

May 2008



TAM AIRLINES

Newsletter of the Marin County Hang Gliding Association



Incoming! A tandem pair trade 'wows', while another glider starts its approach.

MONTHLY SITE WATCH:

Speaking of landings, we do want to remind you of a few things about the subject. When you come in to land, set up your approach over the beach or the water—not over the houses. (See Item 7a in the *Mt. Tam Rules and Regulations* document, rev. 9/2005.) Watch your airspace—if there are other gliders in the same airspace also setting up to land, whoever is the lowest should take the initiative and come down quicker, to make it clear to the other pilots the order in which the landings should occur. This is decidedly *not* a situation where you want to try to “maximize your airtime,” especially if there are pedestrians on the beach to make a single landing challenging enough, already. Think ahead.

Once you have landed, if you know others are right behind you, get out of the way as soon as possible, and if necessary, warn pedestrians that more gliders are coming in. If the situation is extreme (several gliders coming in to land in rapid succession), get out of the way, park your glider securely, and get out and direct traffic. Even if you just happen to be near the LZ, and see a glider coming in to land, go out and help direct foot traffic. Each pilot that flies Mt. Tam is responsible to ensure that other gliders coming in have a clear space to land. (See Item 7b in the aforementioned *Mt. Tam Rules and Regulations* document, available in hard copy when you get your helmet sticker, and online at <http://www.mchga.org/rules1006.PDF>.)

Thank you. You may now fly. ➤

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This month's meeting is at the Round Table Pizza Parlor in Mill Valley on Thursday, May 29, 2008, 7:30pm. Map and directions on back page.

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Publication Deadlines:

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

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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 you good advice and answer your questions.

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



Editor's Spin

Howdy pilots: Not much happening as far as I know at or with the site, this month. According to the Mt. Tam Soaring Log on our website, there has been some pretty nice flying going on, but I haven't heard of anything else that might qualify as unusual or

otherwise newsworthy. And that's okay with me!

Meeting Minutes, April 2008

Attendees: Wally Anderson, David Beerman, Martin Beresford, Rick Canham, Judy Cunningham, Phil Merrell, Phil Ray, Don Saito.

The windtalker is working as of mid-April. David Beerman and the machine's company rep worked on the computer/electronics end of the system, and got it working, again. Now, all we have to do is get Judy to provide us with her classy Aussie accent to replace the barely understandable, digitally generated voice, and we'll be all set. No update, yet, on the First Aid Box placement issue. At first, we were thinking of burying a concrete box in the sand, so the First Aid container would be well-protected from the crushing weight of the sand, but that would be expensive and a lot of work. Then, we thought it might be better to just keep it above-ground, somewhere around Marie Beckman's home (which is right by our LZ on Stinson Beach). Eric will check with her to see if that would be okay. Rick Canham voiced his grievances over the loss of his sticker number, and the lack of communication over his withdrawal from the Tam Committee. It was agreed that the situations were handled correctly, if not as sensitively, as they could have been, and the association officially recognizes Rick for his valuable contributions to hang gliding at Mt. Tamalpais. It was suggested MCHGA might make a group trip to the simulated free-fall facility, *iFly*, in Union City (<http://www.Iflysfbay.com/>). Group rates available for 10 or more people. Phil Merrell recommended seeing a Channel 9 show about a group called the *Bandaloop Project*, who have created a fusion between dance, rock climbing, and simulated low-gravity (http://www.projectbandaloop.org/gallery_video_cliffs.html).

Don suggested thinking about doing a fly-in at Yosemite in June, a few others expressed interest in doing something at Slide in the summer, and at Hull sometime in August. Treasurer Martin Beresford requested anyone with MCHGA expenses to report them to him so he could put together a finance report. ➤



◀ Pan Toll Ranger Station, where pilots sign in for the day to fly Mt. Tam

A tribute: Rick Canham

Last January, Rick Canham resigned from the Tam Committee after 30 years of valuable service as a Committee member. Over the years, Rick has made many contributions to the Committee's work in maintaining safe and responsible hang gliding on Mt Tam, and his contributions are greatly appreciated. Personally, Rick was one of the first people I met when I started flying Mt Tam, after returning from Tokyo in 1991. He was always very helpful, taking the time to patiently explain the characteristics of the mountain and its lift patterns, and the best launch and landing approaches. In those days before cell phones, most Tam pilots depended on HAM radios for communication. Rick was a keen HAM radio expert, and together with "Uncle" Hugh McDermott and "Senior Resident Pilot" Gunther Lohrentz, he helped me, and many others, to get set up with the right equipment and to get my HAM qualification. Like many other pilots, I learned a lot from Rick in getting familiar with other flying sites such as Hull, Elk, Dunlap and Slide. Rick was always a good source of helpful coaching and advice. On behalf of the Tam Committee and the whole of MCHGA, we all owe Rick a big vote of thanks! - *Martin Beresford*



Back in the mid-eighties, there was no Tam Committee—just the Tam Administrator, Lauretta Klockars. She didn't feel it was such a good idea for her, alone, to make up all the rules and regulations, make all the decisions, and administer the site alone, so she decided to form a committee to help her perform these duties. Rick was one of the Founding Tam Committee members, along with Jeff Mott, and Wally Anderson. Over the years Rick gave his time, considerable experience, and valuable advice in several critical situations. Lauretta recalled a specific incident when they had to talk to the Stinson Beach Firefighters Association about how to handle hang gliding-specific emergency situations (such as crashes, water landings, injured pilots, etc.) and, she, Rick, and Weegie successfully conveyed what the local emergency responders could do to help. It was a tough job,



but the three of them pulled it off very well, giving

MCHGA an air of competence and diligence which the local community appreciated and respected. For a couple of decades, Rick acted as a Tam Instructor, and helped introduce flying at Tam to Hang IIs and other pilots new to the site, and provided a lot of administrative assistance with the distribution of helmet stickers. He could often be found helping clear the LZ for incoming pilots. That was Rick—helpful, concerned, and who wouldn't hold back from taking action to “do something about it.” It's these qualities that made him such a longstanding and valuable ally for flying at Mt. Tam. ➤

◀ *Flying sites don't simply exist—they have to be administered, protected, and fought for—more and more, it seems, as the years go by.*

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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Tam Airlines

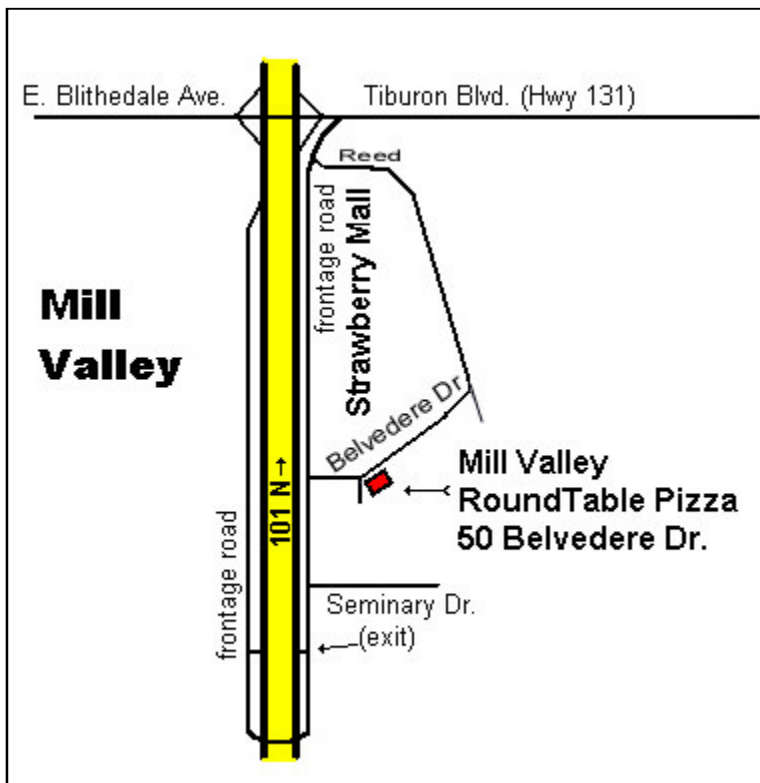
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May 2008 Issue



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