



FLIGHTLINE

The publication of the Wings of Rogallo
Volume 139, Number 6 June 2021



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In Lieu of Meeting Minutes

Wings of Rogallo General Notes

2021-6-1

- Diablo LZ Reminder: Please note that Arbolado Park is not an “official” LZ and that pilots should land in the official LZ next to it in Lime Ridge, per Robert Moore.
- No meeting occurred due to lack of discussion items.

END

Editorial June 2021

Diverse free-flight is alive and well in the Bay Area and surrounding regions. Hang gliders and paragliders allowed their pilots to reach the heights and distances experienced by migratory birds. May was an awesome month for us and June is expected to offer better conditions yet.

Ed Levin has a renewed permit thanks to Spencer. Stables has a site intro team now. Susan has sponsored many P3 flights from Mission and is making pins to commemorate achievements for free-flight pilots at Ed Levin and Mission Peak.

The weather for May has been good for free-flight. The month's weather has varied in temperature quite wildly and ended with a sweltering heat wave as can be expected for a spring month in the Bay Area. The area is in the middle of a historic drought and super-soaring conditions have accompanied the dry and unstable air.

There were big days at many area sites this month. A quick review of xcontest.org shows if you were able to get your glider to a launch in May, then you had a decent chance of a long flight.

Early in the month, Evan went 195km from Mt. Vaca. That same day, pilots searched for the elusive soaring flight at Mt. Tamalpais and pilots found success at Woodrat. Chaeden went 118 km from Slide on 5/13.

Mid-month 5/16 was generally stellar everywhere even at Ed Levin. Mission was very good 5/22 and hard to get down yet gentle enough for the first timers. Diablo continued to impress with pilots going far on an explosive day 5/22. The air was so unstable that your editor spotted the tops of overdeveloped cumulous clouds far East of Diablo

from the vantage point of interstate 280. As so often happens to overdeveloped cumulous in California, they gently dissipated over the course of the day rather than releasing downpours as could be expected had they been in most regions of the US, though the higher elevation clouds present could have been the primary factor preventing gust fronts and downpours.

Hang gliders and paragliders broke personal and site records that day 5/22 going past Fresno, with Josh Cohn taking the record 274 km moments after Evan broke it with 254 km. The hang glider pilots had secured a retrieve before the flight, but the paraglider pilots didn't get home until 3am. If it wasn't for a super generous driver from Redwood City, Victor may have had to eat an injured owl and set up camp under canopy next to a canal and Evan would have had to hike miles to the nearest hotel in the dark. Tollhouse and Dunlap were consistently working particularly 5/23 at Dunlap and a week prior.

The last part of the month was unbelievably hot just about anywhere in California not on the coast. A bunch of hang glider pilots made personal bests at Slide 5/29 & 5/30 getting high af and posting shots of Lake Tahoe from their flights. A few other hang glider pilots flew Owens Valley the last two days of the month and yesterday pilots tried Mt Tamalpais again even with an LZ doubling as a popular respite from the heat on a gorgeous Memorial Day.

June is here and already indicating that weather instability is not over for the season. Just hours after the extreme heat, the air today is mild and pleasant. Join the fun with flyxc.app whether you are sharing your flying accomplishment or stuck at home rooting for those soaring.

Skydancer

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