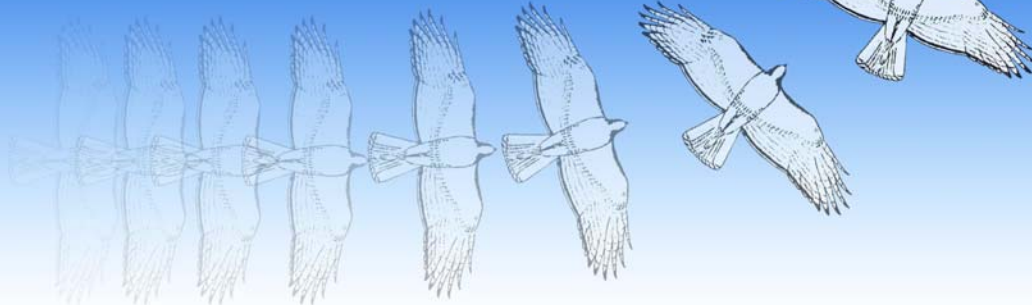


Arizona Hang Glider Association

THE THERMAL FLYER



December, 2006
January 2007



Check us out @
www.ahga.org

Next meeting:
March 13, 2007
@ **El Toritos**, East
side of Metro Center
Mall. Phoenix,
Arizona

Arizona Hang Glider Association
P.O. Box 39013
Phoenix, AZ 85069

Aero-tow El Gulfo Thanksgiving

I went down with Dustin Martin to the annual aero-tow Thanksgiving event in El Gulfo Mexico last November. We left Phoenix around 5:30am the Friday after Thanksgiving and where on the beach meeting up with the rest of the crew by 10:00 that morning. The drive is not too long and you can make it on 1 to 2 tanks of gas depending on your vehicle. Dustin and I started setting up his T2 and after a little socializing he was ready for his first tow by Noon. Corey and Laura provided the tug and we would be foot launching off the beach. The wind was light and you would have to be careful to get up and out of the propwash fast. Greg and Marcie



Berger were there and Greg was instructing me how the tow was to take place. I was to stay in the box behind the tug. I have scooter towed a lot with Greg and was not too worried about foot launching on tow. For those of you who have not Aero-towed before, the

abbreviated version goes like this. You basically setup communication signals between the tug and the glider pilots. In this case we pick up the glider get ready to launch and when you have a stabilized glider you bend your knees and hold back the tug. As the Tug moves forward you are almost running to keep yourself from tripping and you are in the air within a few steps. Once airborne you get above the propwash from the tug and stay in an imaginary box behind the tug. If you keep the trailing edge of the trike wing on the horizon straight back in line with the trike you are in good shape. If you veer too far right, left, high or low, you endanger yourself and the tug pilot of locking out the glider. It is a

little tense to be behind a trike going 35mph in a falcon. You do have to pull in the bar a little to keep the nose down. I had great flights going between 2000 and 3000 feet over El Gulfo MX. It was beautiful and the Shrimp tacos that night were great also. We went over to locals home on the beach and listen to music and drank beer that night. We were treated to what seemed like a hundred atv's racing up and down the beach all night long. The next day was just as good or better and we got in a few more tows and Corey tried to shake me loose just to see if I could stay with it. Then he released the tow rope and I had to fly around with the rope and release it when I returned over the take off area. It was kind of fun dropping it on Greg. Eggs would have even been better. All in all the entire trip to El Gulfo was well worth it. I think Dustin and I both agreed that flying closer to the water (The beach is about a half mile wide) out of the local car traffic would be better. Not to mention away from the typical Mexican garbage that's everywhere. El Gulfo is a town that is about to be awakened by traffic. The highway to Rocky Point is being built as I write this. Say good by to little El Gulfo. I'm sure there will be major Hotels and resorts on the beach in no less than 2 years. If you have a chance to go, do it. You can't beat the Shrimp tacos and the ocean air is pure joy to fly in.

South Mountain Ramp Repair

The South ramp at South Mountain was made bigger and better in December. Carlos put out the word that he wanted to make the back of it bigger for paraglide setup and launch. Jerry, Carlos, and Paul took it upon themselves to contact the Phoenix Park service to ok the repair and with a little effort on Carlos's part it was well received. Paul and Carlos ordered the crushed granite to be delivered the night before and when we arrived Saturday morning with shovels in hand we started to spread, even out, level and compact the CG. Paul Yonker used his landscaping expertise in how to grade the ramp. We had a great turnout of volunteers. Merle brought a compacter that made it look like a molded concrete ramp when finished. The Ramp was widened and drainage was added as well. We discussed that a southeast launch was now probably possible for HG. I would still like to see some of the scrub down the left side trim

to be more comfortable launching SE. I have launched 3 times there after the repair and I think the paraglide pilots now have the premier launch in Arizona. It's a beauty and if you haven't seen it take a drive up there and check it out.

King Alan Speaks



Alan is still thinking. Maybe he will say something in the next Thermal Flyer.



Lisa Tate, President of the USHPA, visited Southern Arizona Hang Glider Association.

A few months ago Lisa Tate put out the word that she was working on a video grant for a hang gliding project. I then contacted her explaining that I had video experience and was interested in finding more out about the project. She then contacted me explaining that she was coming down for the SHGA meeting and maybe we could use that visit as a chance

to meet and talk about the project. I headed down to Tucson to arrive at the Pizza Hut where they hold the monthly SAHGA meetings. They were out of beer and wine. (I don't care what you say. Budweiser is NOT beer!) ☺ Lisa and I had a chance to meet and talk before and after the meeting. She would like to do a video about the King Mountain fly-in in Idaho. The project would not take place this summer, as there is just not enough time to do it right. I would like to go to the King Mountain Fly-in this summer to check it out and figure out how the cameras and stories of the week unfold. My wife and I have not made our summer vacation plans yet but I hope I can squeeze this into them. If anyone else is planning on going to or would like to do a road trip to King mountain in July this summer, contact me and lets see what we can make happen.

Steven Snyder drove down with me and here are his notes from the meeting.

The first meeting of 2007 was a special event with the yearly elections and the President of the USHGA Lisa Tate. Visiting the "first club" to kick off the year and layout the Organizations Vision of the future of Hang Gliding /Paragliding.

Jason Otto started the meeting off at around 7:30pm and introduced Lisa Tate; the meeting was around 20 strong including two of the AHGA members represented. First item of business was the Power point presentation from Lisa on the Strategic Plans for 2007- 2011 to increase membership; Lisa's main points were the perception of our sport and the numbers of active Members have been in decline. USHPA has the vision to not only notice but also create an action plan to restructure the organization goals and objectives to include more Value added items for the instructors and general membership. The primary points are membership increases and retention of current members by increasing the value of being part of and actively promoting the sports of Hang gliding and Paragliding by all the current and future pilots. *Professionalism in the organization is also a priority according to USHGA streamlining and responding to the membership in a more effective way. Supporting site acquisition and

preservation along with quality training and mentoring programs for pilots that help to promote safety (Equipment and Best Practices). Pilots are described as highly Independent, Intelligent, Responsible and Passionate individuals that want to be free to pursue Flight in all its forms. Here are some of the key points from Lisa's Power point.

1. New Instructors and Certification Requirements.
2. Instructor Liability Insurance
3. Instructor Support.
4. Overall Sense of Community.
5. Bilingual Equality.
6. Improved Communication between the Board and the Membership.
7. Unsafe Practices and Public Perception.
8. Internal and External Marketing to Increase Visibility and Perception of our Sport.

Check here for early details of the USHGA plan - <http://ozreport.com/docs/USHGASTRATEGICPLAN10.10.pdf>

around 8:30pm Jason continued the meeting with the 2007 board elections:

El Presidente: Jason Otto in a repeat performance

Vice El Presidente: Mark Sawyer (they make a great team)

Secretary/Treasurer: Randy Kerchill (my new best friend)

HG Flight Director: Eric Smith (in perpetuity)

PG Flight Director: Mark Williams (keep making those calls!)

Safety Officer: Dave Snyder (who will personally pummel any one who gets in an accident).

Director at Large: Fred Leonard (if the president stays in office, then the past president does as well)

Other items on the agenda included the Miller road Project dates of Feb 3, 10, 17 and 24th 2007 are setup for the project. Eagle of the Month - PG pilot Fred Leonard - actually getting airborne for the first flight of the year. Pilot of the Month - Lisa Tate for Coming to Tucson to inform and connect with membership.

Turkey of the Month - Jason Otto the Broken Falcon Incident.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58pm. Mark and I took Jason and Lisa out for a

bite and some more question and answer session time.

December Meeting Minutes:

AHGA Meeting 12-12-2006

President Alan Housel brings the meeting to order at 8:00pm at El Toritoes in Phoenix, Arizona.

Starts with raffles tickets, prize to be announced at the end of the meeting.

New Faces:

LeRoy Evertsen - aka Lee, a new paraglider pilot learning from Carlos Jake Harris - Has been flying Hang gliders for a year and has his H2. Ted Straton - Paraglider Pilot

Old Faces: Jeff Reynolds made an appearance at the December meeting.

Treasury Report: Merle Louche \$6200.00 Dollars in the Club Account. \$1000.00 is set aside for Oatman Mountain \$150.00 for South Mountain

South Mountain Ramp Rebuild is set for Sunday 17, @ 7:00am.

We have 5 tons of Crushed Granite being delivered Saturday evening. Dustin and Carlos have discussed and figured out how to rebuild the ramp. Dustin explained how the drainage was critical to the ramps survival. The rains fill in the drainage and remove the back area the PG pilots need for inflation. We need only a few for the actual repair but will use as many as possible to get the garbage picked up in the area. Mark Warfel is bringing a 150 gallons water truck.

Bring Your Wheel Barrows and Shovels.

Mingus Permit:

The new Mingus Campground and ramp permit is in the works. Merle says we need to re-measure the site to what we need. Reduce the area, because we are going to be changed by the square foot.

We have some new Site Directors: South Mountain, Carlos Madureira Oatman Mountain, Dan Schroeder Humbolt Mountain, Alan Housel Shaw Butte, Shawn Jarrell Mingus Mountain, Hal Hayden

Humbolt Road is still closed to the general public for a few more weeks.

The roof was finished on the Mingus bathroom. Did the windows get installed?

Recent Flying:

Saturday December 9th we had 7 Hang gliders and 6 Paragliders flew South Mountain. Mark Knight and Jake Harris got their first flight off South Mountain.

Nantac Ridge, Alan, Shiraz, Bill, Bruce and Rick flew Nantac Ridge. Alan thinks this site can be developed further.

Nominees for Pilot of the Month: Rick Powell for opening up a new site. Nantac Ridge.

Eagle nominees for December: Carols for organizing the South Mountain ramp repair. Corry Burke for Aero towing at El Gulfo.

Turkey Nominees for December: Merle for driving over Adams batons at Oatman last month.

Talk of an Aero towing Day in Coolage Airport was discussed. There was a lot of interest and we will pursue this with Bill Holmes. Those showing interest was Bill, Mark Knight, Jeff Reynolds, and Jerry Dalen.

The Raffle Ticket was drawn at the end of the meeting. Bill Comstock won and got the pot of \$37.00 and a Mingus Mountain T-shirt.

Meeting adjourned.

January Meeting Minutes

Jan-09-2007 minutes:

Start time: 7:40pm.

New Faces: John Olsen's trike students Darrell Smith and Rick (??) who are interested in HG lessons.

Old Business:

Humbolt road still closed.

Site insurance/usage bills to be paid.

Merle has received invoice for Mingus (Prescott FS fees)

South Mountain:

Carlos suggests adding a thick cap of SDG. The drainage channel works well (He drove up to launch in the rain to check it out

"Merle-the -money-man" expected more

club members to kick in with donations.
 Brief debate about the power-line balls.
 Action: Put up a sign at S.Mtn launch.
 Carlos to talk to Rangers;
 Jerry/Merle to send him the verbage of the
 Humbolt sign.



New Business:

Carlos suggests S. Mtn. North Launch be rated P3 / P2 with instructor or P4 sponsor. Reason: at least 2 "ravine landings" in two months.
 Low-time pilots risk getting stuck in trees / impaled on cacti if they come up short.
 The South Side launch continues to be P2 with restricted LZ sign-off.

No updates regarding Competition at Coolidge. Dustin's gone underground?

2007 Mingus Fly in:

"King Allen" suggested we start early and setup committees; we need more people to step up. Here's a preliminary list:

Food: Marshall P

Competition & Trophies: Jerry D Adam T
 Sponsors & Door Prizes: Lance G &
 Carlos M (need some Prescott locals too)

Tee Shirts: Mark W & Mark K

Registration / money-matters : Merle L
 JD offered to write an article in the magazine.

Oatman scheduled for Fly-in March 10 - 11th.

New Site:

LeeRoy is talking to the Gila-River Indian community for access to training hills on the Reservation (South of Pecos Rd). They also offered use of an old airstrip (location ??). JD to send Leroy a copy of our insurance/ contracts for reference.

Website Notes: Suggested that Eric Smith's name be added to the local instructors write-up.

Shaw Butte:

Users Assn meeting Jan 23rd. Assessment for road improvement. Some talk about improving the launch. Not much enthusiasm? Adam's comment: South Mountain is the "new Shaw Butte"!

Eagle: Shane for his epic first flight off S. Mtn (North Launch). Check out his video on the forum..

Driver: LeRoy for driving for us at Oatman

Pilot of the Month: All those who made the S. mtn work party a success
 Meeting Adjourned 9:10pm

Classified Ads

For Sale

Aeros Combat, built for Paris Williams, flown at 1 competition. Full Race Glider \$2000 dollars off list: **\$4295.00**, Contact Greg Berger: 928-771-9609

Never used **drogue chute** for sale. \$55.00
 Call SKYWALKER at 480-250-5223

Vision Pulse, perfect condition. Smaller 14 size. Like new \$500.00
 Contact Greg Berger: 928-771-9609

Discus 14 Demo Glider: Red, Yellow and White. Good condition. \$3500.00
 Contact Greg Berger: 928-771-9609

Glider Rack, custom steele tube front glider rack. It will hold 3 gliders. Needs to be primed and painted bare Steele. \$40 bucks. That's what the Steele cost.

Pics at www.knight3.net/frontrack.html
 Mark, 480-251-1515 mark@knight3.net

How long ago did you repack your reserve chute?

EVENTS

Parachute Clinic with Betty Phieffer
March 10th 2007 at Embrey Riddle in Prescott, Az.

Call Greg Berger: 928-771-9609

Oatman Fly-in: March 17 – 18, 2007

South Mountain Work Party



Shiraz and Alan help with my first South Mountain Launch

