
RVHGA MEETING
W.W. (Hang Gliding) RETIREMENT PARTY and COOKOUT
Saturday, May 14 - 4 PM (Cookout) 7 PM - MEETING
at W.W.'s place
3038 Woodway Rd SE - Roanoke
345-7518

Yes, we do have a Club. At least on paper. We are Chapter 138 of the USHGA. We need to become more than a paper club! It's time for changes. If you want to be part of these changes, then come to the meeting (and Party). If you don't care about changes, then come anyway to help the 'Old Man of the Mountain' retire his wings. You heard right. W.W. is officially bagging it. After years of showing the buzzards how to do it, he's finally decided to stop embarrassing them. Come for one last bash at his place, to remember the old flying days (and plan for new ones!). Bring a dish (salad - desert - macaroni - whatever). Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Please RSVP so we'll know how much to buy and who's bringing what.

Come meet new Pilots! We have some new mountain pilots in the area. Steve Booth, Bob Simonds, and Craig Rogers all had their first mountain flights last year. Steve was in the Tidewater area for the summer and also got in a lot of towing airtime. Phillip Ballister, Ken Frampton, Mike Schlagel, and Paul Tidwell all have their own kites and are making good progress out at the Clover Hollow training hill. And there's a pilot back in town who's from so long ago that he's new to most people: Greg Lemeieu. Joel Berg and Doug Chambers are semi-retired pilots who need to be persuaded out of retirement. And Keith Childers and Chris Ferrell are eager types who we hope to get in the air soon.

Come hear FLYING LIES! The Tobacco Row locals (Bo Frazier and John Lane) have been spouting a bunch of them this past year. Randy Newberry keeps talking about 20+ mile late evening flights. Tom King has been making good inflight videos (but he keeps managing to 'accidentally' erase the ones with bad landings). Wayne Sayer came out for his yearly flight last year and got over 20 miles. And John Graham and Corby Overstreet have both been seen lurking around Lynchburg with gliders.

Come start the NEW CLUB! For years the RVHGA was a tight flying community, with lots of pilots and sites (but never official USHGA). Now we're official with a number and everything, but the old days are gone. Those of us still flying (and NEW PILOTS!) are spread out all over the place, from Lynchburg to Bland. As are our sites. The old organization and ways of doing things need updating. The following are some things that need to be discussed and decided on. If you think of any others, bring them up at the meeting.

1. Vote in NEW MEMBERS! There are some new pilot types in Blacksburg (and at least one or two aspiring pilots in Roanoke). We may be able to get some fresh enthusiasm from some of these fledglings for item 2.!

2. Elect ACTIVE OFFICERS! We need to have REAL officers who will do all the official stuff, like call REGULAR meetings, publish NEWSLETTERS, make sure sites are maintained, find new sites, and all that other stuff that officers (are supposed to) do.

3. Change the name. Only a few of the RVHGA pilots live in Roanoke anymore. We need to reflect our spread-out population. Since there's already a 'Central HGA', a possible choice would be 'SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA HANG GLIDING ASSOCIATION' (SVHGA or SWVHGA?). If you don't like that name, bring up another one. We'll vote on the name along with everything else.

4. Discuss the bylaws. There are two changes that I would like to suggest: the first is easing the membership requirements. Having people fly with club members and getting to know them before being electing them to membership was a great idea in the days of a (geographically) close flying community with lots of pilots. It seems like the 'bad eggs' of those days are gone, and as spread out as we are, it makes it very difficult to get new members in the club. The second change is a very minor one, just a change of names. I think 'Regular' and 'Associate' would be more professional sounding membership designations than 'Flying' and 'Non-Flying'. A 'Regular' member would be any rated (Beginner or above) pilot who is current in both USHGA and club dues. An 'Associate' member would be anyone else who is associated with the club (and has paid current club dues).

5. Anything else that any former or new members wish to bring up. We have money in our account, and, as an official chapter, we are now eligible for USHGA Site Insurance. That might help us open new sites, or keep ones we already have.

6. WAR STORIES and FLYING LIES. We all have lots of those that need telling. Polish off your best ones and bring them along.

Please RSVP your intentions to either:
Richard Cobb (703) 961-2878
W. W. Richards (703) 345-7518

thermals

the swvhga newsletter

Vol 3 - Issue 1

June 1988

SUMMER SWVHGA MEETING

SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE - SUNDAY JULY 10, 1988 - 9AM-7PM

AT JOHN LANE'S LAKE HOUSE - BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

This press release just in from Altavista, Va.:

SUMMER HEAT WAVE/INVERSION PARTY, SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE

Bring your spouse, the kids, your honey, faithful driver and potential new club member or whatever to Smith Mountain Lake for this summer's official SWVHGA meeting. CONTRARY TO POPULAR NOTION, MOST HANG GLIDING PILOTS DO LEAD NORMAL MIDDLE AMERICAN LIVES. This is your chance to prove it to the supporting cast in your life.

Directions: Get to state rt 734 going to Mitchell's Marina, but hang a left at the "Saunders Point" sign; go 2/10 mile and turn left at the "yellow boulders"; go 8/10 mile and turn right at "Lane's End". Water sport activities for the entire family will be available. TOWING IS POSSIBLE BUT NOT PROMISED. If you have life preservers to fit your small children, bring them. Beta or VHS video facilities CAN BE ARRANGED. Let John know if you have videos to show or any other program ideas. Lake telephone number: 703-297-5132.

If you missed the SWVHGA meeting on May 14 you missed history being made. We are no longer the Roanoke Valley Hang Gliding Association. Our new name is the Southwest Virginia Hang Gliding Association. We have new officers (who hopefully will actively officiate!): President - Fred Stoll; Vice President - Bob Simonds; Secretary/Treasurer - John "talk to my lawyer" Lane. Our "Old man of the mountain", W.W. Richards, is "no longer with us". He has "retired" from the sport of hang gliding. The meeting (at W.W.'s place - one last time) coincided with his official retirement party. Good words were said about the years and effort W.W. put into the sport, and he was presented with a cake and a 'Windseeker'. Thanks, W.W., we'll miss you on the mountain!

Besides the name change, other parts of the Bylaws were revised.

The member classifications are now "Pilot" and "Associate Member". To be a "Pilot" you must be a current USHGA member. New member requirements were changed. A prospective member must fill out an application and sign a statement that they will fly safely and act in the best interests of the sport, the USHGA and the SWVHGA. A current SWVHGA member must also sign the application vouching for the prospective member. Dues for the coming year were set at \$5.00.

Fall Business Meeting: November 5, 1988 - mark your calendar now! (Location to be announced). The Fall meeting will mark the end of our SWVHGA Cross Country Contest. This is an informal, word-of-honor contest for the best point-to-point distance flights between the May and November meetings. Each pilot submits their best flight for the period, with first through third places to be awarded.

The club voted to buy windsocks for: Bonsack, Roanoke Mountain, and the SE Tobacco Row landing fields. That pretty well takes care of covering the important parts of the meeting.

We have a flock of new members. Steve Booth and Craig Rogers both made their first mountain flights last year and are now soaring the skies over Big Walker. Steve has also been doing a lot of boat towing on the James River. Paul Tidwell is on the training hill with a Gemini and doing very well with it. Some of our "new" members are not so new. Greg Lemieux started flying hang gliders in the early 70's and after being "retired" for a number of years is now flying again (hear that, W. W.?). Wayne Sayer and Tom King are both pilots from the "old days", and Dave McCommon is no young sprout (years of age or flying) himself.

The day after the May meeting was an informal club "fly-in" at Tobacco Row. Bo Frazier, John Lane, Fred Stoll, Bob Simonds, John Graham, Corby Overstreet and Richard Cobb flew the SE side. Bo was the only pilot to get very high above launch, and probably regretted it when he started "whiting out" less than 500 over. Considering that the mountain top was socked in when we arrived, most of us felt fortunate to get even sled rides.

In other flying news: Bob Simonds just had his first soaring flight. After a discouraging series of flights in which Bob seemed to consistently find nothing but sink, he finally found the lift for an hour and a half on Big Walker. Congratulations! Craig Rogers is "back" after a mishap at the first of the year and has had several soaring flights since. It seems like there's not much point in asking Randy Newberry what he's been doing. Every time it's the same old reply of having just gone over the back to Wytheville from Big Walker. On a "scratching" day on Big Walker recently, Wayne Sayer (Harrier) and Greg Lemieux ('77 Oly!) soared while the double-surface pilots watched from the landing field. Must have been luck. Speaking of luck, John Graham visited Big Walker for the first time in years and flew all the way down the ridge to Rt 100. This was on the same day that Tom King got 3500 over while Randy studied the dendrology

around the launch ramp.

Finally, this is my last newsletter. I'm heading for "Pagen country" (State College, Pennsylvania) where my wife will start on her PhD in English while I become unemployed. If you need the services of a Mechanical Engineering PhD (analytical engineering, yard mowing, don't do windows) give me a call. I won't be so far away that I can't come to visit, and y'all will have somebody to visit for out of town flying trips. The newsletter will be taken over by John TTML Lane. I have great confidence that he'll do good things with it - but he needs your help. If you don't see your name in the newsletter, it's because you kept all your flying stories to yourself. Shame on ya.

There have been a few lean years in the local flying community lately, but I think we're getting some momentum back. With new blood and new officers we've got good potential. We could still be a lot stronger, though, and we don't have that many active flying sites left. It's your club - it'll only be what you make it. Get out and fly, clear the brush or patch the ramp at your favorite launch site, hustle new sites, and above all, FLY SAFE!

Richard Cobb

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA HANG GLIDING ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP LIST (Revised - 06-09-1988)

David Aker	703-483
Route 1 - Box 294 // Rocky Mt, VA 24151	
USHGA # 30030	
Phillip Ballister	703-544
Rt 1 Box 15 // Newport, VA	
USHGA # ???	
Stephen Booth (B'burg:953-2364)	804-596
4 Langhorne Rd // Newport News, VA 23606	
USHGA # 45312	
Willie Carr	703-343
2739 Colonial Ave SW // Roanoke, VA 24014	
USHGA #	
Richard Cobb	703-961
304 E Washington St // Blacksburg, VA 24060	
USHGA # 32995	
Bo Frazier	804-384
2029 Woodcrest Dr // Lynchburg, VA 24503	
USHGA # 33026	
John Graham	703-989
2722 Northview Dr SW // Roanoke, VA 24015	
USHGA # 31896	
Larry Hinton (work: 344-1461)	703-989
4031 Southwick Cir SW // Roanoke, VA 24018	
USHGA # 33981	
Tom King	703-552
712 Montgomery St // Blacksburg, VA 24060	
USHGA # 21643	
John Edward Lane (SEC/TREAS) (work:369-5661)	804-369
P.O. Box 209 // Altavista, VA 24517	
USHGA # 41159	
Greg Lemieux	703-552
1114 Palmer Dr // Blacksburg, VA 24060	
USHGA # 8263	
David McCommon	703-789
Rt 1 Box 35 // Dugspur, VA 24325	
USHGA # 29641	
Randy Newberry	703-688
P.O. Box 65 // Bland, VA 24315	
USHGA # 21302	
Corby Overstreet	703-563
7308 Old Mtn Rd NE // Roanoke, VA 24019	
USHGA # 25529	
Jim Robertson	----
4343 Cordell Dr // Roanoke, VA 24018	
USHGA # 31895	
Craig Rogers	703-961
1020 Turner St // Blacksburg, VA 24060	
USHGA # 46066	
Wayne Sayer (work:552-9012)	703-552
Rt 1 Box 234B // Blacksburg, VA 24060	
USHGA # 24924	
Bob Simonds (VICE-PRES) (work: 961-7456)	703-953
Rt 3 Box 436 // Blacksburg, VA 24060	
USHGA # 43906	
Fred Stoll (PRESIDENT)	703-951
1406 Locust Ave // Blacksburg, VA 24060	
USHGA # 21190	
Paul Tidwell	703-961
208-B Price's Fork // Blacksburg, VA 24060	
USHGA # 48813	

thermals

the swvhga newsletter

Vol 3 - Issue 2

September 1988

Letter from the President (Fred Stoll):

Hello, fellow fliers. I'm back in town from a summer in hot, flat Hampton, so I think it's time to send out a word to keep the communication lines open within the club. I'm putting out this newsletter because our recently elected Secretary/Treasurer, John Lane, is moving to Florida. Bob Simonds (Vice-President) has agreed to act as Secretary/Treasurer (after this newsletter) until our next club meeting, so until then, direct appropriate requests and correspondences to Bob. WE NEED A NEW SECRETARY/TREASURER; think about volunteering.

NEXT MEETING: Be reminded that the SwVHGA will have a meeting on Saturday November 5. The time and location are not set, but will be announced in the next newsletter. **SOMEONE PLEASE VOLUNTEER THEIR RESIDENCE** for the meeting (save yourself a drive!) and let Bob Simonds or me know about it.

ON JULY 10, a number of club members, including several Hang II's, got their first taste of tow-gliding, on Smith Mountain Lake at John Lane's party. Reports are that everything went well except for one scary flight for Ken Frampton, which ended without damage or injury. Too bad John is leaving!

INSTRUCTION AND RATINGS: I know that there are several fairly new and advancing flyers in the area, thanks in great part to Richard Cobb, who has moved to Pennsylvania. I have also been contacted by or heard of two other new and aspiring pilots. Hang I and II ratings can only be issued by USHGA Instructors, while III and IV ratings can be issued by USHGA Observers, so I want to publicize the appropriate names of club members. Unfortunately, the only instructor I'm aware of is Bo Frazier, who is busy in law school and has no training sites near him. As far as Observers go, I am one, and I think I heard that Bo Frazier is one. Perhaps there are others in the club; if you are one, notify Bob or me so we can put it in the newsletter.

New pilots must be cultivated to support the future of hang gliding in this area, so I can only say that any members with an inclination to become Instructors are heartily encouraged to do so. There are two Instructor Certification clinics coming up this fall which are not too far away. Lookout Mountain Flight Park

holds one on October 8-9, costing between \$125 and \$150, Hang III required, taught by Matt Taber (?) and Greg Ball. Kitty Hawk Kites East holds one on November 11-13. For reservations, see phone numbers in Hang Gliding Magazine Calendar of Events. If the fee is a big problem for someone who is otherwise inclined to do it, I would propose, for consideration at our next meeting, that the club consider paying this fee if the member expects to be around for at least a couple of years, and expresses a willingness to be available to potential flying students in our general area. It's not a perfect idea, but think about before the next meeting.

MEMBER UPDATES: I was contacted by Ken James, a new pilot who moved into the area. He has a Hang I, but has been flying intermediate sized hills quite a bit, and needs to find an instructor to get up-rated. He is also looking for a new (used) glider. Contact Ken James, 4622-12 Grandin Extension, Roanoke, 24018 (phone unknown). If you want to fly with Steve Booth, his phone numbers for the next month or so are 552-0611 or 961-6967 (work). Richard Cobb's new abode: 620 W Foster Ave, State College, PA, 16801, 814-867-8529.

FOR SALE: If you have good used equipment to sell, send a note for the newsletter. I know that Corby Overstreet has a couple of Litek variometers for sale. Litek makes a good, reliable audio/visual variometer, probably the most common type used in hang gliding, by my judgement. Advancing pilots who want to stay up in conditions other than ridge lift, be advised that a vario and a good altimeter both can make an enormous difference.

NEWSLETTER: send in flying stories (true or false) or other information of hang gliding interest to Bob Simonds or me.

Bob Simonds, VP, acting SEC/TRES
Rt 3 Box 436
Blacksburg, VA 24060
703-953-2915
(work: 961-7456)

Fred Stoll, PRES
1406 Locust Ave.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
703-951-1987

SITES: Site protocol and status are constantly changing, so I have attempted to collect information on our local flying sites.

BIG WALKER - NW facing, 1000' vertical ridge, near Bland. You must sign a release for the landing area, available from Randy Newberry. Site is unrated, but ought to be Hang III or Hang II with supervision, because of a challenging LZ.

FOX MOUNTAIN - South facing, 800' vertical ridge, near interstates 81 and 77. LZ best for a west or east cross wind. Unregulated, but call Randy Newberry about access, because there are locked gates. Hang III or Hang II with supervision is advised.

NEWPORT TRAINING HILL - East facing, near Newport. Open with no problems.

ROANOKE MOUNTAIN and RAVEN'S ROOST: Both of these sites on the Blue Ridge Parkway are regulated by the National Park Service out

of the Vinton Ranger Station, phone number 703-982-6490. You must have a Hang III rating, be current on your USHGA membership, have an annual permit from the ranger station, and call the station on days you want to fly. WARNING: The station is sometimes unattended on weekends; call early in the day for your best chances of connecting. Sites are closed on some holiday weekends, and for the month of October. I think that a Charlottesville based club works with the Park Service on these two sites. Specifics:

RAVEN'S ROOST - NW facing ridge with cliff launch, on Blue Ridge Parkway near Waynesboro.

ROANOKE MOUNTAIN - East facing launch just off Blue Ridge Parkway outside of Roanoke.

BONSACK - 700' hill, launch at 500', NW facing, near Roanoke. Shallow slope; not recommended for light wind. LZ changes often, call John Gramh or Corby Overstreet for updates. Unregulated, but Hang III or IV is recommended.

12 O'CLOCK KNOB - 1500' bowl launch, W or NW wind, near Salem. Nice LZ, launch ramp needs fixing, sometimes lots of sink; Hang III recommended. Call John Gramh or Corby Overstreet for updates and map. BOTH BONSACK AND 12 O'CLOCK KNOB NEED VOLUNTEER HELP FOR RAMP WORK AND BRUSH CLEARANCE.

TOBACCO ROW - 1800', SE and NW launches. Pilot must read handbook and sign waiver before flying. NW side LZ is in possible danger of closure. Call Vicki Frazier (804-846-1130 business, 804-384-7916 home, no later than 9:00 PM) regarding handbook and updates, and always before flying. (Handbooks: I will see about getting copies for the secretary/treasurer to mail out.) Bo Frazier is the prime mover behind this fine site.

EAST RIVER, Bluefield - NW facing ridge overlooking Bluefield. Unregulated, but has a possible choke factor, so Hang III is advised. Call Tom King for specifics about this site.

MOUNTAIN LAKE, SW facing, north of Blacksburg; PARIS MOUNTAIN, W or NW facing, east of Blacksburg; these are both potential great sites, but will need a lot of work and persuasive talent to open up. Anyone wanting to help work toward opening these, especially some clean-cut, smooth talking types, call me and I'll try to coordinate the efforts.

Best of flying to you,

Frederic Stoll

Just in: New pilot or aspiring pilot in
Lynchburg: Dave Holschneider
108 Poplar Hollow Dr,
Lynchburg, VA 24503

thermals

the swvhga newsletter

HANG GLIDER PILOT WOWS CROWD AT FOOTBALL GAME

BLACKSBURG, VA., Oct. 8, 1988. (From the wire services) Wayne Sayer, a local businessman and member of the Southwest Virginia Hang Gliding Association, amazed the crowd at Virginia Tech's homecoming football game when he flew his hang glider over the stadium during the game.

The flight originated at the nearby Virginia Tech Airport where Sayer was reportedly towed aloft by a specially equipped Datsun truck belonging to the Southwest Virginia Hang Gliding Association President, Fred Stoll. The truck was driven by another association member, Tom King and the towing apparatus was operated by Steve Booth. The event was recorded on video by Mike Schlagel who bravely hung out of his speeding car while it was driven down a parallel taxiway by an unknown spectator known only to the hang glider group by the name of "Wuffo."

Steve Booth also flew during the game, but he was unable to glide to the football stadium.

The entire operation was pulled off with the approval of Virginia Tech authorities, both at the airport and at the game. Possibly the only glitch occurred when the negotiator for the pilots failed to tell Sayer that he was not actually supposed to fly over the stadium itself. Otherwise, the event was deemed a success and should promote the sport of hang gliding and the Southwest Virginia Hang Gliding Association.

The flight failed to help the host team during their homecoming game as they lost to the nationally ranked football squad from the University of South Carolina.

* MEETING NOTICE * MEETING NOTICE * MEETING NOTICE *

Remember the November 5th meeting that you were supposed to put on your calender way back last summer? Well guess what - it's almost here! The meeting will be held at Fred Stoll's house on Saturday, November 5th at 5 PM. Come and see your hang gliding buddies. Watch videos of the recent flight over the football game and slides from the 1979 (!) world hang gliding meet held in Grenoble, France. Bring your own pictures, too! The SWVHGA will provide a grill and burgers as well as coolers for your drinks. And don't forget, it will be time to see who won the cross country contest! (You still have a couple of days to get in that long flight.) A plaque will be awarded.

And on a more serious note, we have to elect (draft?) a new secretary/treasurer to replace John Lane. We also need to address the issue of an active certified instructor, or lack thereof, to fill the void left by the departure of Richard Cobb.

See the map to Fred's place attached and don't complain about the drive. You had a chance to volunteer your place. See you at Fred's.

***** GLIDERS FOR SALE CHEAP! *****

230 NOVA w/harness and wheels. \$300. Don Anderson, PO Box 966, Dublin, VA 24084 (703) 674 5460.

130 STREAK for \$300. Although this glider is a few years old, it reportedly has never been flown! Willie A. Carr, 2739 Colonial Ave., Roanoke, VA 24015 (703) 343-5606