

by O.L. Lowenslow

## Foreign Correspondent for the TF

Most times, bucking the northeast headwind to get back across the lower bench from the hill is a real challenge as well, and many a pilot has not made it and wound up in the usually forgiving brush growing on the top of the bench, where retrieval of the glider can be even more of a challenge. If one gets into the rotor behind the cliff, one is risking a worse fate; broken gliders and limbs are not that uncommon at Hill 60 because the usual landing field is ALWAYS in rotor.

Unless the wind is too far north, which usually it isn't, the flight path from the bench can be extended to the left of takeoff and often landings are made about half a mile up the beach where the cliff becomes nonexistent rather than merely low. I elected to land there for old times sake.

Regina, properly reluctant after being out of flying for so long, was persuaded to try a bunny hop from a 10 feet hill onto the beach. Once she got her feet off the ground and the opportunity to steer the glider, her confidence came back and she returned to the bench to re-launch there.

Smiles all around and excited chatter marked the end of a successful day.

We were to return there the next weekend and launch from the top of Hill 60 and get great flights for both of us. But she had to work on weekdays, so I had to find alternative transport for her glider.

The next time I flew, I drafted a wuffo to hold the nose wires as I approached launch, then stepped off for a high-wind takeoff that would have been better if I had done it "bar down" (hands on the cross bar, not the down tubes) but I merely ballooned rather than flew backwards. Then three other pilots showed up.

Two of them launched from the top of Hill 60, while the third set up on the bench. They obviously knew the site and played around close to the hill and low for the most part. I was reaching 500 feet maximum altitude above the hill, but had to put more challenge into it than altitude gain. Besides, I was getting tired of staring at the topless and nude girls on the beach. Several times, I was able to penetrate across the bench, up to furthest landing beach, then fly back round the point on the end of the bench, cross the bay, and climb out again. My fellow fliers tried to follow suit; one made it across to the bench, the other landed short without incident and had to walk his glider the rest of the way.

Then they soared the bench several times before landing again; the lower launch can easily be top-landed. There is not really room for more than one glider at a time to fly the bench, so my future crossings had to be done when the others were on the ground.

I had to show them again how it could be done, while they watched from the ground, then they took the obvious challenge I had hurled at them. Of course, they made it, because it is dead easy, unlike the way I used to do it.

I used to cross behind the point and fly through the rotor, sweaty-palmed and frightened every time, fighting to keep the wings level until I burst through to the smooth lift in front of the hill. I don't recommend this, although I always got away with it; I don't know if anyone else was ever stupid enough to try it.

So I got 2.2 hours of flying time in and had taught the kiddies some new tricks.

Then I landed in the football field, caught rotor

on the right wing just at touch down (pun not intended) and did a slow cartwheel of the glider. Very impressive because I didn't bend a thing, not even a downtube. The kiddies were kind enough to check on me and ask if I had ever flown the hill before; said I needed a lot of speed to make a proper landing. Snott-nosed kids.

### Classified

**For sale: Moyes Extreme harness with 20 gore chute.** Black ?white lettering and fits some one 5-10, 170#. \$500. contact John Beaman at e-mail or 775.849.3062. I'll be out at Kemmeries doing lessons and possibly towing.

**For sale: Litespeed 155** in new condition 50 hours. Make me an offer. Undersurface is red/gray/red. Used CSX 5 for \$2500 with probably 100 hours. contact flydustin@hotmail.com

**For sale: Wills Wing RamAir 154.** Fluorescent red LE w/ fluorescent orange under-surface. Sail is still crisp with almost no blemishes. Adjustable VG. Brand new wing wires. \$1,750.00 **High-Energy Sports Pod harness.** Deep-blue pod harness with a small light-blue and a small white stripe going down both sides. Great condition with no rips or tears but it could use a mild bath. Adjustable for a person from 5'9" to 6'5" tall. \$250.00 **20 gore High Energy parachute w/swivel.** Fully inspected and repacked by Betty Phiffer. Brand new deployment bag, new swivel, & new strap. \$100.00 **Ball 651 variometer.** Has the 1 foot increment modification. \$100.00 **"Sport" oxygen system.** \$30.00 **Ball helmet.** White, half helmet version. Structurally sound but it could use a paint job. \$25.00 **Knee-hanger harness.** Black, in new condition. \$30.00 **Parachute swivel.** (uninstalled) New never used. \$20.00 **Drogue chute.** Orange w/ bag. \$15.00 **Pair of black Ultra-Mitts.** VERY WARM Like new. \$20.00 **Wills Wing airspeed indicator.** Like new. \$10.00 **"Jack" hook knife.** \$5.00 **Set of 12" training wheels.** Blue and in great shape. \$15.00 **Water bottle and holder.** Custom made. It connects to a downtube for in-flight use. \$10.00. total: \$2,380.00 Note: will sell all items together for \$2000. Call Ken Bruder(home) 480-962-5974 (cell) 480-206-4184 (work) 480-592-2343 or Ken.Bruder@Honeywell.com

by Steve Scott

## January 8th Minutes

Chad Koester, Vice President

7:45 P.M. Call to order

9:30 P.M. Meeting ended

New Faces: We welcomed Ed Balow one of Chad's students.

New Business:

Chad made a pitch for Roberts Rule of Order for our meetings and was immediately drowned out by the din of the rowdy. Internet chat line information is a written record. Think before making any entries. They could come back to haunt you.

Web sites need to be accurate. Some of the sites have information that is not correct. If you have a site please review and correct any issues.

Kent and Ginger at the Cottonwood Airport (FBO's) were given a \$40.00 gift for all of their work at the airport.

Eric Bahr is selling his Masquito for \$2500.00.

Michael Robertson will be here for the February meeting.

Old Business:

Dickson White had to move his trip to the March meeting.

Dan now has his final hand adjustment for his hang check system.

Dan pitched the TF email route.

XC Contest: No comments

Site Reports:

Yarnell: No report

Shaw Butte: Good conditions. A reminder that you have to be a H3 and have the SRP electrical safety course signed off.

South Mountain: no report

Oatman: South launch build out. Wheel barrows near launch. Take a load when you go. The SAHGA will be at Oatman on the 19th.

Mingus: Cloudy cold snowy

Humbolt: Launch torn down. The forest service took it down. We will have to get permission if we want to put it up there. Devlin the forest ranger will have to be contacted and convinced.

Mt. Ord: Hard to get to but good flying.

Craters: no report

Mt. Eldon: no report

Turf Soaring: towing with all sleds

Bill Holmes: Towing up near Casa Grande. Call for times. Sleds down.

Springerville: no report

Superior: 300' hill. Walk up in 10 min.

Aubrey: no report and remember to sign in

Awards:

Eagle Nomination is: Eric Bahr for safety on his Mesquito. Ed Balow for 4 launches off Sheba

with good launches, flights and landings in his first mountain launch day.

It is a Tie! Congratulations to both Eric Bahr and Ed Balow!

Turkey Nomination is: Merle Louck for his low pass on Oatman north side.

The winner is Merle Louck! No Competition. Driver Nominations are: Mrs. Thompson for driving her wayward son Chris on Christmas Day! Do hand glider pilots have no conscience! Chris's mom is 74!

The winner is Mrs. Thompson!

Congratulations!

Raffle: Mark Warfle wins the dog chew and Chris Thompson wins the bar mitts.

Mingus Relief Fund \$40.00

Dealer Reports:

Shawn Jarrell has all sorts of good stuff on sale at good prices.

Chad Koester deals Wills Wing, Northwing and High Energy. Has for demo/sale Talon gliders. Has Storybooks on Hang Gliding for \$24.00.

Dan Schroeder has his hand check system on sale.

Bill Holmes has an assortment of equipment for sale.