



# The Thermal Flyer

the Arizona Hang Glider Association membership newsletter

April 2001

From our President Jerry Dalen

## The T Factor

Greetings everyone. It's that time again. This month we will have Dave Parsons from APS present the Powerline Safety Course. For those of you that have seen the presentation, you know how ugly contact with high voltage can be. For those of you that haven't seen it, well... let's just say you should eat your pizza before Dave begins the show. Remember. Per our agreement with APS, the course is a prerequisite for flying Shaw Butte, and a pretty good reminder as to what decision you should make if you ever come face to face with a high voltage line.

Speaking of safety, and the need for it, I happened upon a very disturbing article on our USHGA web site this morning. It appears that there is a proposal pending in Congress that could deny your employer provided medical benefits if you get injured and need treatment as a result of your participation in "risk" activities. These so-called risk activities include hang gliding and paragliding. After you read this go to the USHGA web site and take advantage of the easy and quick methods they have

provided for us to let our views be known to the government agencies involved. If you're like me, your employer provides your medical insurance. Something as minor as a broken arm could end up costing you thousands of dollars these days if this legislation is passed. Go to the web site and follow the instructions. Do it now!

Ok. With all of this going on, I will once again jump on the soapbox and shout to the masses my safety mantra. Think, think, think. It is definitely springtime, and with springtime comes good lift, and with good lift comes the T factor. No I'm not talking about Bob Thompson, I'm talking about TURBULENCE. Not just turbulence in the air, but turbulence on launch, in the setup area, and most assuredly in the landing area. It is a fact of hang gliding and paragliding that if you fly in the spring and summer you will get bumped around some. Keep that in mind, especially during launch and landing. Keep the speed up a notch or two on landing approach and you will increase your odds of not needing said insurance.

See you at the meeting.

from Andy Rockhold

## Crater Days Revival

Here is the word from Andy Rockhold regarding the fly-in at the Craters on April 21st and 22nd. The event will be named "Crater Days Revival". The format will be teams with a duration, bomb drop, and spot landing contest. The idea is for at least one paraglider to be on each team. \$10.00 entry fee with 1st place in each category receiving awards. Proceeds to be divided as 50% to awards and 50% to the Merriam Road Fund. The pilots meeting is scheduled for 9:30 A.M.. on the 21st.

Andy has requested that Dixon White be at the meeting to go over the rules and to also let everyone know what the future plans for the Craters will be. As most of you are aware, the land surrounding the Craters was/is in danger of being purchased by private parties. Dixon has secured some parcels with funds donated by flying enthusiasts and others sympathetic to our cause.

Lets all work together on this, and keep the Craters as they have always been, a perfect place to fly, from Student to Master. So show your support and head up north to have some fun!

by Laura Salamone

## El Golfo Aerotowing Trip

Hello everyone. Corey and I are planning another El Golfo, Mexico aerotowing trip for Memorial Day weekend. We will be there from Thursday eve, May 24 thru Monday May 28. As usual this is a casual affair - some flying, some relaxing, some partying. We will be staying at Las Conchas Hotel, \$40 per night two beds. Call Ramon at 011-651-5-70-01 to make your reservations. Camping on the beach under palapas is also available, no reservations necessary. Let me know if you have any questions. ahgc@northlink.com

by Morey Brown

## Miller Canyon Fly-In

The Umpteenth Annual Miller Canyon Fly-In will be held May 5-6, sponsored by the Southern Arizona Hang Gliding Assoc. at the Miller Canyon Flying site in the magnificent Huachuca Mountains near Sierra Vista, AZ. Fun Contests, Spectacular Stainless Steel Trophies and Great Camping! The T-shirts look really hot this year. Mountain experience required. HG and PG. Nearby launches for all wind directions. Entry fee only \$10. Contact: Morey Brown, Morey000@aol.com

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