



FLIGHTLINE

The publication of the Wings of Rogallo
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In Lieu of Meeting Minutes

Wings of Rogallo has not had a meeting in March.

END

Editorial April 2022

The Spring season is off to a fantastic start with an excellent March of free-flight. All Wings of Rogallo sites hosted flying and the Bay area provided active weather for it. The club has been on top of all business to keep the sites open as usual.

Diablo had a couple good days with similar flights. The 18th was a convergence day with adjacent windmills facing away from each other. Some flew to Brentwood and Altamont.

Mission was extremely active in March. Do not land on fields just south of Calaveras Road due to landowner that does not appreciate free-flight activities there. The key exchange occurred without issue. The 5th had a huge turnout on a cold day with cumulus clouds everywhere. The main gaggle launched by 12:30 with half bombing out. It was overcast by 12:45, rained by 1 turning into hail at 1:15 on launch. Wind picked up by 2pm and the weather looked threatening, convincing some to land. Several pilots went 80km getting to San Martin, while others made it almost to Gilroy and Dima made it to Hollister! 87.35 km. Reports of a 3,000 foot inversion and then 5,000 foot cloud-base.

Dima's flight report transcript via Jenn: "I was a little slow getting going this morning and thought I'd just get in a little flight at Mission. When I arrived at launch it was hailing, so we waited and I launched after it cleared about 2:30. I climbed a bit and thought I could go to Ed. My personal best from Mission previously was to Ed. Once I got to Ed, I thought oh I can keep going so I turned my Garmin on. Then I found a little cloud and I just flew with it. I was not alone because I was with my cloud. I turned a few times, but not much. Then I was very far and did not believe what I was seeing. When I was over Gilroy, Jenn talked to me on the radio, and I was happy to hear I had a ride so I just kept on going. Then I landed and there was no wind on the ground and it was amazing." Later he added that he was surprised by the distance because it was so easy with light and smooth thermals without much turbulence.

The next day at Mission started off with some thinking it would be over the back and not flyable until

they saw some soaring over 1,000 feet over launch with cloud-base at 5,500 feet. Lots of paragliders and hang gliders started gathering around 11:30. Winds at launch were light and the air was lifty. Evan stayed out front and went 77km, Razi flew drifting thermals that went along the shallow canyons past Lick Observatory where the sky became blue and the thermals more short lived.

Other Mission days: 3/9 thermals were organized. It was windy at launch but better away from launch. 3/11 featured bumpy air with hang gliders and paragliders able to make it over launch for about an hour. 3/13 was a fun day with some making it to San Martin 28km. 3/20 people made flights to Ed Levin in strong winds where people were getting pushed backwards kiting mini-wings. 3/25 was a great day for some boating around on the ridge with a golden eagle. 3/26 had Summer-like conditions with lift only to the peak but with the Spring views of blooming poppies. 3/28 had some thunderstorm weather. 3/29 had clouds under the ridge with widespread lift and clouds clearing up at 2:30. 3/31 was a good day with top landings, top of lift at 3,200 feet and roudy air especially at the inversion layer.

Ed Levin was far from neglected. 3/5 was sunnier than Mission with juicy clouds at 12:45. 3/11 was a turbulent day with a hang glider flying for about an hour and a paraglider suffering an uneventful terrible collapse after getting 500 feet over launch observing wind over the back at the 600 and 300. 3/13 was a fun day with some xc. 3/27 few flying higher winds with some fools messing with radios on the ground but no FCC in sight. 3/28 some thunderstorm weather with widespread rain over San Jose while a pilot got up easy from 600 to 1750 with lift everywhere. 3/29 rattlesnake at the 600! Please be sure to sign a waiver if you or a guest is doing anything beyond the locked gate. There will be a bunch of fresh waivers added to the lockbox and the online waiver is easy to get it out of the way before you go for you, your driver and guests.

Without a doubt, April will offer big air. Dima's story shows us that the lowest expectations can lead to the greatest experiences and even on the most crowded days, a cloud may be your only company. Your editor thanks the community for sharing these stories.

Skydancer

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To: