

May 2007



TAM AIRLINES

Newsletter of the Marin County Hang Gliding Association



Not really great conditions, but these days, we'll take whatever we can get. Other than that, it makes a pretty picture. A few pilots set up for a guaranteed sled ride from B Launch in some seriously inverted (i.e. stable) air. Photo by Don Saito

MONTHLY SITE WATCH:

Pilots of all kinds love the coasts of Marin. Hang glider pilots, paraglider pilots, and *power plane and helicopter pilots*, too. It's not too rare we see power pilots taking in the gorgeous views along the boundaries of sea and land. That's something to consider: when power pilots come zipping through "our" airspace, they may be distracted from their duty to watch where they're going by all that pretty scenery, and that could be a potential problem for us sky slugs.

The first thing we notice when an airplane or helicopter approaches is the noise these aircraft make. The moment you hear them, make it an automatic habit to go to Yellow Alert. Look for them and find them. It might not be too bad an idea to start making a few tight 360s to get your wing up out of its normally horizontal orientation, and make yourself more visible. It might also be a good idea to fly with a mirror ball atop your kingpost (if you've got a kingpost). Keep a close eye on them, and if it seems they're headed your way, don't be proud, and don't get righteous—get out of the way! It would be of little comfort to know you were in the right, as you're falling out of the sky in little chopped-up pieces.

You may now fly—if you dare. ➤

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This month's meeting is at the Round Table Pizza Parlor in Mill Valley on Thursday, May 31, 2007, 7:30pm. Map and directions on back page.

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Editor's Spin

Howdy pilots: Despite my order for better conditions last month, our Mom (Nature) refuses to cooperate. Every weekend, it's inverted, blowing over the back, *raining*, or blown out. Must be global warming. It's the

middle of May ferchrisake - pretty soon, it's going to be summer, and Tam's spring flying season, such as it was, will be over. Let us hope this will not be a recurring trend.

So, how many of you got taken in by my "Ultimate Spot Landing" story last month, huh? Huh?? Heheheh!

An amazing thing in the world of hang gliding happened very recently: the town of Telluride, Colorado was *that* close to shutting down hang gliding forever. Yes, *Telluride*! One of the few places in the US where it can be legal to, and even possible to, get higher than 18,000' ASL. A site where hang- and para-gliding, regional, national, and aerobatics competitions have been held for decades. You may have seen the email sent out to all of USHPA the week before the deadline. Here it is:

From: US Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, Inc.
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2007 7:47 AM
Subject: From USHPA: Free Flight in Telluride Needs Your Help
Importance: High

Greetings Fellow Pilots,

Free Flight in Telluride Needs YOU!!!

While there are many awesome flying sites in this country, Telluride, with it's spectacular views, incredible thermals, record-setting altitude and distance potential, is a true classic. With the first

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Publication Deadlines:

Tam Airlines is mailed approximately one week before each monthly meeting (now, usually the last Thursday of the month, unless otherwise posted). Submissions for publication must be received at least two weeks before the meeting. All material can be sent to:

Editor - Tam Airlines
3514 Randolph Ave.
Oakland, CA 94602
donsaito@comcast.net

NEW TO TAM?

If you are new to flying at Mt. Tam, call one of the following pilots to check their availability for a site introduction - they'll tell give you good advice and answer your questions.

- David Beerman (415) 383-0147
president@mchga.org
- Rick Canham (415) 388-1381
- Don Saito (510) 482-2913
editor@mchga.org

Meeting Minutes, April 26, 2007

Attendees: David Beerman, Judy Cunningham, Lauretta Klockars, Phil Merrell, Phil Ray, Bob Reiter, Don Saito.

Events Coordinator Bob Reiter says next planned club trip would be to Yosemite sometime around mid-June; the exact dates would be determined for the next newsletter. Phil mentioned there was a "Chandelle Reunion" planned at Yosemite during the July 4 weekend. Phil Ray has more details on it, and will get the info to the newsletter editor. Ideas were brought up about how to protect the windtalker sensor from avian attack, including spikes, cages, covers, etc. That was as much business that got done. The rest of the meeting consisted of eating, drinking, and just generally being merry (as usual).

Until then: Get high, go far. ➤

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flights here flown in 1972, the Telluride Air Force is one of the longest standing Chapters of USHPA. Over the years, we've hosted 15 World Hang Gliding Aerobatic Championships, a Speed Gliding Competition, numerous regional hang gliding and paragliding competitions and the 2003 Paragliding Nationals. We come to you at this time to ask for your support.



For many, many years the Valley Floor served as an ideal landing zone for hang gliders and paragliders. Unfortunately, this LZ, affectionately known by hang glider pilots as the Leisure Zone, has been closed since the Town of Telluride initiated condemnation proceedings to preserve the Valley Floor as Open Space, as opposed to more trophy homes, hotels and golf courses.

There used to be an alternate LZ, known as the Seizure Zone, in the Telluride Town Park. Previously challenging enough, tall trees now encircle the Town Park, which is also now full of fences surrounding soccer and softball fields and is no longer a suitable LZ. Even the last resort for paragliders, the Town Park is, now, too small for hang gliders and the Pearl Property is being eyed for development.

By virtue of our landing zones being threatened, free flight itself in Telluride, is endangered. The Valley Floor is the best, most suitable LZ we have, but it will certainly be developed to the law's limits, unless the citizens of Telluride, under the leadership of Valley Floor Preservation Partners, will prevail by raising the funds necessary to buy the property.

To make a donation or for up to the minute details on our effort to preserve this beautiful piece of land that will include, in perpetuity, an LZ for hang gliding and paragliding alike. please visit <http://www.valleyfloor.org/>.

Thank you from cloudbase,
Scott MacLowery
The Telluride Airforce

Steve Mayer
Region 4 Director
info@paragliders.com

Bay Area Hang Gliding Resources List

Merlin Flight School

(415) 456-3670

<http://www.merlinflightschool.com/>

Owner: Wally Anderson

Mission Soaring Center

1116 Wrigley Way

Milpitas, CA 95035

(408) 262-1055

<http://www.hang-gliding.com>

Owner: Pat Denevan

Weather Information

Automated Windtalker Machines

Mt. Tamalpais: (415) 381-9463

Stinson Beach: (415) 868-1922

Fort Funston: (415) 333-0100

Mt. Diablo: (510) 838-9225

Ed Levin: (408) 946-9516

Waddell Creek: (408) 426-3613

WOR Soaring Fcst: (408) 973-1976

Mt. Tam Ridge Road Status

(415) 388-2070 for road conditions.

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With only a week before the deadline (May 10th), and more than \$1 million to go, to make the total \$50 million needed, it was a bit of an eleventh hour crunch, to be sure. Thanks to a LOT of contributors, such as Telluride local residents, celebrities like movie actress Darryl Hannah, and including hang/para glider pilots such as Daniel Pifko, Bob Reiter, and myself (these are the only ones with whom I'm aware - please let me know if you contributed, too), the Telluride Air Force who collected \$10,000, and a \$10,000 matching grant from the Foundation for Hang Gliding and Paragliding (aka USHGF), the goal was met and even exceeded. What does this mean? It means hang and para gliding *will* continue in Telluride into the foreseeable future, and you can see that in writing at <http://www.valleyfloor.org/index.html> (click on the Legal Case link, and select "Conservation Easement", page 1, item 2 Purpose and Allowed Uses).

To quote myself, I said this was an amazing thing in the world of hang gliding, but it was more than that; it was a rare and beautiful moment in American history. It happens all too often that the greed of powerful and morally bankrupt individuals (i.e. - you're not going to believe this - scumbag war profiteers, the Blue brothers, Neal and Linden Blue) runs roughshod over the hopes and wishes of common people. This was one of those few times that despite their money, political ties, and legal drones, they lost. It's quite a story, and I encourage you to read all about it at the valleyfloor.org website.

Now, who's up for a trip to Telluride?! ➤



Tam Airlines

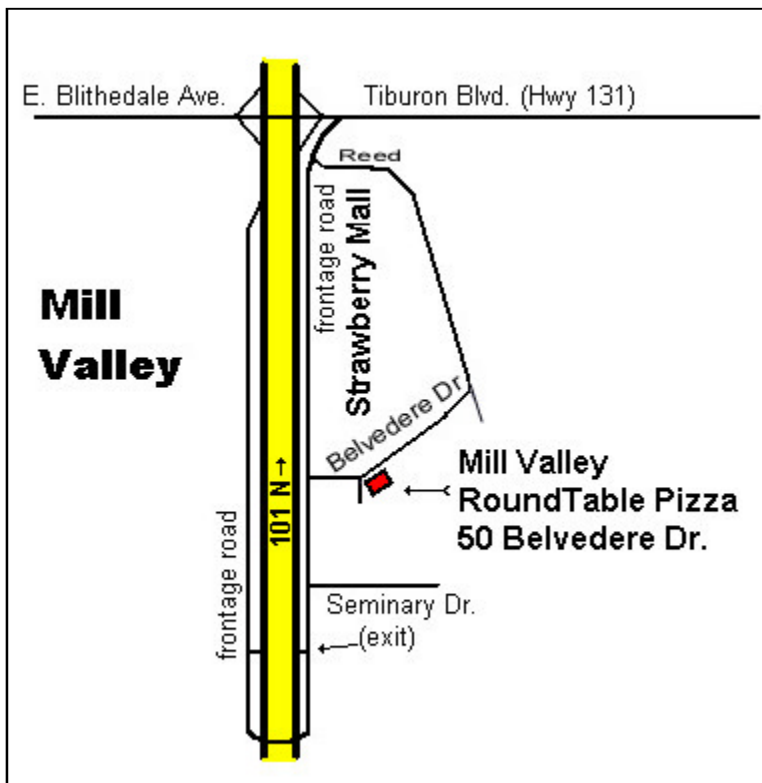
A publication of

Marin County Hang Gliding Association

PO Box 785

Mill Valley, CA 94942

April 2007 Issue



Directions

Round Table Pizza
50 Belvedere Drive
Mill Valley, CA
(415) 383-5100

Contact on Simplex 147.495 MHz or the Tam repeater
146.700(-) MHz (179.9Hz PL tone)

Directions from Richmond Bridge and points north:

1. Take Hwy 101 to Tiburon/Blithedale exit
2. Turn left onto Tiburon Blvd, head east over freeway
3. Turn right and down at first signal to frontage road
4. Go past Strawberry Mall to first signal, turn left onto Belvedere Dr.

Directions from Golden Gate Bridge and points south:

1. Take 101 north to Seminary Dr. exit
2. Turn left onto the frontage road
3. Go past Seminary Dr to second signal
4. Turn right onto Belvedere