



# The Thermal Flyer

the Arizona Hang Glider Association membership newsletter

August 2001

From our President Jerry Dalen

## Fly Safe

July Meeting notes: By Jerry Dalen because the Scotty was out of town and I couldn't get anyone else to take notes, so this is a combination Prez Page article and meeting notes thing.

The meeting was called to order @ 7:45. We had gotten bumped from our regular meeting place at Peter Piper Pizza, and were in a section of the El Torito restaurant. I dunno, maybe it was the margaritas, but it was an unruly crowd for sure, or perhaps it was the excitement of possibly winning the Sedona raffle! More on that later.

No new faces were seen in the crowd, although Ricky D graced us once again with his presence. He gave the same old bad back story and assorted other excuses as to why he wasn't flying, then proceeded to try and sell yet another piece of his hang gliding gear. If anyone is interested it's a short/ Moyes style X/C bag. Keep it up Rick. You're going to have to buy all new gear if you ever decide to leave the ground again.

Keith Evert informed us that he had received the finalized Mingus campground plans and had signed them and sent them back to the Forest Service. They have experienced a decrease in funds, so it looks like the first phase of paving the road to the top will be delayed by at least a year. Good news for us as this gives us even more time to acquire funds. Keith said he would begin collecting pricing for the various phases of construction. A volunteer to hopefully get a grant for at least part of the construction costs will then use this data. We tried to volunteer Jim Afinowich, so maybe we can talk him into it.

Dealer Blurbs: Shawn Jarrell is selling the Flytec 4020 vario for way less than retail. If you are interested in a vario that will interface with your GPS contact him. Chad Koester is training hang gliding with the sky floater harness. This is suprone flying, and Chad says it's very easy to learn and very relaxing. Great flare authority too, but hey, when you're flying a Falcon it's pretty hard to screw up your landing.

Sedona Raffle time! The winner of the Sedona raffle is, or shall I say was, Gill Couto, our esteemed VP. Now, I don't know all the details, but Gill, being the magnanimous fellow that he is, decided to donate his winning ticket back into the pool and give someone else a chance to win! Can you believe it? Gill requested that we continue selling tickets for another month to try and raise some more dough for the campground. I know this means that the odds won't be quite as good, but how can we deny a request like that? So, if you didn't buy a ticket yet, here's your chance. Five dollars for two nights and three days in Sedona. Call me or mail your checks to the AHGA PO Box.

### Site Review:

Shaw Butte is kinda hot, but seeing that it was totally OD'ed at Mingus last Saturday, Shawn Jarrell and Dave Smith braved the heat and had a go at it. Extended sledders were the word, but Shawn said the LZ was pretty mellow for July.

Oatman has not had any activity that we are aware of.

South Mountain: As you read in last months Thermal Flyer, Dustin Martin set a new site record here. Also as Dustin mentioned, if you go X/C and leave your car on top, be sure to call the park rangers. Gary Brown has a relative who flies helicopters for the Phoenix Police Dept. He said they were looking for a downed hang glider pilot, (Dustin). The police weren't too upset, but keep this in mind.

Eldon: No report.

Towing: No report.

Mingus: Lots of monsoon activity, but July 4th was pretty good with several pilots getting to play in the lift. Bill Lemon also informed us that upon landing in the Petrified National Forest after his 135 mile X/C flight that he was subject to a \$300.00 fine. Fortunately he got off with a warning.

Yarnell: Has been pretty consistent for getting high. Dan Schroeder told a story about getting threatened by the Mountaineir convenience store owner in Peebles Valley. Dan suggests that if you have to land in the area, go to the field further North to avoid any confrontations.

### Awards:

Eagle Award nominees: Dustin Martin for 137 miles from South Mountain, Bill Lemon for 135 miles from Mingus, and Alan Jones for four launches in two hours from Sheba. Dustin wins.

Turkey Award nominees: Dan McManus for hollering at his wire crew for not clearing fast enough and Dennis Nelson for several unbelievable gaffs on a cross country flight to Sedona. Dennis was the big "winner". Radio problems were the root cause of the troubles. Note: If you are going to fly X/C and you value your relationship with your driver, make SURE you're radio is working.

Driver Award nominees: Pam Lemon for chasing Bill to the Petrified Forest with no radio contact and Judy Nelson for doing the same for Dennis. Both women were voted the award for putting up with their respective bonehead husbands.

During all this time that I was going over the Eagle, Turkey and driver awards, I kept getting interrupted. Once was from Keith and Bill with the suggestion that since Kim does such a great job on the TF, that she should be granted free yearly membership to the AHGA. I heartily agreed, and a motion was taken and seconded to vote for the Thermal Flyer editor to have their dues requirements waived. Passed unanimously. Unfortunately, no one would even remotely entertain the motion that the President receives the same treatment. Sigh.....

The other interruption was from Dan "Rotor" Schroeder. It appears that Dan has very nearly perfected his hook in alarm system. It has been dramatically simplified and Dan feels that he will have a working model for sale very soon. Price has dropped in half also to \$9.99. Stay tuned for further details or give Dan a call at 480 814-8707 if you're interested.

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Someone stiffed the bartender for a \$6.00 tab. He cornered me on the way out and I paid it. Somebody owes me a beer. Handcrafted pale ale please.

Jerry Dalen

# AHGA