



# FLIGHTLINE

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WOR NEWS  
THE TIME WE SPEND FLYING  
NEW MEMBERS

PHOTO FROM RAZI ALON

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# WOR NEWS

PHOTO FROM YONI KARPEN

Predictably, the summer season in the Bay Area brought sweltering heat, a compressed marine layer, and stable conditions to WOR sites. Beyond the average maximum extended sledder or ridge soar, many pilots have sought relief from the lack of excitement in the form of travel, whether across the CA central valley, at fly-ins in neighboring states, or abroad.

A heartfelt congratulations and well done to the several WOR members who have participated in competitions this season! We can't wait to share the skies with you as fall weather looms in the distance.



# EDITORIAL: THE TIME WE SPEND FLYING

*RAZI ALON*

Most paraglider pilots, myself included, have measurable goals: “100k,” “FAI triangle with an average speed of 20km/hr,” “helico over the lake,” etc. These goals are great to chat about with other pilots, but few non-pilots know what they mean. Rather, I find that what people care about most is what happens after the flight, once you land and the rest of the day is ahead. Especially on the mediocre days, I like to remind myself how special the post-flight adventure is as well.

I love sharing stories that surprise people about what is possible with a soft plastic wing that fits in a backpack, but I am getting better at adjusting what to focus on for each audience. On the long 4th of July weekend, I drove to Lake Tahoe and had 3 of my best flights in a row. I was proud that, cumulatively, I covered more than 500km. My wife, my biggest fan who kept track of me on [flyxc.app](https://flyxc.app) all day, was most hooked into the story when we talked about the 2 hours of waiting for friends to pick me up after landing, surrounded by crickets the size of pears.



Similarly, for my coworkers, the fact that I spent a total of 23 hours in the air was the most curious bit - and it didn't matter too much how far I flew, they cared more about what I did for food!

Two weekends later, I wanted to get more time flying far in the desert. Even though the forecast wasn't as good, my confidence was high and I was excited for more flights like before. However, this sport is good at teaching some humility. Rather than having a long flight and landing at sunset in a faraway place, I bombed out after scratching the hillside of the Kingsbury Grade for under an hour. Jochen picked Dan Z and me up from the bottom and then we spent the next few hours chatting in the air-conditioned car. We helped retrieve other pilots, stuck our head out into unfamiliar launch sites, and then got an early start to the evening. To make matters worse, we spent the next day hiking up an even hotter hill and flying even less. In terms of flying, the weekend was a bust for us.





PHOTO FROM RAZI ALON

However, the weekend still was a great time. After all, so many of the adventures were still present. That first day, after bombing out, Dan and I hiked up to a lake at sunset and explored places we had only seen before from the sky. We took a less travelled trail and got to share the feeling of adventure from the ground. The next night, after bomb-out-number-two, fellow pilots, Brian and Leah, had us over in Reno and we spent time meeting new people, playing guitar on the docks by Donner Lake until sunset, and being silly while eating frozen yogurt at night. The friends we make from the flying community fill our lives with great experiences on and off the pitch.

It may not always be a long flight, but it's still a good use of time. Many people are impressed by the distances we travel or the time that we spend floating in the air. I know I start my days with those goals, maybe because they are the most measurable and bold. However, for me, especially since the sport can be so dependent on fickle weather, it's the community that keeps things great. Sometimes the best part is a BBQ at Ed Levin and a slow hike up the hot hill only to sled ride down. Other times, it's meeting random strangers willing to drive me where I'm going. While bad flights can feel like failures, the adventure is always present.

# WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Please join us in welcoming our new WOR members from the second trimester of 2023. We hope you all enjoy wonderful flights at our WOR sanctioned sites this season. If you have any questions about the club, the sites, or are looking to get more involved with WOR please reach out to Jenn Lauritzen, our Membership Services Director, or any of our Site Chairs for more information.

## May

Nele Achten  
Keaton Blair  
Carl Farsai  
Stepan Kalinin  
Marcus Litjens  
Christian McNamara  
Stephen Neuendorffer  
Corey Stewart  
James Winter

## July

Simon Bambey  
Brett Brown  
Yin Long  
Andrew Tompkins  
Sandy Wan  
Travis Williams  
Michael Yee  
Michael Yin

## June

Erel Betser  
Jonathan Brown  
Benjamin Buren  
Xiaodong Deng  
Teresa Neuendorffer  
Caitlin Steel  
Luke Whitaker

## August

Austin Becker  
Massimo Scanziani  
Patrick White



PHOTO FROM MIKE VERGALLA



PHOTO FROM VICTOR BERCHE

## **WANTED: YOUR FEEDBACK!**

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE?** The *Flightline* Newsletter invites all WOR members to comment on and contribute to club publications. This opportunity extends to pilots of all ages, levels of experience, and wing types. Do you have a story you'd like to tell or a topic of interest you'd like to see covered? Did you take a photo you're proud of? We'd like to share it!

**SUBMIT COMMENTS, ARTICLES, OR PHOTOS TO  
EDITOR@WINGSOFFROGALLO.ORG**

ALL CONTENT SUBJECT TO REVIEW