



# The Thermal Flyer

the Arizona Hang Glider Association membership newsletter

November 2001

by Dan Schroeder, President

## a note from our President

Hello to all,

It was another great turn out for the Crater Days weekend and one of the largest flyings the Craters has ever seen. A special thanks to the Wills Wing crew and our local reps for supplying some first class demo gliders. An attaboy also goes to Jim Z. from Colorado. Jim brought down several ESC's for the curious ones to try, along with one of the funniest hang gliding tapes I've ever listened to. (Joe P, you gotta get a copy of this from him) Scott Campbell also had quite a ride Sat. on an ESC and no longer has that flame for his "Old Wing".

Regarding the club:

It's nice to see people willing to offer their time and ideas for ways we can improve the organization. As for the up and coming agenda, several things are in the works for club discussion. One is regarding a long time AHGA member who has chosen to take a new job in Montana. Bob Buxton will be moving to Bozeman Mt. in December and has offered to be at the Nov. meeting to share with us some "old" pictures and videos, along with some really embarrassing stories of times gone by. I hope you will set aside time this month for the meeting. You'll be seeing an "Old Timers" viewpoint of Hang Gliding and have a chance to get involved with new ideas that are coming your way.

Recent events:

1) The AHGA sent Linda Hodges a large flower arrangement last month and Jim & Kim said it really cheered her up. For those of you who have not heard, Linda was one of Arizona's top female pilots and is now hospitalized with terminal brain cancer. Jim & Kim would like the club to be involved in presenting to her, a certificate for the Arizona Female XC record of 94 miles. (You go girl!) 2) Shaun Jarrell and Joe Petit have been meeting with landowners at both the top and the bottom of Yarnell and will have info regarding the Yarnell site preservation at this meeting. 3) Meetings will now "unofficially" begin at 6:30 at El Torritto for some "socializing" and then traverse across the street to "officially" start at 7:35 sharp at PP pizza. Please join us early; it's a good time. 4) Dan McManus has offered to ask Dixon White to come to the Jan. or Feb. meeting to discuss the current land status at the Craters. Dale Webb also offered lodging for Dixon for that evening and hopefully the club can cover his gas expense for making the trip. 5) Jeff Reynolds offered to have some type of event with Turf Soaring this winter. 6) Merle has offered to help out with the concrete plans for the launch at Oatman and will have info for us at this meeting. (Remember, there will be a work party weekend Nov. 17 & 18 at Oatman). We will lay concrete on the N. launch and fill in some bad spots along the N. & S. dirt roads. Anyone willing to help out with cooking, supplying shovels, buckets, picks, rakes, trucks, water, concrete, or labor please

come to the meeting or contact Dan S. at (480) 491-1088. There will be time for flying as well. 7) Merle, Kim, and Gill have also asked that we gather photos from members and make our own Arizona calendar featuring AZ. Pilots & Sites along with a yearly AHGA T-Shirt. This could even be incorporated into the AHGA "pledge" system as a way of showing appreciation for those willing to give a little more or just as having items to purchase through the club for profit.

Several members have contributed things we can do to improve our club financially. One option for adding cash to the AHGA is by raising club dues. The reality, there are allot of pilots who don't fly very often, are beginners, or just don't have the extra cash in addition to the \$60.00/yr required for the USHGA membership. To help with this, we could add two different "pledge" levels as an option to the minimum \$25.00/yr dues. This could include a pledge level of \$40.00 as well as one for \$60.00/yr or more. These "optional" donations would be kept privet, and Steve Scott has offered to modify the AHGA forms if we so choose. Another option is to do fund raising events that would involve going public. Anyone wishing to share ideas is encouraged to voice them at the meetings, by phone, or by email. Example: The Crestline Soaring Society does allot to raise club money as well as hold fund raising events for public causes. The CSS donates toys each year for underprivileged kids at Christmas and as a result, last year, the Crestline Soaring Society was given a congressional award from the governor of California for their involvement in their local community. It's no wonder the state worked hand in hand with them to help make the largest man made up hill landing areas in the world?

Thermal Flyer Update:

In a recent club discusion regarding AHGA expenses, it was brought to our attention that the Thermal Flyer is our largest expense. Over \$1,500/yr. for the handling of snail mail along with added work for Kim to get them out on time. For good reason, some must continue to go out this way. As a way to cut costs and save money for better uses, those of you who could get this by email, or by someone else's email, are encouraged to try it. An added insentive for doing it, you can loose the hard copy and still retrieve it off your hard drive years later. I personally had trouble recieving it because I had an old version of Adobe Acrobat. Jerry Dalen told me what to do and it was easy. You can down load Adobe Acrobat Reader for free off the net. Just go to the search engin Google.com and do a search for Adobe. When you get to the site, look for the icon for the Free Adobe Reader and down load it to your hard drive.

It takes about 2 minutes and your done. Please give it a try.

See you at the meeting,



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The United States can look forward to the most spectacular meteor show since 1966 -- and it might be another 98 years before anything so sensational will be seen again.

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# AHGA