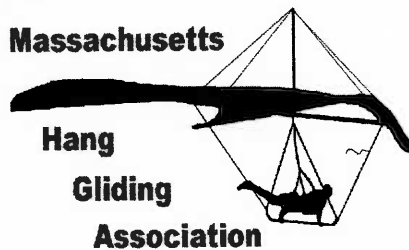


Massachusetts



Hang  
Gliding  
Association

# UPDRAFT

March 1999  
Volume 24, Issue 1

The Newsletter  
of the  
Massachusetts  
Hang Gliding  
Association

P.O. Box 1549  
North Adams MA 01247  
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802-694-1544  
Editor: Mark Droy  
275 East Hadley Road  
Amherst MA 01002

## Meeting Schedule:

Saturday,  
April 10, 1999  
7:00 PM  
Brickers  
Greenfield, MA

Send  
correspondence  
and dues to:  
MHGA  
PO Box 1549  
North Adams, MA  
01247

## Officers:

Brooks Ellison  
President  
802 694 1544

John Gavriel  
Vice-President  
978 453 5535

Gary Trudeau  
Treasurer  
413 743 0147

Mark Droy  
Secretary  
413 256 3487

## The 1999 Flying Season has Begun

### It's Time to fly...

Shake off that hibernation! It's time to fly again. The Trail was flown in some very smooth (but not too cold) air in late February. Even the latest storms can't seem to delay the inevitable great air of Spring.

But be careful out there. If you haven't flown since Fall, take a short flight or two off your favorite training hill, and give yourself and your wing a thorough pre-flight. Spring air is the rowdiest air we get, at a time when we are at our rustiest. Sure, flying is like riding a bicycle - and falling off a bicycle can hurt.

If you haven't done much exercise over the winter, start now. Tone muscles can help your joints take a lot more abuse- especially for those of us who don't have elastic tendons anymore. And if you can't carry 100 pounds of gear out to launch without being bed-ridden for the next 3 days, you'll miss an awful lot of flying.

Check your gear. Repack your chute. Break down your wing and inspect every component. If you don't feel confident about doing these, trust your instincts and bring it to someone who is an expert at these tasks.

We have a great safety record. Let's keep it up. The only broken records this year should be distance records!

### It's Time for a meeting...

The first meeting of MHGA will be on Saturday, April 10, 7:00 PM at Bricker's in Greenfield. Brickers is just west of the Rt91 / Rt 2W rotary. After exiting the rotary on Rt 2 West, take the first right at the lights (about 100 yards from the rotary; before the Texaco Gas station) and you'll see the sign.

The first meeting is always the most productive. We'll set dates for the remaining meetings, nominate officers, and finalize the new bylaws. See you there!

## Site Info

### Greylock:

*Advanced* HG/PG site. Sign in with the Bascom Lodge Staff before flying. Be familiar with State rules. Landing area is the radio-controlled airplane field off of Route 8. Needs some work on launch.

### Prospect:

*Advanced* HG only. Sign in with the Bascom Lodge Staff before flying. Be familiar with State rules. Land by airport or over the back at RC field. Work party pending for some brush-cutting. Not launchable in calm air.

### 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. Be familiar with State rules. Land in large hay field across Rt47 west of launch. Needs some trees topped under launch.

### Mohawk Trail:

*Advanced* HG Site. Hang 3 with sign-offs. Route 2, North Adams. Launch is north of towers above hairpin turn. Usual LZ is the RC field on Route 8. Bailout is Cirrus Corp field in front of launch.

### Petersburg Pass:

*Advanced* HG/*Novice*PG site. Has about a 8:1 glide out to the HG landing area, can get tight on a dead glide with headwind. PG can land in parking lot or small clearing below launch. 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, and it's better if you land in the back fields after the crops are in.

### Common Courtesy:

Be respectful of landowner's property. Avoid landing in crops or trampling hay. Break down off the field. Remember that we are guests - sometimes uninvited guests - and that first impressions last a long time. You represent the sport. Be smart.

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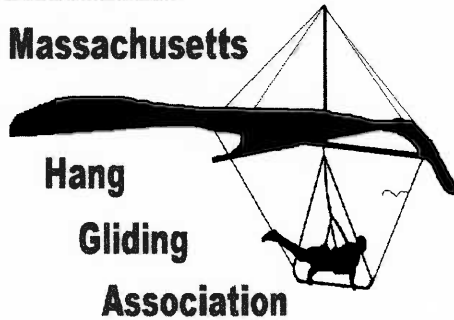
**Massachusetts Hang Gliding Association**

**PO Box 1549  
North Adams MA 01247**

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Since 1975...

**Massachusetts**



**Hang  
Gliding  
Association**

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UPDRAFT

**Next Meeting:  
Saturday, April 10, 1999, 7:00 PM  
Bricker's, Greenfield**

**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)*
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Paragliding:	USHGA Advanced (Para 4) or Sponsored USHGA Intermediate (3)*	No paragliding	USHGA Intermediate (Para 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** :  
Maintenance

At the Hotel on busy weekends, but check office at the Half-way area first.

*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.**

## Contact Information and State Regulations

### Phone numbers:

### EMERGENCY:

### Information:

#### Hang Gliding:

*Massachusetts Hang Gliding Association*

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

Brooks Ellison

John Gavriel

Mark Droy

Dan Jester

### Paragliding:

*New England Paragliding Club*

PO Box 390384 Cambridge, MA 02139

Doug Sharpe

### Other Info:

Skinner State Park - General Information	413-586-0350
Greylock - Rockwell Visitor's Center	413-499-4263

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### The Current State Regulations:

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.

