



FLIGHTLINE

The publication of the Wings of Rogallo
Volume 139, Number 2 February 2021



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January 2021 Meeting Minutes

Wings of Rogallo Meeting Notes

2021-1-19

No meeting occurred due to lack of discussion items

END

Images from the last Friday in January (Mike Vergalla)





Editorial February 2021

Wings of Rogallo has had an uneventful several weeks with very little change to report. A February free-flight newsletter for the Bay Area can be expected little news as it is the slowest season for such activities. The months of recent memory have been tumultuous, but a sentiment of calm has taken over the zeitgeist. Despite the local quiet, there is no shortage of news.

Winter flying in the Bay Area has been stellar. Snow has covered the peaks of the Diablo Range and rain has drenched the streets of Silicon Valley. The passing of each air-mass rings the alarm heeded by well layered Wings of Rogallo members. Several pilots flew epic conditions in the last week of January allowing flights such as Dan Zaslavsky's from the 300 foot hill to 3,300 feet and others to Mission Tuesday as well as Mike Vergalla's Reverse Golden Eagle tandem (Mission-Ed Levin-Mission) Friday along with Ed Levin to Stoneridge Mall in Pleasanton by Victor Berchet who was en-route at cloudbase by 11:00 AM and Mission to South of Alum Rock by Bob Posey and to Metcalfe Canyon South of South San Jose by Ismo Karali on a day with the most gorgeous cumulous clouds complete with dark flat bottoms strewn across the Diablo Range and peppered throughout the Bay. By 2:00 PM Friday, the peninsula biased clouds had over-developed dropping rain but not to dismay Ismo's landing at 2:25. The following two days (the last of the month) did not disappoint as Evan Cohen flew 20.13 km NE from Ed Levin, Jack Diaz flew 18.34 km North along the ridge and more XC was had by Greg Giacobelli, Dan Zaslavsky, Ben Wedlock, Ismo Karali and others from Ed Levin and Mission with Sunday being the lighter day and reports from both being that thermals were tight and strong.

Ed Levin has eased restrictions for instruction albeit with one less instructor. Citing a 50 fold cost increase of insurance over the last decade, one instructor has reached a

breaking point leading to resignation. As if the frequent shut-downs, stay-at-home-orders, masks and social distancing rules for COVID-19 mitigation were not pressure enough for instructors, insuring such a risky niche activity is a gargantuan challenge.

Though it is sure they try their best and it is an unenviable task, the RRRG's product leaves much to be desired. The resulting insurance policy and structure is detrimental to the growth of free-flight but help is on the way with new legendary free-flight leadership giants at USHPA. The possibility that these veterans of free-flight will make a positive impact on the governance of USHPA and the efficacy of the RRRG is palpable.

All politicking is local and more effective at the more local level. Wings of Rogallo showed stability in the same month that an insurrection/coup attempt failed at the federal level and the biggest players in Wall Street are being beat by their own game and taken to the cleaners by the small folks on Main Street. As far away as DC and Wall St. are, the clamor is easily heard in a quiet place.

COVID-19 may meet its end in 2021 as the federal government vows to administer 300 million double doses of the vaccine to US citizens by the end of Summer. If you are in the high risk category, you can already acquire the vaccine. The State of California has shifted the responsibility of determining stay at home orders back to counties in January with much of the Bay Area remaining in the most restrictive Purple Tier as determined by local intensive care units available being below 15%.

In conclusion, watch the margins. Incremental change over time can remove pivotal figures. Comfortable business as usual can be quickly and wildly upset by the smallest participants. Winter conditions are known to be marginal, but those who have braved the cold have shown there is magic in the shortest days.

Skydancer

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