

WINGS OF ROGALLO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
HANG GLIDING ASSOCIATION INC.
P.O. BOX 361885 MILPITAS, CA 95036-1885

MISSION RIDGE SITE PROCEDURES
AND PILOT REQUIREMENTS

The following rules and procedures are intended to preserve the flying site by minimizing our impact on the park environment, and are mandated by our special use agreement with the East Bay Regional Park District.

We were granted permission to drive vehicles in the preserve after many long hours of negotiations, and only because the weight of hang gliding equipment would otherwise prohibit our use of the park.

SITE PROCEDURES

1. Site Operation

The Wings of Rogallo Northern California Hang Gliding Association Inc. (WOR) is licensed by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) through a revocable Special Use Agreement (SUA) to administer hang gliding and paragliding activities within the Mission Peak Regional Preserve. This is a limited access flying site. **VEHICULAR ACCESS IS A PRIVILEGE.**

2. Keyholders

Fifty five (55) lock box keys are allocated to WOR members who are frequent users of Mission Peak Regional Preserve. The lock box contains ten (10) non-duplicable gate keys for accessing the preserve. Keyholders are required to have four-wheel drive vehicles capable of safely carrying pilots and their equipment to launch. Hang glider pilots must have racks that can safely carry a minimum of four hang gliders. Paraglider pilots must have racks that can safely carry a minimum of three hang gliders. All racks must be in good working order at the time of sign in. Keyholders must carry adequate fire abatement equipment and maintain current vehicle liability insurance with minimum coverage of \$500,000.00 per incident. It is the keyholder's responsibility to oversee and take reasonable corrective actions at the site, as well as report any violations, accidents, or other problems to club officers or, in more urgent situations, to EBRPD rangers or park police. Keyholders are responsible for ensuring that all those accompanying them are properly rated and adhere to the site procedures. Keyholders are expected to contribute to site maintenance through attendance at work parties or through administrative duties. Keyholders are expected to brief all pilots regarding proper behavior while within the park.

3. Site Limitations

There can be a maximum of twenty-five (25) hang gliders and paragliders set up in the launch area, or forty-five (45) total on site at any one time. Signs in English, German, and French are posted at the lock box and on launch, explaining that Mission Ridge is a highly regulated site and flying is NOT permitted unless the pilot is in total compliance with all site regulations.

4. Park Environment

Due to the fire hazard, **SMOKING IS PROHIBITED** in the park. Care must also be taken to avoid parking in any area where hot exhaust pipes could ignite dry grass. The parks department has informed us that whoever starts a fire will be liable for the cost of putting it out, as well as a fine. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE NOT ALLOWED** in the park. Outhouses are located in the parking lot at Stanford Avenue, and along the road just behind launch.

SITE PROCEDURES, CONTINUED

5. Access Road Operations and Gate Lock

Access to launch is through the back gate, via Mill Creek Road. VEHICLES ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE FRONT FIRE ROAD BETWEEN THE LANDING ZONE AND LAUNCH. Two locked gates control the access roads to the launch and landing areas. It is the keyholder's responsibility to ensure that these gates are properly locked at all times other than during actual vehicle passage, and that any problems securing the gates are immediately brought to the attention of park rangers. No vehicle shall use an access road if that road is determined to be damp. The "Damp Road Rule" is: If mud is picked up on the soles of your shoes at any time, on any section of the road, it will be considered damp, and unsuitable for passage. It is the keyholders responsibility to determine the condition of the road surface by walking on it. This damp road test is required to prevent damage to the road, avoid vehicle accidents, and by EBRPD mandate. While graveled sections of the road may pass the damp road test, the road must not be used if ruts will be created by the vehicle passage.

6. Vehicle Operations, Parking and Limitations.

No more than twenty (20) WOR vehicles are permitted to park in the staging area at the terminus of Stanford Avenue at any one time. Members are encouraged to car-pool to the site to prevent parking problems. Access to the landing area is through the front gate at Stanford Ave.

The total number of vehicle trips to launch will be limited to nineteen (19) per day. The total number of licensed vehicles inside the preserve shall not exceed ten (10) at any one time. No more than eight (8) vehicles are allowed in the launch area at any one time. Upon the arrival of the ninth vehicle on launch, the first vehicle on site must be driven down immediately. Drivers shall observe the posted speed limits while on Mill Creek Road, and the use of headlights is recommended. The speed limit inside the preserve is 5 miles per hour, and four-wheel-drive units must be engaged. Caution must be used while in transit on the access roads to minimize dust, and vehicles must stop for hikers, bikers, horse riders, and cattle, as they all have the right-of-way. All vehicles on launch MUST be driven down if rain is imminent to avoid violating the damp road rule. Vehicles must not be left on launch overnight. Vehicles are not permitted off the designated access roads or beyond the launch or landing areas. Vehicles are allowed in the landing area for the loading of gear for transport out of the park, and shall not be parked for long periods or left unattended. Vehicles should be removed from the park as soon as loading/unloading is complete, and no later than 1/2 hour after sunset. Keyholders are responsible for their vehicles, and the actions of their driver. All drivers must possess a valid driver's license. Drivers shall be briefed on vehicle operations and park regulations prior to entering the preserve. Only WOR members or their immediate family may drive a vehicle within the park. Members are not to solicit passersby, or otherwise have strangers drive their vehicle anywhere within the Mission Ridge park preserve. No spectators, or persons not actively involved in flights or preparation thereof shall be allowed at the launch site.

SITE PROCEDURES, CONTINUED

7. Violations

All Mission Ridge pilots are responsible for ensuring that site procedures are followed. Pilots who violate these procedures, or knowingly allow them to be violated, may have their key/flying privileges suspended or revoked. An appeals procedure is available by which the accused can state their case in a written statement to the site committee chairman. In analysis, the site committee's decision is final. Ignorance of the stated rules is not a valid defense. Violations of park rules can also result in fines imposed by the park police.

9. Flight Environment

Mission Peak Regional Preserve is overlaid by Class-E airspace with a floor of 700' AGL. This airspace continues south, roughly to the north most tower site, and then runs to the west. Pilots must remain clear of clouds when below 700' AGL and observe flight visibility and cloud clearance requirements when above 700' AGL (FAR 103.23). San Francisco International Airport Class-B airspace, extending from 6,000' MSL up to 8,000' MSL, runs from about the north most tower site to the south and west. The area west of Highway 680 is under San Jose International Airport Class-C airspace, extending from 1,500' MSL up to 4,000' MSL between Mission Blvd. and HWY. 237, and from the surface up to 4,000' MSL from HWY. 237 South. Please locate these areas on the San Francisco aeronautical chart, and avoid them under penalty of Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR 103.17). Pilots shall not fly over any congested area (FAR 103.15), or low over any individual house. There is a high density of air traffic around Mission Ridge, especially north and west of the launch and landing areas. Be aware that general aviation aircraft transiting between San Jose and destinations east often use the "Sunol Gap" (just north of Ridge) to avoid low ceilings or to avoid the complexities of the air traffic system in place over the valley proper. Helmets and emergency parachutes are required for all flight activities. Pilots shall not use the site for testing experimental designs. Powered ultralights are not permitted to take off or land at the site. "Buzzing" or diving at hikers is prohibited. Please do not monopolize the ridge, especially in marginal conditions: consider landing or flying to another area to allow other pilots the opportunity to fly. Right-of-way rules, safety, and common courtesy apply for all pilots.

10. Regulation Changes

These regulations are subject to change without notice. The site committee will make every effort to notify pilots of upcoming rules changes. All Mission Ridge pilots are responsible for keeping up to date with the rules. Notices in the Flight Line Newsletter or verbal instructions from the site committee or executive board members supersede these formal rules until amended or rescinded.

11. Accidents and Emergencies

In case of EMERGENCY, for fire, ambulance, police, or ranger dispatch, call **510-881-1833**. 911 will also work, but may take longer. If any helicopter approaches the area and sounds its siren, all gliders must **immediately** leave the area or land. Any injury accidents shall be reported immediately to the Mission Ridge Site Committee Chairman who must notify the EBRPD within 24 hours.

PILOT REQUIREMENTS

1. Pilot Registration Requirements

All pilots must read the site procedures prior to their first trip to launch. Pilots must legibly sign the registration logbook contained in the lock box prior to each days flying. Walk-up pilots must sign in and out with the color and type of their glider noted in the special walk-up sign-in log. All pilots signing in must enter the park with the intent to fly. Signing in at the lock box for the purpose of increasing number of uses of the site for the yearly audit is prohibited. The combination to the lockbox is 1920.

2. U.S. Hang Gliding Association Membership

All pilots and tandem students must be current members of the USHPA, and have a valid USHPA membership card in their possession. All hang glider pilots must have a minimum of an Advanced (H-4) USHPA rating or foreign equivalent. All paraglider pilots must have a minimum of an Advanced (P-4) USHPA rating or foreign equivalent. Tandem pilots must have the appropriate Tandem rating for their level of student.

3. Helmet Sticker Identification

All pilots must have and display a silver colored Wings of Rogallo Mission/Diablo identification sticker attached to their helmet while flying at the site.

In addition to the Wings of Rogallo Mission/Diablo identification sticker:

- WOR member pilots must have a current WOR membership sticker attached to their helmet while flying at the site.
- Visiting pilots (those intending to fly the site no more than two days a year) must have a WOR Visiting Pilot sticker attached to their helmet while flying at the site.

Visiting Pilot stickers are available in the parking lot lock box for distribution by site committee members. The Wings of Rogallo Mission/Diablo identification sticker are available in the parking lot lock box for distribution by site committee members, from Mission Soaring Center in Milpitas, CA. phone 408-262-1055; or by mail from the Wings of Rogallo, P.O. Box 361885, Milpitas, CA, 95036-1885.

Pilots flying the site more than two days per year are required to join the Wings of Rogallo Hang Gliding/Paragliding club.

4. Mission Ridge Site Committee members

Current site committee members are; Julie Spiegler, Evan Cohen, Bob Posey, Jim Bowe, Paul Clayton, Karl Allmendinger, Roy Spencer (Chair). Site Committee Chairman contact info; Email to Missionchair@wingsofrogallo.org.

Note; Rack requirements for paragliders in Section 1 of Site Procedures was revised at WOR meeting on 2/19/2002.

Note; Pilot requirements for Flying the East Side of Mission Ridge was passed at WOR meeting on 12/16/2003.

Note; Number of Keyholders, number of vehicles in park and on launch, and East Side requirements revised in conjunction with new EBRPD Special Use Agreement signed in June, 2005.

Note; "Foreign Equivalent" and "Fifty five (55) lock box keys are allocated to WOR members who are frequent users of Mission Peak Regional Preserve." Added 02/28/2006.

Note: East-side launch removed and new site committee in 11/20/2017.