

MASSACHUSETTS HANG GLIDING ASSN. NEWSLETTER

USHGA CHAPTER #119

FALL / WINTER 95

DUES ARE DUE FOR 1995

I feel that at this time of year (which is much the same as I felt at the end of October when I started talking about writing this note), that a brief review for the club members of some of the things worth mentioning that transpired over the course of 1994.

The season started with the Regionals being held at a site other than Ascutney, In May with the assistance of Mark Droy, John Gavriel, Tim Donovan, and many others to numerous to mention, we took on the task of putting on the first contest that the Berkshires has seen since the early seventys, a tradition I would like to see continued as the area has so much potential, much was learned, and a successful contest was enjoyed by many. In the end Randy Adams took first place, CONGRATULATIONS to him, and thank you goes out to the rest of you all, much of whom represented the Mass HGA, the organization that sponsored the meet.

From there, the interests were shifted towards the rules and regulations for, governing some premiere soaring sites, we felt that a standard procedure for operating these facilities needed to be implemented, so we drafted operating procedures (similar to those found in Hang Gliding Magazine) which should be able to be understood by the Hang Gliding Community. I think that the most important thing that we pilots need to remember is that we should all take a little responsibility, and police our sites so that we can protect our assets. All the clubs will be given copies of these rules, and all pilots should comply. In addition, the State Department of Environmental Management for both Mt Greylock and Skinner State Park have been given revised Rules and regulations to bring us up to date, as well as include Paragliders for a trial period of one year. To the best of my knowledge as of this writing, approval of this trial period has been accepted at Skinner State Park only. Mt Greylock is still under review by the State. More on this later. Contact with the New England Paragliding Club is REQUIRED.

As you all know in September., Bill Seacord had a major Hang Gliding accident at Skinner State Park, It sounds like Bill is on the road to recovery, and the very best of luck to him and his family. It was a very busy weekend at Skinner, as the day before there was a paragliding incident in which a Paraglider pilot took off (after being told not to fly) and got blown over the back. This got the State as well as this organization in a bit of a TIZ.

In October a much needed work party was planned at Skinner, where some trail work as well as attention to the launch took place. This should help out in 1995. This was after the incident previously mentioned, so believe it or not we have maintained a repour with the State throughout all this. This brings me back to the fact that we must use these sites that we worked hard to gain access to, strictly in accordance with the rules that have been drawn up, the Protocol MUST be followed, other wise we risk losing these sites. If you don't know the rules, you should take the time to get in touch with the local club or membership, and find out, so you don't undermine someone elses efforts.

At the October meeting a site regulation as well as an activity committee was set up. Gary Brunelle has mentioned this elsewhere so read on.. The policy for flying these sites will remain the same, with the annual signing of a Permit / Waiver as well as the daily sign in required. Copies of these Proposed rules to be enclosed in this newsletter. Copies have been sent to the State agencies for there approval.

Along the activities line, there has just not been much activity?? due to the off season, but with the season approaching expect that to change drastically, so if any of you are interested in a certain activity or function, present your idea and lets see if we can get it off the ground so to speak. **AGAIN** as far as the club goes we must stress that it is time to renew your membership in one of the oldest clubs in New England. I feel that the modest \$15 dues get you in touch with some of the most spectacular soaring sites in New England, and in addition puts you in touch with some of the most spectacular people, (Just ask me). With some of the work of the members over the last few years our sites have really shaped into one of the best kept secrets in the sport. **BUT** be sure you don't tell anyone I said that.

Along the new news news, at the next meeting as I am sure you are all aware, it is time to nominate those new officers, That group of people that you are convinced will get in there and get the job done, So get your gang together and lets meet up to make 1995 one of the most spectacular and event filled flying seasons to date. Meeting date is scheduled for March 11 at 7:00pm at Brickers Restaurant on the Greenfield Rotary (RT 2 on the West side).

One final note, it appears that the Connecticut HGA will be granted some form of permission for the use of Mt Everett. Nothing like a Northeast site. More on this later.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
For HANG GLIDING at
Mt Greylock, Mt Prospect, and Mt Holyoke

Minimum Rating Requirements:

<u>Mt Greylock</u>	<u>Mt Prospect</u>	<u>Mt Holyoke</u>
USHGA Advanced (Hang 4) or Sponsored USHGA Intermediate (3)*	USHGA Advanced (Hang 4) ONLY	USHGA Intermediate (Hang 3) or Sponsored USHGA Novice (2)*

*For information regarding *sponsored* flying, see "State Regulations for Hang Gliding", also in this **site log**.
Sponsors endanger their own rating/appointment through careless or frivolous exercise of their discretion.

Procedures:

Yearly:

Each pilot is required to complete a PERMIT Form. The permit contains a waiver which must be signed and witnessed. The permit stays in the site log and will EXPIRE at the end of the calendar year (31 December) OR with your USHGA membership if you let it lapse.

Daily:

With each visit, a pilot must register on the DAILY SIGN-IN SHEET in the site log. You should have your USHGA Card and a Positive ID with you. Park personnel may ask you to produce your credentials at **any** time.

Site log locations are:

Mt Greylock/Mt Prospect : Bascom Lodge, atop Mt Greylock
and
Visitor's Center, on the road up the mountain from
Rt.7 in Lanesboro.

Mt Holyoke : Maintenance office at the Half-way area or at the
Summit House.

General Guidance:

No Pilot shall fly without current USHGA membership/insurance, and a valid Permit.
Each pilot must read, be familiar with, and follow the **park rules, USHGA Basic Safety Regulations (Part 100), and the State Regulations for Hang Gliding.**
Fly with a local pilot if you are unsure of launch and landing areas.

No landings are permitted on the top of Mt. Greylock.

If you fly here often, you are invited to join the Massachusetts Hang Gliding Association to help maintain these sites.

Massachusetts Hang Gliding Association
P.O. Box 1549

OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR HANG GLIDING AT THE MOHAWK TRAIL

CHAPTER: Massachusetts Hang Gliding Association
P.o. Box 1549 North Adams Mass. 01247

LOCATION: Hoosac Range. Launch is located north of Rt. 2, and about 5 miles east of North Adams.

ALTITUDE: 2060 MSL

RATING REQUIRED: USHGA (advanced) Hang 4, or (Master) Hang 5
Hang 3 pilots with all the sign offs, and accompanied by a region 8 Examiner, advanced instructor or MHGA Observer may use the site as per the sponsors suggestions.
Sponsored check flights are recommended, to familiarize oneself with the site, as well as the safe landing areas.

PROTOCOL: Pilots must be current USHGA members. Support of the local Hang Gliding chapter would be appreciated. Dues are \$15.

Launch: A cliff launch situation over a major highway exists, with power lines on far side of the road are a major concern.

LANDING ZONE: The LZ directly below launch (1230' MSL) can be turbulent, and Marshalls hay field located 1 mile north is small so proper supervision and conditions are recommended to safely land there. The RC field located 3 miles south at 712' MSL is very large field in the lee of Ragged MTN, so beware, and plan accordingly.

DIRECTION: West to Northwest winds are recommended.

CAMPING: Chilson's campground is east of the launch on RT 2, take a left at the firehouse, Chilson's is on the right.

X-C: Landing zones are questionable but a flight to the Atlantic has been done so there is potential.

BEST TIME: Spring or fall are best for x-c.

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OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR HANG GLIDING AT PETERSBURG PASS

CHAPTER: Massachusetts Hang Gliding Association P.O. Box 1549
North Adams, Ma. 01247

SITE LOCATION: Taconic Range which is in Petersburg N.Y. US route 2,
MA/NY border 6 Miles west of Williamstown Ma.

ALTITUDE: 2160 msl 1130 AGL

RATING REQUIRED: USHGA (Advanced) Hang 4, or (Master) Hang 5 (due to
lack of usable landing areas)

Protocol: Pilots must be current full USHGA members. Support of the local
Hang Gliding chapter would be appreciated. Dues are \$15.

LAUNCH: 20% grade facing north west (don't forget, 100 feet below is
route 2) BE AWARE!!!

LANDING ZONE: contact MHGA sponsor for info. on this one.

DIRECTION: west to northwest winds are recommended.

R-C: Excellent idea as the best landing areas are in Mass. over the back

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