lookin' really good so far this year. The weather's been pretty decent, the people been working hard, and we're all gonna have one fine time in the sky together. Remember to keep safe, fly well, and don't forget to celebrate afterwards!!!!!!

laundry's waitin, y' know?!!
Mark LV,VP an' stuff

SECRETARY'S REPORT

MHGA, inc. meeting, March 19, 1980. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm. Secretary's report was read and accepted. No treasurer's report this month.

Chuck discussed the upcoming Region 8 Pow-wow at UMASS - March 22nd., announced an instructor certification clinic slated for March 21st in upstate New York, and announced there would be an inter-club meet at Ellenville April 12 & 13. They're looking for 7 representatives from each club.

Mark will present the MHGA information pamphlet he's been working on at the board meeting. He and Matt discussed the state meeting about state regulations for gliding, held at UMASS. A work bee was scheduled for Sunday the 23rd at Skinner to rope off Chip Johnson's yard. Mark announced that Roger Ward is leaving Skinner and will be replaced by Jim Godin.

Chuck discussed the Greylock area meeting with the state, and discussed Westover's plans to add commercial service at their airport.

The USHGA 1980 Nationals will be held at Ellenville, NY September 13th to the 23rd.

There was some discussion on having a spring glider inspection with aircraft structural experts present. Murph said as long as there's no FAA around it'd be ok. Bill thought he might be able to interest a metallurgy specialist.

Nominations for club officers will be held at the April meeting.

Mark will check on the possibility of having a tow winch clinic.

After length y discussion the club voted to have treasurer collect donations toward director expenses when they pay yearly dues. The meeting adjourned at 10:15.

Matt Chapman, Sec.

Board Meeting, 4/2/80. Present were Chuck LV, Mark LV, and Matt C. Meeting was called to order at 7pm and began with the folding and stuffing of about 500 Regionals Entry Form/ Survey Sheets so they could be mailed to the pilots in the Region. The piecework done, the following issues were dealt with:

Chuck reported on the recent meeting with Carl Curtain, Director of Greylock Reservation. The Skinner regulation system was explained to Carl, and the existing and potential launch sites at Greylock were discussed.

The situation at Skinner was discussed, it looks real good right now.

There was a discussion about the Nats, and about the USHGA allowing ballast this year. Also talked about the proximity of the Nats to NYC, and how the big media attention possible could do a lot for the sport in the Northeast.

Some time was spent reviewing some changes in the 1980 Certification Tests. An article about this in a recent HANG GLIDING MAGAZINE was cited as interesting and educational.

The Region 8 Pow-Wow and Competition Committee Meetings have been very successful, and we spent awhile going over the results of these get togethers. We also discussed the USHGA rules regarding the meet.

The parking lot below Mt. Holyoke, it was reported, is not likely to be built until our kids are flying there.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Mark LV, for Matt C. Sec.

LOCAL STREAMLINES

Roger Ward, Supervisor of Skinner Park, has left that position and returned to his former job as Park Super at the Auto Park on Rt. 2 in Charlemont. Roger ran a really tight park at Skinner, everything he did he did well. He held the view that hang gliding was just another form of recreation, no better or worse than other endeavors, and he always treated us fairly. Through his year and a half many improvements were made at the park including a cleaner, safer launch site, and improved trails.

Roger expressed that he's enjoyed working at Skinner, and that he likes the lot of us. We really like him too, and we're going to miss him when we stop there to sky out. We'd like to express our gratitude and best wishes for his continued success in everything he does.

Jim Godin, Rogers replacement at the helm of Skinner Park, has already taken over his duties, so stop by and meet him next time you're over there. Roger had nothing but good things to say for Jim, we're sure he'll be able to continue the fine job Rogers been doing. Of course, he'll have the same very good staff of park Rangers that Roger had, so he'll be off to a good start. Welcome aboard, Jim!

Anytime anyone gets out Rt. 2 west of Greenfield, don't forget to stop in Charlemont and say hi to Roger, he'll always take a break to visit with old friends.

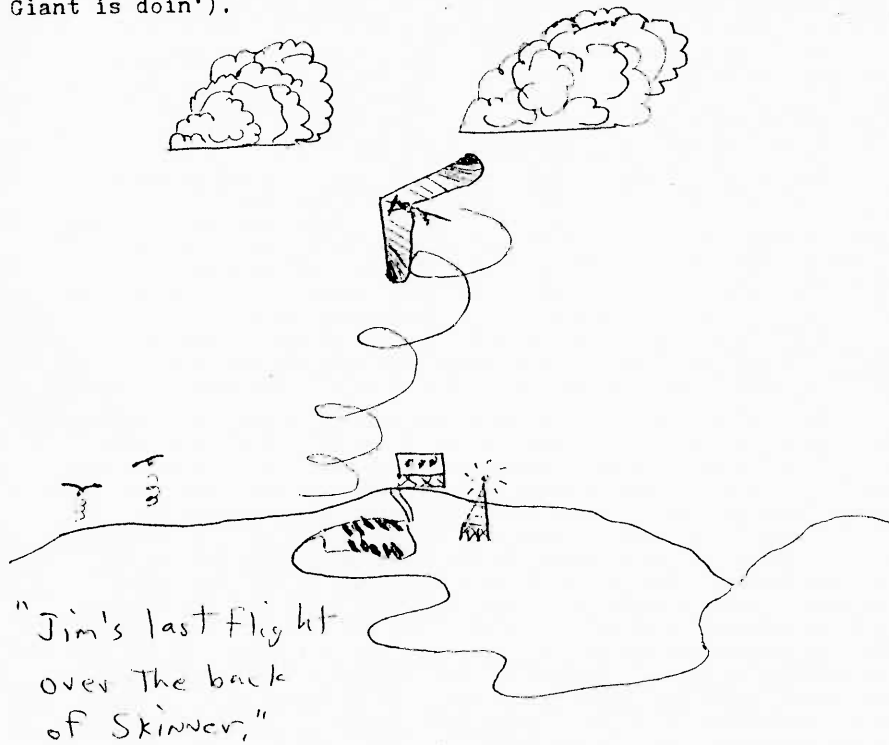
On Sunday, 3/23/80, a work bee was held at Chip Johnson's yard near the LZ at Skinner. From 9 am til 11 am our crew picked up trash, filled tire ruts, cleaned the road shoulder, drove and strung some stakes at the lawn border, and generally made Chip and family very happy through the facelift done on the grounds. Mama nature was as grateful as the Johnsons, and we had a lot of soaring later that day. Thanks go out to Gene Palmer, Don Hill, John Armstrong, Colin Fay, Matt Chapman, Chuck & Mark La Versa, for the hard but satisfying work of making Skinner a better place to fly, a nicer place for the residents of Rt. 47 to live, and a tougher place for the wuffos to park. Thanks to the Johnsons for use of shovels and rakes, and for letting us work out a reasonable solution to a persistent problem. Everybody benefits from this type of landowner-pilot cooperation, so let's keep up the good work.

JIM FINKOWSKI will be leaving for the sunny skies of Green Giant Land, or has left by the time your reading this about him. Jim has completed his schooling in the Graduate Research Dept. of UMass, and now has a real job! So it looks like our own "Big Fig", our regular "Grim", the local guy in the sky with the 180 Oly, will be headed for the relatively flatter land of Minnesota.

The word is that Jim's considering the advantages, under his new living circumstances, of purchasing a motorized Fledge. THAT would keep him from getting the flatland blues for sure.

Well, we're gonna miss you, Jim, as a friend, as a fellow pilot (and one heck of a good one), and as Flight Director and all around MHGA regular ME BAR "Safety Meeting" attendant. We all wish you the best of luck in your new home and job, and we'll keep the home hills buzzin' with kites this year so they won't miss you too badly!

And anytime you can afford to gas up and fly back to your New England home, we'll turn on the fans and loan you a flex so you can recapture that familiar feeling of flying the hills that warm your wings here on the "West Coast" of Massachusetts. Have a good one JF, and don't forget to write! (As soon as we get Jim's new address it'll be noted in the 'Draft so's ya kin all write an' ask him how the Green Giant is doin').



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