



FLIGHTLINE

The publication of the Wings of Rogallo
Volume 140, Number 2 February 2022



Index:

- 1 Cover (Henrik shares view of first paraglider to launch yesterday at Mission)
- 2 WOR Officers
- 3 In Lieu of Meeting Minutes
- 4 Editorial

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In Lieu of Meeting Minutes

Wings of Rogallo has not had a meeting in January.

END

Editorial February 2022

January was a good month regarding free flight for Wings of Rogallo members. The first half of the month was particularly active with pleasantly memorable days of buoyant air with differing characteristics per day. The nuances of flyable over-the-back days, at Ed Levin have become a salient topic.

The typical weather of January was present as expected along with the numbers of pilots itching for free flight. Though many that realized flying days would have done so without stellar conditions, they were treated with good many good days. Many days have featured clouds with light rain. This may be the last year of the La Nina weather pattern of cooler than normal water in a region of the Pacific.

Mission got some love this month on occasion in between classic Ed Levin days and on those very same days. On the 7th, some achieved 30 minute flights at Mission playing below the clouds with intermittent rain in 25-30 mph wind with some added gusts. In the last days of the month Mission experienced some pilots and turbulence. The 30th was a lifty day for earliest pilots in light to nil wind above the haze.

Ed Levin has had a busy month as grass grows tall on the hills. In the first two weeks of the year, unflyable days were a rarity. There was a windy ridge-soaring with thermals day on the 2nd which was reported as a fun day with lots of birds and the best flights ever for some. The lift was only inside the upper-level wind as those that found themselves getting below it reported. The next day was a rainy day with some pilots in the air. The third day was nice as well with 80+ percent cloud coverage working early and late

from the lower launches before it started to flow over the back. The fourth day in a row was characterized with thermals. Then two days later students flew while it was strong over the back at Mission. People appeared to be flying or at least hiking with intention to fly on the 9th. Another report from the 12th said it was good from the top. Strong winds near 60 miles per hour over the back were reported on the fourteenth. On the 22nd there was a strong East wind at the LZ but some flew the coast. The next day was flyable but lots of turbulence at both Mission and Ed Levin. The following day produced reports of no lift but no big sink. A glide almost to Mission LZ demonstrated that pilots should not commit to this unless they encounter some lift along the way. On the 26th, pilots found lift only at or above launch level at Ed Levin while some flew the coast.

Little has been reported at the Coast and Diablo. The Stables work party is moved to late February. Diablo has had little thought aside from changes to the Site Guide for renewals.

Fifteen new aluminum Mission key lanyards have been produced and can be an expected sight for those using the road to the top. The standard governance is underway and going smoothly with talk of risk assessments, LZ avoidance during helicopter operations, new Ed Levin lock and tall grass care. As the year begins, it is exciting to imagine what may be in store for the rest of 2022.

Into February 2022 we go hoping for an early spring. There may be some rain days left in the winter bringing unstable air to Wings of Rogallo sites. May your flares be as crisp as the tips of the blades of grass.

Skydancer

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