

UPDRAFT

The Newsletter
of the
Massachusetts
Hang Gliding
Association

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10 May 1997

Volume 22, Issue 1

Meeting Schedule:

Saturday, May 17,

1997

7:30 PM Gringo's
North Adams, MA

More dates next
Newsletter

Where to

Send Money:

MHGA

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01247

Officers and

Contacts:

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Spring Flying- Better Late Than Never

This winter wasn't the best in memory, at least in terms of snowfall (more=better). But the season sure seems to have delayed spring flying. There have been a handful of good days, but last year they started in March. Here we sit in May!

Skinner State Park is now open 10AM-8PM daily. Sign in with a ranger, even if you have to spend some time and effort finding one, and ensure your vehicle is outside the gate by 7:30PM!

Greylock is accessible for contractors and the lodge staff, but not open yet. It may be before Memorial Day.

The State Parks have been busy sprucing up for their Cen-

tenial next year. The club has offered to help with trail work, demo flying, or both. At the very least, let's keep up the positive image that gets better every year!

The Mohawk Trail has seen most of the action, with flights to Greenfield in late April by Matt Carr and Brooks, who was at a comfortable 9200' during part of the trip. We really ought to be looking at flights to the ocean. Check your sectional, there have been some airspace changes. I think we have the sites (Petersburg and Mohawk), we need the drivers!

How about Greylock to Canada, eh?

Meeting Notes

New Business:

The next club meeting is at Gringo's, on Route 8 in North Adams, just south of the RC field LZ at 7:30 PM on Saturday, May 17, 1997. This will be one of the more important meetings - they are getting less frequent, and we have some important decisions to make.

Topic include:

- Paragliding on Greylock
- reviewing the bylaws
- choosing dates for meetings
- elections

-Mohawk LZ purchase by some club members.

-We will also be spending some of our money. Votes will be taken and decisions made on our routine expenses.

This is short notice. If you can't make it, at least give Brooks, Mark Droy, or John Gavriel a call to express your priorities. Meeting turnout is usually light, even with advance notice, different meeting places, and lots of beer.

Site Status:

Greylock:

Advanced HG site. Rules pending for PG. Sign in with the Bascom Lodge Staff before flying. See the State Rules. Landing area is the radio-controlled airplane field off of Route 8.

Prospect:

Advanced HG only. Sign in with the Bascom Lodge Staff before flying. Hang 4 site. See the State Rules. Land by airport.

Skinner:

Intermediate HG/PG site. Sign in with the Park Rangers before flying, even if they are hard to find on weekdays. Vehicles should be outside the gates 30 minutes prior to closing. See the State Rules. Land in large hay field southwest of launch.

Mohawk Trail:

Advanced HG Site. Route 2, North Adams. Launch is north of towers above hairpin turn. Usual LZ is the RC field on route 8.

Petersburg Pass:

Advanced HG/PG site. Has about a 10:1 glide out to the landing area, can get tight on a dead glide with a little headwind.

Route 2, just past the New York border.

Pocumtuck:

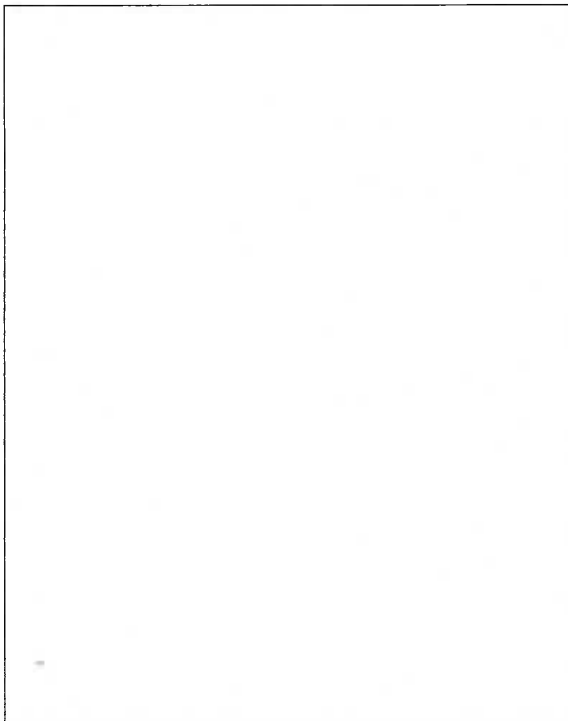
Intermediate HG site. The road to the launch has been widened and regraded, and has a new gate with a new combination lock.

Deerfield MA, behind Eaglebrook Academy off Route 10. Launch is north of the radio towers. Landing is across route 10. Check with landowners in garden shop before landing there.

Massachusetts Hang Gliding Association

**PO Box 1549
North Adams MA 01247**

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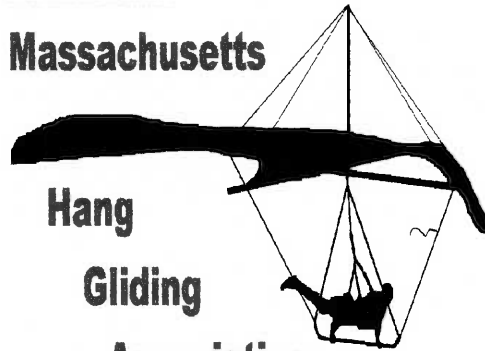
Since 1975...

Massachusetts

Hang

Gliding

Association



Contact Information and State Regulations

Phone numbers:

EMERGENCY: 911**Hang Gliding:***Massachusetts Hang Gliding Association*

P.O. Box 1549, North Adams, MA 01247

Brooks Ellison

John Gavriel

Gary Brunell

Mark Droy

Jack Hannus

Paragliding:*New England Paragliding Club*

217 North Road Bedford, MA 01730

Doug Sharpe

Other Info:

Skinner State Park - General Information

Greylock - Rockwell Visitor's Center

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

304 CMR : Division of Forests and Parks

14.05: Free Flight Devices**1) Definition**

For the purposes of this section, a free flight device shall be defined as any non-motorized glider or aircraft considered a hang glider by the Federal Aviation Administration.

- (a) The use of such devices shall be confined to those areas designated by the Director.
- (b) The use of said devices on or over Department lands or waters shall be by permit only, which shall be issued at the discretion of the Director upon written request of the applicant.
- (c) Said permits shall be issued on an annual renewable basis, subject to a daily registration procedure as established for each Department facility designated for such use.
- (d) No person under the age of 18 shall utilize such devices within the confines of any Department property without written consent of a parent or legal guardian.
- (e) A degree of difficulty rating shall be established for any Departmental facility designated for such use and only those pilots rated by the U.S. Hang Gliding Association or an equivalent, for a rating equal to or higher than the area's established rating shall be permitted to operate from said facility; except that, when accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a USHGA Region 8 Examiner, a USHGA Observer appointed by a Region 8 Examiner, or a USHGA Advanced Instructor designated by a Region 8 Examiner, a pilot possessing the next lower rating than the area's established rating may be permitted to fly.
- (f) The use of such devices may be prohibited on weekends, holidays, or at any other time when weather or other conditions make such use, at the discretion of the Director, unsafe, impractical, or in conflict with Departmental policy or management.
- (g) No flight shall be made in violation of the U.S. Hang Gliding Association's Basic Safety Regulations, or state and local ordinances pertaining to hang gliding.

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

Minimum Rating Requirements:

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

Paragliding:	Rules pending- Advanced(4)	No paragliding	USHGA Intermediate 3 or Advanced(4) ONLY

*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 authorized. The permit stays in the site log book and will EXPIRE with your USHGA membership if you let it lapse. The permit must be renewed annually.

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. If you are under 18 years old, you will need a signed waiver from a parent or legal guardian.

Site log locations are:

Mt Greylock/Mt Prospect : Bascom Lodge, atop Mt Greylock

Mt Holyoke : At the Gate on busy weekends, otherwise Maintenance office at the Half-way area or 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 top landings are permitted.**