



FLIGHTLINE



The publication of the Wings Of Rogallo Northern California Hang Gliding Association
Volume-126, Number 8 : Aug 2008



Instead of saying "A little bird told me", now you can specify who told ya: A California horned lark! This intrepid, slightly larger-than-a-sparrow ground dweller occupies the ground (and air) on and around Mission launch, especially in spring. They're the little guys running circles around your aircraft as you gear up. They have a sustained, high-pitch call, and two small black "horns". Special thanks to EBRPD's Doc Quack, who "on a lark" -- ID'd the diminutive *Eremophila alpestris* via a Mike K. photo

Index:

1. [Front Page](#)
2. [March 008 Meeting Minutes](#)
3. [June 008 Meeting Minutes](#)
4. [Reno/Carson FlyIn](#)
5. [Back Page](#)

Summer Flying Rumors and Stuff

July 19&20 Jug's NorCalXC_League@PotatoHill.aero
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SFBAPAXC>
 Sept 14 Very-Boring Fly-In ???

WOR Officers

President

Wayne Michelsen 650-386-5100
president@wingsofrogallo.org

Vice President

Lynn McLaughlin 818-421-3251
vicepres@wingsofrogallo.org

Treasurer

Don Herrick 408-718-6527
treasurer@wingsofrogallo.org

Membership Services

Eric Carlson 925-998-9690
memberservices@wingsofrogallo.org
echookedin@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Paul Clayton 408-399-5348
secretary@wingsofrogallo.org

Flight Director

Pat Denevan 408-262-1055
flightdirector@wingsofrogallo.org

HG Observer Coordinator

Stan Bohem 408-946-7328

PG Observer Coordinators

Tim Kuenster 650-938-7328

Editor

Colin Perry 650-279-2397
GoodLookingRichGuy@hotmail.com

Mt. Diablo Weather Robot
925-838-9225

Ed Levin Weather Robot
408-946-9516

Ed Levin Road Conditions
408-355-2200 - x7 - x6

WOR Business

PO Box 361885
Milpitas, CA 95036
<http://www.wingsofrogallo.org>
WOR Member Database
<http://wingsofrogallo.org/memberdb>

May 008 WOR Meeting Minutes

New Members/Guests

Paul Montville and Lisa Tate from USHPA.

Daniel Barca and Belle Kowen: first meeting.

Ashley Pittman

Entertainment

Lisa and Paul presented a summary of the USHPA strategic and marketing plans. Highlights included:

Internal Marketing, including the Mentoring Program, Chapter Support, Director Training, Improved Communication, Instruction Program, and Safety Awareness Program. The Instruction Program includes a insurance policy for instructors and information on scooter towing. USHPA also has a site preservation initiative and Lisa noted that the National Park Service has a blanket ban on foot launched flight based on having classified it with power sports.

External Marketing Initiative, including reducing pilot attrition, bringing in new pilots. A member survey revealed that the average member was 47 years old, while the average new pilot was 43, and 40% of new pilots started after seeing someone else fly. USHPA plans to select a PR firm to publicize the sport and attract corporate sponsors.

Great Flights

Ben Dunn flew at a competition in Arizona. The competitors flew 6 days out of 7 and got some big flights.

Lee Gardner ran the Marina Wind

Festival, including a ridge race. This was the first such event at Marina in 19 years. Competitors flew both days and a good time was had by all.

Eric Froelich broke the 1 minute barrier speed gliding at the Lake McClure Coyote Howl.

Eric also organized a trip to the Owens Valley. Conditions were challenging but Bruce Bousfield and Wayne Michelson and Gerry Pesavento all broke 100 miles.

Steve Rodrigues did a video for Brocade and took Good Morning America anchorman Bill Weir for a tandem flight at Funston.

Eric Carlson got a 2 hour flight at Waddell on Mother's Day.

President's Report: Wayne Michelson

There have been 3 WOR events so far this year. Thanks to Carmela for organizing the picnic and fly-in at Ed Levin.

Vice President's Report: Lynn McGlaughlin

Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Don Herrick

Income is exceeding expenses due to renewals coming in. Some large expenses for sites are due soon.

Membership Services: Eric Carlson

It's been a lot of work, but Eric is caught up on the backlog. Please update your personal info on line; this saves the Member Services

Coordinator a lot of time. << >>
(see bottom left line of this page for member-db url)
Also, please write legibly if submitting paperwork in hardcopy.

Flight Director's Report: Pat Denevan.

Steve Reed videotaped the tree incident at Ed Levin during the WOR picnic and has put it on You-Tube. Apparently the pilot stalled. Keep feet together and shift your whole body as a unit to get better roll control.

Ed Levin Report: Steve Pittman

Steve has obtained a price quote of \$6500 for grading of the launch road. Wayne Michelson has contacted the Parks Dept about sharing the cost. The grading may be done in September. Some of the gates need work.

Mission Peak Report: Roy Spencer

Nothing much to report.

Mt. Diablo Report: Robert Moore

There have been some good flights this spring. Kevin Dutt flew to the central valley.

Coyote Lake: Lee Gardner

There was a test flying day 2 weeks ago. 5 more are planned for this year.

Goat/Wildass: Wayne Michelson

Goat is currently closed to vehicles. It is BLM land and a letter writing campaign is planned to try to get it open again. Wayne requested that other clubs support the effort.

....meeting minutes continued....

Don Herrick proposed that a topic be placed on the bulletin board to publicize the effort.

Old Business

The X-C contest is underway; Bruce Bousfield is leading. 1450 miles have been reported so far this year. The club windtalkers are still working.

New Business

Steve Rodrigues reported that he is planning to order carabiners that are designed so they don't get hung up on the hang strap when unhooking. They are available in carbon steel or stainless.

Pat Denevan reported Mission Soaring will hold a launch and landing clinic on June 29th and an instructor training clinic in July.

Steve Rodrigues reported that Tandem 1 and Tandem 2 pilots are permitted to fly tandems at Funston.

Al Norman won the raffle; the prize was old HG mags.

June 2008 Minutes

New Members/Guests: None

Great Flights

Chris Valley flew 6 consecutive days at Ed Levin and Funston.

Pat Denevan flew Funston with his son on Father's Day.

President's Report : Wayne Michelson

The summer solstice is here. VP Lynn McGlaughlin is working on a volunteer appreciation program.

Vice President's Report : None

Treasurer's Report : Don Herrick

Expenses are exceeding income; balances are stable.

Membership Services : None

Flight Director's Report : Pat Denevan.

No incidents to report, although Stan Boehm saw a rattlesnake at Ed Levin.

Ed Levin Site : Steve Pittman

Site procedure changes are noted on the WOR bulletin board. The new waiver form is on the WOR website and hardcopies are in the lockbox at Ed Levin. The waiver has been simplified; there are fewer places that require initials. Most information can be typed into the softcopy. Grading of the access road may be done in September.

Mission Peak : Roy Spencer

On several occasions, gate keys have not been returned to the lockbox at the end of the day. When e-mailing Roy, please use a subject more specific than "Mission". Roy has been trying to contact Nick Mora, who has a key.

Barriers on Mill Creek Road marked "residents only" don't apply to keyholder vehicles.

Mt. Diablo : No new is good news

Coyote Lake : Gene Pfifer

Test flights were flown last Saturday. There were 2 soaring flights. Coyote may have had better conditions than some other sites that day. A GPS trace of one flight has been posted on the WOR website.

There is a suit related to the parcel tax and funds for a bridge across the creek on the way to launch. A ruling on the suit is expected soon.

Goat/Wildass : Wayne Michelson

The ceiling in the area has been high, but not much flying has been done lately.

Old Business : None.

New Business

Pat Denevan announced an instructor clinic July 12th -14th and reported on the San Ramon Wind Festival, where Pat did bungee launches. Frequently asked questions about the WOR observer program will be added to the WOR website.

A motion was approved to have entertainment at the beginning of the meeting rather than at the end. <=>

Future entertainment is to start at the 7:30 start of meeting.

Prizes were raffled, some good looking rich guy won once again.

Entertainment was Chris Valley's site intro to Lake McClure.

END OF MEETING MINUTES

Editor's Rant

Hi Kids, hope y'all is gettin ya sum! I could be gettin some meself, but do I look like the type to kiss & tell? Some central coast cliffs are rumored to no longer be virgins.

BTW: All you XC go-for-it types will be sad to know that some red-neck good-ole-boy in Idaho just got a longer flight in his helium-ballon lawn chair than you likely ever will. Damn-near 300 miles, then greeted with a cold beer by the folks where he landed.

In other news, Johns Hopkins psychopharmacology dudes have concluded that ingesting magic mushrooms whilst flying your lawn chair really can help you feel closer to GOD, especially if you get really-freekin high. Don't believe me, check it out yourself at http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/Press_releases/2006/07_11_06.html

At next weeks' WOR club meeting, I will propose the first annual "Very Boring FlyIn" open for all BayArea pilots at Funston/Pacifica Dumps on Sunday Sept 14, 2008. Since previous FlyIns have included not-very -boring events like reserve-chute-deploys and tree-landings, I figured that very-boring would be a welcome change. The FlyIn task will be (in the immortal words of Nick Kennedy) to "Drone around the sky and try to stay alive". All pilots who successfully complete the assigned task would be treated to a BBQ and keg at the dumps at the end of the day. All who might wanna party, please show up and vote YES!

Reno/Carson Fly In

By Ben & Gerry

Monday, April 7, 2008

<http://westcoastbrit.blogspot.com/2008/04/renocarson-fly-in.html>

This was the first meet of the year, an informal way to get a bunch of pilots together. The weather forecast was a little dubious but light winds were forecast for Saturday. Gerry and I stayed at Bruce's new house in Reno which is very nice. It was pretty cold out that night, a few degrees below freezing.

The wind was pretty strong from the west in the Washoe valley, so slide was out and McClellan was still snowed in. So we headed to a locals site, a 700ft high ridge south east of Carson.

Bill, Alex and Zippy had got channel 2 TV news interested and they showed up on the hill.

<http://www.ktvn.com/> has a clip called Hang gliders take off in Minden. I was on TV!!!

I love the exaduration, 100's of miles (well 60), many pilots flew to Fallon

I launched first and got buffeted around a bit. I was thinking it was only going to get worse and figured I'd hold on for 20 minutes. Glad I did, after 10 minutes it smoothed out and the lift turned on. Really on I got some climbs at 1200ft/min. Pretty soon I was at 11.5k and a couple of pilots headed NW towards hiway 95.

There was pretty strong sink between thermals so I was flying pretty fast ~50mph and a groundspeed of 70mph. Towards the end of the flight around Silversprings Bruce caught up to me, while I was waiting for Gerry. We lucked into some really boaty air and stopped to take more pictures. We both just followed a convergence cloud straight across the middle of the lake at about 11k. My camelback froze.

Fallon was the next goal, and it seemed we had it on glide. The air was still very bouyant and so more pictures. Fallon has a large Naval Airforce Base, it important to stay out of the airspace around it.

Our Goal was to be the Municiple airport. We could have gone farther but hadn't planned for a driver so we landed there for 60 miles. Not quite sure how I came 2nd and Bruce came first, but since it was all for fun (and an evil knivel dvd) I only drunkly protested a little. There were cold drinks and snacks in fridge there. Sweet. Bruce landing on the asphalt, and necessarily nailing the flare. Wayne came to the rescue and retrieved us. Thanks Wayne !! Gerry landed just a few miles back near Silver springs. Later on we BBQ'd in the freezing cold and warmed up around the camp fire. Washoe is one of my favourite campsites, it's peaceful and has an awesome moring view.

Gerry

The locals in Reno put on a great fly-in, with a BBQ Saturday night and breakfast Sunday morning. Thanks Alex, Bill, etc!!!

The weekend looked like it would have strong winds, with big lenticular clouds in the morning. McClellan was snowed in, and with strong West winds, the locals decided on Hot Springs, a 700' ridge on the south-east side of Carsen. Over 20 gliders set up in the sage brush. At this moment, I was thinking maybe I'll get in some bumpy ridge soaring. I was wrong. A Falcon, and a wave cloud. Hmmm.

Ben launching. About 15 minutes later the sky turned on; the wind decreased and cumulus clouds started popping, and the sky was perfect. ErikB climbed to 11K anouncing that he could see Lake Tahoe. Everyone flies and does well.

The hill looks flat, after climbing 5,500' above it. I'm happy to be flying a new site - it's an adventure. I'm with Bruce at 11K and we leave together on XC.

For the first 15 miles we work light lift to be sure to reach the valley. From there it was stress free, as landings were everywhere. The winds on the ground are <10, and we were cloud hopping.

<< >>

Bruce heads for the valley and catches BenD, and I go further in the mountains and eventually climb past 12,000. The view was spectacular.

I fly 50 miles and land in sand and sagebrush; I love Nevada. I couldn't catch BenD and Bruce, who fly 60 miles to Fallon airport, and could have gone further.

Sunday looks windy, so after breakfast in the LZ and some kite flying, we head back to the Bay Area.

Wings of Rogallo
P.O. Box 361885
Milpitas, CA 95036-1885

≤

Wings of Rogallo FLIGHT LINE

VOL. 126 NO. 8 Aug 2008



To: