



FLIGHTLINE



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The Ladies of Lookout

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Fall Flying Rumors and Stuff

McClure Oktoberfest 11-12 Oct

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Aug 2008 WOR Meeting Minutes

Entertainment

Karl Allmandinger presented some tuning tips for the Moyes Litespeed and other high performance hang gliders.

New Members/Guests

Adrian DeLisser attended his first meeting in a long time.

Great Flights

Paul Clayton flew 107 miles from Walt's to Basalt. Don Burns flew about 95 miles, landing north of Benton from Walt's. Steve Inwards flew to Luning from Paiute, about 70 miles. Rick Devlin flew to Bishop from Walt's.

Lee Gardner flew Marina.

Eric Froelich flew Funston on his Phantom and landed at Westlake, landing on the beach without the flaps deployed. Due to a broken downtube, it took 5 minutes to crawl out from under the glider. Eric was worried about getting dragged into the water, but finally got the glider out of harm's way. Some paraglider pilots gave him a ride back to Funston.

Thanks to Gary Princeau, Charlie and Mark for their help in retrieving the glider. Eric said it was his worst flying experience ever, and later flew there on his Laminar. Had a much better time.

President: Wayne Michelson is at the Nationals in Lakeview OR and could not attend. Paul Clayton presided at the meeting.

VP: Lynn McLaughlin is on vacation in Colorado.

Treasurer: Don Herrick by E-mail

Don is sick and couldn't be at the meeting, but club balances are stable.

Flight Director: Pat Denevan

A HG pilot blew a launch at the tower launch at Ed Levin. The same pilot has blown that launch before. Pat recommends using a wire assist to avoid a premature launch. HG pilots should consider launching from the spot that the PG pilots use, further back on the hill.

Membership Services: None

Eric Carlson was not present. Phyl Hamby may volunteer to help.

Ed Levin: Various

The Parks Dept is planning to survey the road. It is hoped that work can be done on the road after the first rain.

Mission Ridge: Roy Spencer

A work party is planned for sometime in September to clear the east side launch. Volunteers are needed, especially pilots who use the launch.

Mount Diablo: None

Coyote Lake: Jim Woodward

The site is now open! Details of flying protocols and site procedures need to be worked out. It has taken since 2001 to get to this milestone.

A site committee was appointed, to include Jim Woodward, Lee Gardner and Gene Pfifer.

Don Herrick will be asked to create a budget for maintenance of the Coyote Lake site.

Goat /Wild Ass: Various
Goat is closed until October.

Old Business: None

New Business:

New cones are needed for Ed Levin. Phyl Hamby volunteered to buy new cones.

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The windsock at Ed Levin needs to be replaced.

Roy Spencer asked if anyone has tried XC sky, which costs \$5/month or \$30/year.

Pat Denevan is looking for someone to work at Mission Soaring.

End of Meeting Minutes

Sept WOR Minutes

New Members/Guests

Andrew Weiss, is taking lessons and working on his H1 rating.

Kurt Bohan, from a public access TV station. Kurt wants to put hang gliding on TV.

Great Flights

Alan Deikman scratched up from 50' below the ridge at Funston.

Steve Rodrigues and Eric Froelich flew Hough in a NE wind and looked down at Crystal Lake.

Adrian DeLisser got to 14000 at Slide.

The Bobbleheads won the team category at King Mt, Idaho.

Wayne Michelson flew in the National Meet at Lakeview, OR. He flew from Sugar hill to Black Mountain following a cloud street. He also broke a downtube and dislocated his shoulder landing in a meadow while flying a task from Black.

President: Nothing to report.

Vice Pres: Lynn McLaughlin

Lynn is planning a volunteer appreciation program. Volunteers are to be recognized at the meetings.

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2008 Lake McClure Oktoberfest

October 11 & 12, 2008.

Do you need some thermals and good HG pilot company? Early October is normally great flying at Lake McClure.

It will be that time soon at the Mother Lode Sky Rider's annual Oktoberfest Hang Gliding event.

As always, visiting HG pilots are most welcomed at the "Fest". The popular Speed Gliding event will be held both days at 9 am. The cross country competition and spot landing contest begin around noon depending on conditions. Or participate in the event by flying for fun.

A mere \$30 donation will allow entry to the competition, food and drinks, and provide MLSR with important fundraising.

Directions: Take State Highway 132 east towards Coulterville. Go about 1/2 mile past the turnoff to Horseshoe Bend Recreation Area and look for the Landing Zone gate to your right. If you end up in Historic Coulterville, do not despair. Buy beer and drive back down to the west a couple miles and look for the LZ near the lake. The gate to the LZ should be accessible for the weekend. Pilots normally meet in the LZ, load up onto a 4WD and head to the locked launch gate. Please don't hesitate to ask others (at the LZ) if you need a ride to launch or offer a ride if you have the room.

Other Notables:

Coulterville: The nearby town of Coulterville has a good restaurant and bar near the historic Hotel Jeffery. There should be rooms still available for these dates 209-878-3471.

Camping. There will no doubt be outbreaks of pilot camping complete with TIWTIWGTD stories around the camp fire this year at the Horseshoe Bend Campgrounds.

Some love the "no lights" camping areas of Horseshoe Bend Recreation Area Campground which have the feel of being in a remote area. T-shirts (including those donated by Chris V.) will be available for \$20.

See you at Lake McClure on October 11 & 12!

....sept minutes continued...

Treasurer: Don Herrick

Dues income for 2008 is tailing off. Starting in October new members will be required to pay a full year dues.

The WOR P.O. box mail was being returned due to an error at the post office. If you know of undelivered mail, contact Don.

Club balances are stable.

Flight Director: Pat Denevan

There have been 3 fatalities recently in the US. 2 were due to crashes on landing at Sylmar. There was another in Arizona that was caused by failure to hook in. Pat recommends a hook in check just prior to launching. Lift the glider and feel the straps. Pat also attended the memorial for Rob Kells, who recently died of cancer. Mitch McAleer came down under canopy after a blown aerobatic maneuver during the gathering.

Membership Services: None

Ed Levin: Wayne Michelson

The road is to be worked on this fall. Wayne has been discussing the road situation with the Parks Dept.

Mission Ridge: Roy Spencer

It's been awesome.

Mount Diablo: Mark Grubbs

Nothing to report.

Coyote Lake: Lee Gardner

Lee has been working with Gene Pfifer and the county on the site procedures.

Goat /Wild Ass: Wayne Michelson

Goat is expected be open next month.

Old Business:

Wayne displayed club logos. Arrangements are being made to allow garments to be embroidered locally at Sunset Embroidery. Information about logos will be placed on the WOR website.

New Business:

Don Herrick noted that the WOR finance year is October to September. There were about 300 paid members this year. A motion was approved to set

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dues for 2009 at \$30 for a full year or \$15 for a half year. Don also proposed physical keys be used to access to the gates at Ed Levin. He plans to assemble a committee to study the idea.

End of Meeting Minutes

Editor's Turn

Hi Kids!

Hope y'all liked last months' quasi-annual October swimsuit issue (FL1008). I sure had fun shooting the photos at exotic tropical locations with all the major HG and PG babes. I heard that some of y'all had that issue blocked by their ISP, all I can say is "too bloody bad".

This month features not one but TWO, yes TWO feature stories from a couple of my bestest buddies. Hope y'all enjoy this alternative entertainment, a tad bit more raw than your standard glossy national mag fare, more like the "Thrasher" style I'd say.

Sorry to say, but I have missed out on some of the recent good stuff thats been blowing thru, as entropy has been at work on my feet and shoulder. I got at least a few more weeks of physical therapy before I'm once again well enough to go back at it again, so if anyone has any good flights PLEASE don't send me any good stories about them.

EstrogenFest continued...

some beer left in the keg. Around 1:30 ET I tried to go to bed. Unfortunate for me, I did not sleep well so on Friday, I could not think about flying. The flying was not what was forecast. The forecast was for strong winds early but it was not until late in the day it did get a little stronger. The focus was on safe flying they had called for certain rating during the day and by the end it was H4 conditions only. With cobwebs in the brain the decision not to fly was easy. Let the swilling begin!

On Saturday after having a very good night sleep I was ready to fly. The forecast was once again not what was forecast. Early morning cloud cover to sun in the afternoon. I arrived early on launch 11am ET to play the game. I needed to show that yes I can fly and then go back up when the conditions improve to fly a double surface. The best laid out plans never work. I had to wait for a SS glider. My patience was rewarded beyond my hopes. The cloud cover was not breaking up and pilots were in for sled runs. Once I got my glider setup a Falcon 2 195 the sun was trying to poke through. I launched and immediately found a thermal. My plan to fly out went up in the air (pun intended).

As I hit a pocket of lift I started to turn and turn and I turned some more. I am thinking that I am not supposed to be doing this as I am now over launch. I looked down on launch there are tons of pilots on launch looking up. I can hear crowd cheering on launch I am thinking there is nobody else here hey they are cheering for me WOW! So I let out a BIG howler back. That just MADE MY DAY! I topped that out about 800ft over launch. I was in a slow sink so I headed towards the LZ. I started to play around doing little wangs. As I worked my way down I saw some birds climbing. Back to search mode plus someone was burning something at the end of the field. I climbed up from about 400ft over the LZ almost back to launch level. I just could not have had a better time. I then worked my way back down for a not a great landing and 60ft from the spot. Damn it on falcon. The crowd was still cheering as I got so many congrats for some good

flying. I certainly did not need a second flight and nobody else got up or was getting up. Let the swilling begin!

For Sunday who cared about the forecast. It is what it is but since on Saturday after proving myself airworthy I was given a Sport 2 155 to fly. It was a fun glider but the control bar killed my wrists. Flying was awesome it was not too crowded since alot of pilots headed out for the Tennessee Team challenge a few hours away to the famous Henson Gap site. Pilots were foot launching and aero towing. It was hard to keep track of how many pilots were in the air. Thermals were somewhat friendly a little rough at times but nothing we do not encounter here. There were plenty of clouds to mark the lift. I even got cold when I got to about 4600ft. Cloudbase was around 5200ft. I got down to where it was a little warmer then worked back up to get cold again. Then I circled my way down since I had enough. I timed my landing to be in between the aerotows and had a WAY better landing. I was not trying to hit a spot in unfamiliar LZ on a not so unfamiliar glider (195 vs 225) so I was able to relax and fly the glider. Not that there is an excuse to almost drop the nose of a falcon but that is my excuse.

One of the HG.org members brought me two cooler full of beer. It was very tasty stuff. What more can you ask for?

Lookout is certainly a Mecca for newbies and advanced pilots a like they have an aerotow operation and a launch ramp. I might add it was a very intimidating looking ramp to launch off of. I just did not think about it and I just went. The locals said this is good so I went. I never made it over to the training hills but from what I hear they are really nice. The LZ is full of places to stay. I stayed at The Landing with a bed and a toilet plus microwave and satellite TV. The shower was at the bunk house. The bunk house is kinda like sleeping in a train with curtains separating the beds. I did not want that and stayed in my own private shed. There are bigger sheds that have their own showers. There are also other condos with full kitchen and at

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least two rooms. If you really want there are some motels in the town of Trenton not far from the LZ.

Friday and Saturday they had catered food and lots of dancing. Saturday they had a live band. In the background was a BIG fire. I got honourable mention for having the best flight on Saturday and coming from the longest distance from California. I got a nice bag of goodies that included a wind meter and an autograph book from Dennis -The Secret of Champion. There were pilots from all over from New York, Texas, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Florida and one guy from Seattle. I would say there were about 2 dozen females and about 50 men. Many newbies and veterans pilots - like Linda Salome, Claire Vasset, Judy Hildebrand, me (scaring isn t it?) and a few more that were local to the area.

I should also mention they had some cool clinics going on. Like Dennis Pagen, Mike Barber, Steve Pierson and Linda Salamone all on hand to have a Q&A session this was very informal but informative. Parachute clinic, aerotow clinic, L/L clinic, talk with Claire and a bird show with John Stroke. That was cool they had a vulture and a red tail fly directly over our heads.

Funny story about Dennis Pagen (at the time I did know it was him) He asked me if I would hold his helmet I gave him a hard time about it but gladly held his helmet with a "OH BOY I AM HELPING" smart ass comment. Then when he was on launch someone said that was him. I had a good laugh over that.

It was well worth the trip to say the least.

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