

The Thermal Flyer

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July Meeting Notes

Nicole Jones
Filling in for Alicia
Thx, Nicole

New faces:
Slade Weaver is a new pilot learning from Bill Holmes.

News:

The AHGA garage sale has been postponed until this Sept./Oct.

Chad's parachute clinic was time well spent. Several obsolete deployment bags were found and replaced with new ones. If your deployment bag has the opening on the opposite side of the pull handle, you are at risk of dumping your chute before you even toss it, especially if you have old rubber bands. He also had some WW mini bungies for the safety pins that work great. Deployment practice makes a big difference in reaction speed and just reaching for it in flight is not the same.

Echo Cliffs are open but require a permit to do so. If you fly there you are not allowed to park behind the guardrail. You must drop off your gear and then move the vehicle to a legal parking area and walk back to the launch area.

A Fly In at Aubrey cliffs will be planned for sometime in September. The town is willing to put up gifts for a competition of some sort. It's up to us to decide what we would like to do for the competitions. Also, please remember to sign it at the N. E. end of town and keep a pass in your window while on the ranch property.

Monument Valley trip was planned for Labor Day weekend but Brad canceled it due to a low head count.

Pilots visiting Crestline have had good flights there and it's well worth the trip.

Eagle:
Dale for several low saves at Crestline and Eric Smith for two great flights. One made a new Box Canyon XC

President's Corner

Dan Schroeder
A.H.G.A President

Craters update:

With Arizona growing at such a rapid rate, it seems as if all our sites have been or may soon be affected by that growth. The work Dixon has put into preserving the Craters is something we can all appreciate and benefit from.

For those who were able to make it to the last meeting, a new appreciation for paragliding was quickly realized. Dixon White came down from Flagstaff and gave us an update on the land issues he has been dealing with up there.

His main objective is to secure the land as flight park property and leave it just as it is. This will also help to secure the land from law suites. Over 600 acres have now been purchased and some of that land was much closer to being lost than most of us knew. The Merriam N. bench was almost lost to development, but was saved by several donations from his students. One of those donations was a check for \$10,000. Additional land on top has also been purchased and the rest of the top is State Land or private land. The Merriam E. landing area and lower bench are still for sale, but Dixon is hopeful that mining won't happen soon due to the type of ash in that area.

Sheba's bench is on State Land and I can't tell from the notes as to the status of the W. landing area. I believe parts of it have been purchased. The E. LZ is still for sale but Dixon is hopeful that something can be done there as well.

How does the AHGA fit into this picture? As of now, Dixon takes care of the site insurance as well as \$4,000/yr in taxes on the land. He also spends additional time and money keeping up the roads. Since this is also a necessary site for new Hang Glider pilots, it seems like we could at least offer some additional monetary help. Did you learn to fly there?