

UPDRAFT

The Newsletter
of the
Massachusetts
Hang Gliding
Association

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Meeting Schedule:

Saturday, July 19,
1997

7:30 PM Gringo's
North Adams, MA

Saturday, Sept 13, 1997
Gringo's

Saturday, Oct 11, 1997
Gringo's

November TBD

Bricker's, Greenfield

Where to

Send Money:

MHGA

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01247

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Is Greylock an Intermediate Site ?

There has been more, and louder, discussion on why the Western Mass locals won't support Greylock as an Intermediate site. There seems to be equal push from both paragliding and hang gliding pilots, and it will surely keep coming up for a vote.

Justification for making it an intermediate site is mostly based on other high New England mountains being Intermediate sites, Ascutney being the most often noted. Greylock has a wide open launch, with a steep face, and large landing areas directly below. And it has a great safety record.

So what's the problem? There are a few.

First, Greylock *can* be flown by Intermediates - but they must be accompanied by an Observer, Examiner, or Advanced Instructor. There has been discussion about relaxing this criteria to just being accompanied by an Advanced pilot, but there is little or nothing that can be done to a rating if an Advance pilot misjudges the abilities of his or her Intermediate friend. Second, the launch is shallow, and requires proven launch skills and total control - no diving out of trouble from this launch!

Third, there are power lines and a road below launch - not great things to stumble into.

continued on back...

Meeting Notes

The May 17 meeting was held at Gringo's in North Adams. Eight members were present. We presently have 18 paid members, and \$1025.00 in the treasury.

Old Business: We shelved the "new logo" project.

Roundtable discussion on site conditions. Voted to buy more gravel for the Greylock launch. Need streamers at Skinner.

Work party needed in LZ below Mohawk launch.

New Business: Greylock Chal-

lenge kept as is - pay \$5 to participate, farthest flight from Greylock during year splits the pot with treasury.

Motion to update bylaws to closely describe the Club's mission and modes of operation. Droy to expand on idea. Club asked to participate in State Parks Bicentennial (1998). Motion to approach State with plan to make Greylock Hang3. Defeated. Agreed to recommend other PG rules to State. Nominations for offices - July

Site Status:

Greylock:

Advanced HG/PG site. 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.

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"Greylock - Intermediate" continued from page 1

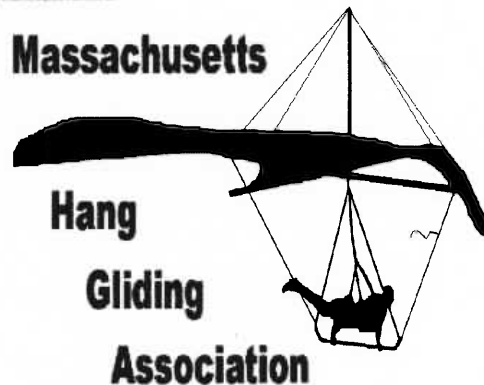
Fourth, there are usually 250+ spectators behind launch on a weekend. The launch is beside a scenic outlook and binocular stand, and 150 yards from the lodge on a drive-up mountain. *Everybody* watches the launches, and mingles with or distracts the pilots in the set-up area.

Fifth, the safety record is what keeps us in State Parks. Let's imagine worse case- a pilots gets an intermediate rating on Sunday, and heads for Greylock Monday afternoon.

We don't view this as a "Them vs. Us" issue, as some others have. Most MHGA pilots are also members of other NE clubs, and many out-of area pilots join as a gesture of mutual support. We don't require MHGA membership to fly "our" sites; we've managed these sites for the last 20+ years without concern for our treasury. Visiting pilots have always been welcome, and the Regionals a few years ago introduced many NE pilots to the area.

Some of the pressure for the lesser rating understandably comes from the PG pilots, because many of them are intermediates. MHGA club officers lobbied personally with the State to get paragliding into State Parks. Our efforts with the NEPC got intermediate PG pilots into Skinner, but there hasn't been enough flying there to use it as a test case for Greylock. After working with the State again, we are ready to introduce Advanced PG pilots to Greylock. This should be enough change for awhile. Let's see how things settle out before changing something else. Editor

Since 1975...



Proxy Nomination form

Only paid members have had this form and a stamped, addressed envelope included with their newsletter.

If you cannot attend the meeting on 19 July, you can still nominate yourself or someone else for an office. All 4 offices are up for re-election.

So what could be easier? Nominate the person of choice, put in in the envelope, mail it. That person will be contacted about acceptance and their name will appear on the Fall ballot. Ballots will be sent out with the next newsletter (and an envelope!) for voting at the September meeting.

I nominate _____ for (circle one)

President Vice-President Secretary Treasurer

I nominate _____ for (circle one)

President Vice-President Secretary Treasurer

Signed _____ date _____