

Bay Area  
Paragliding  
Association  
(BAPA)

P.O. Box 1809, Pacific, CA, 94044-9909

# Ridge Dancer

## The Perfect Mountain – by Ann Sasaki

At the BAPA meeting on Wednesday, February 7, we will show the video called "The Perfect Mountain" starting at 6:45 p.m. The video lasts about 45 minutes. Featured in this film are Jackson Hole, Sun Valley and a well-known site in Germany. Jill Nephew makes a brief appearance, according to Chris Jones.

If you want to see the video, please plan to arrive by 6:45 p.m. Thanks to Chris Jones for loaning it to us, and many thanks to Mark Boudoures for bringing the necessary equipment to view

videos.



**Soarable at the Stables**  
- photo by A. Gentles

We will attempt to have some form of entertainment at each of the BAPA meetings this year. Videos, slide shows and presentations are all welcome. Let me know what you have and we will schedule it for one of the upcoming meetings.

In March we are hoping for the Jules Brenner Turkey slide show, featuring Cheryl Cohen, the Galvins and the Brennens.

See you at the next meeting.

## Site Views - by Gene Pfeiffer

As the reelected site director for another year, I would like to give our old and new members a monthly report on our present and future paragliding sites. Also, for our newer members, some months will be a review of the rules and description of our sites.

This month I would like to bring to your attention several problems that have developed at Mt. Diablo. Ranger Dave Matthews has contacted our site administrator, Bob Clem, regarding three problem items. He said that parking

at Juniper campground is reserved for registered campers per our site regulations. There has been an understanding that during the weekdays if the campground was not crowded, that the paragliders could park there. Until Bob gets a confirmation from Dave Matthews, please do not park in the Juniper campground.

The second item is that some drivers have been speeding on the road between launch and the landing zone. Please observe the speed limit as it

only takes one speeding paraglider or hang-glider pilot to close the flying site.

The last item is that some paragliding pilots have not been taking down the windsock at the end of the day.

Included in this issue are the site regulations for flying at Mt. Diablo. Bob is waiting for the Mt. Diablo "01" date helmet stickers so they can be issued to pilots currently in good standing with BAPA.

### Inside this issue:

Trips & Stuff	Page 2
Mt. Diablo Procedures	" 3
BAPA Events Calendar	" 4
BAPA Meeting Minutes	" 5
BAPA Membership Form	" 6
Safety Savvy	" 9
Mt. Diablo Waiver Form	" 10

### Worth remembering :

- Next Club Meetings are Feb 7th and Mar 7th @ 7:00 P.M. Round Table Pizza, Oceana at Manor Drive in Pacifica – social hour starts at 6:00 P.M.
- Dumps Radio Contact – 151.955 MHz
- Coast Guard Emergency Phone 415.331.8247
- Your 2001 Dues are due !

# Trips and Stuff - by Jerry Schimke

'Twas the season to be jolly,  
Beneath mistletoe and holly.

The dates they came and went, by  
golly,  
But the virus was among us  
And I felt just like a fungus.

My wife and I, we both did  
Get familiar with the childproof lid.

As we spent our meager wealth,  
I nursed myself back to health.....

.....Just in time for fun in the sun at Big Sur at the changing of the year. Because of "the sick," I didn't even decide to make the Big Sur scene until mid-day Saturday arriving from Davis after dark and missing a good day of flying (and the one injury accident at launch. Sunday, the last day of year 2000 was soorable. Yippee! Monday was very south and quirky, but for the lucky and the patient, flights on the first day of the New Year were enjoyed. All the delicious shared food and drink and good fires made the party a wonderful affair. Thanks to Kim and Mike Galvin for their initiative in renting the Group Camp. Considering the beauty of Big Sur and the wonderful sensation of flying out over the ocean and down the coast to the LZ, the trip was pretty darn satisfying, overall.

**New Year Resolutions** -- Do you have any? I don't really make formal resolutions, but sometimes I've written a list of objectives or things I'd like to accomplish during the year. Looking at an old list from mid-1998 I see some things actually accomplished, some lost by the wayside and others still on my "Do List." For example, I got my HAM license, became a P-4 and flew Mt Diablo, but I still haven't flown Mt. Tam, or Elsinore (and lots of other places as well). So here's what comes up for me in 2001:

1. Fly another injury-free year (three and a half and counting)
2. Fly at least 100 days (flew

3. sixty six in 2000)  
Fly at 20-30 different sites, including ten new sites (flew 30 and 13 respectively, in 2000)
  4. Improve my flying skills by attending formal training and a maneuvers clinic
  5. Fly Mt. Tam
  6. Fly Elsinore
  7. Log over 100 hours of flight time
  8. Log a flight over 20 miles long
- That's enough for now. Next year I can look and see how I did.

And to get a flying start on my list, I'm heading off for ten days in Valle de Bravo, Mexico with Chris Santacroce and Jeff Ferrell. Hope to get 8-10 consecutive days of flying before the end of January. I'll let you know how it turns out. Other club members are off to Mexico with Juan Laos and Jody Lucas; should have a ball.

**Calendar Notes** -- Speaking of club members, reminds me of club meetings. Be sure to attend the February 7 meeting when the Video "The Perfect Mountain" will be shown. Then, at the March 7 meeting, "Flying in Turkey" a slide show by Jules Brenner will be presented. Come one, come all. Should be interesting.

Last winter (January 8, 2000, actually) Gregg Thomas, Darron Guberman and I spent a day at Potato Hill and were moderately surprised by the enjoyable venture. The day was short, and conditions were light, but we soared a little bit while fog lay like a blanket in the Sacramento Valley. With that experience as a guide, I've scheduled February 17,18 as a target for a winter venture to Potato Hill. Keep tuned to the list [sfbapg@lists.wildpackets.com](mailto:sfbapg@lists.wildpackets.com) as the date draws neigh and maybe we'll have some nice mellow winter flying then and there.

There are some very good opportunities for skill improvement coming up in both February and March. Why not enroll in a maneuvers clinic at Lake Havasue with Enleau O'Connor, or Dixon White in February or March (see calendar). There are

lots of options to choose from. And don't miss the Glidell-sponsored reserve clinic scheduled for February 10-11. The cost will be \$200 this year and you will have the opportunity to learn valuable information about that small piece of equipment that may some day save your life when the going has gotten too tough to handle. Contact Mark Broudoures at (415) 716-9317 or [mbroudoures@elanpharma.com](mailto:mbroudoures@elanpharma.com) for details. And HURRY! It's not long until February 10.

On March 10 a First Aid/CPR course will be offered to the first 10 people who sign up. Cost is \$20 per person and well worth it. These are definitely lifesaving skills that everyone should have. Again, Contact Mark Broudoures for details.

On the weekend of April 20-22, a group of BAPA members is planning to congregate at Dunlap for an informal fly-in. You need to be P-3 or better to fly at Dunlap and there is a \$10/day fee to land at the flight park. Also, there is a \$15 fee per campsite in the flight park. Contact Dave Sondergeld at (650) 756-4530 for more details.

If you have future flying events scheduled, or if you desire to have specific events put on the calendar, please let me know.

And meanwhile, enjoy the holidays!

Have Fun. Fly Safe.

# Mt. Diablo Procedures – by Gene Pfeiffer

MT. DIABLO STATE PARK IS AN ADVANCED-ONLY PARAGLIDING SITE PILOTS MUST HAVE AN ADVANCED RATING TO FLY THIS SITE PILOTS MUST BE MEMBERS OF USHGA PILOTS MUST HAVE A VALID DIABLO/BAPA STICKER. IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL CENTRAL DISPATCH FOR STATE PARKS (800) 548-1431.

**(1) Site Operation:** The Bay Area Paragliding Association (BAPA) is designated by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation through a special use permit to administer paragliding activities within the Mt. Diablo State Park.

**(2) Launch and Landing Areas:** Mt. Diablo currently has two approved takeoff areas and three approved landing areas (in addition to "top landing" on the Juniper launch areas). Pilots are restricted to these areas within the boundaries of the park. Landing out is prohibited, unless it is an emergency or otherwise unavoidable. Landing on paved areas is also prohibited.

Particulars for each takeoff area and the landing area are as follows:

## LANDING AREAS

(a) 1,000 Foot Landing Area (Burma Fire Road Trail): Aside from "top landing", when conditions make it possible, this is the main approved landing zone for paragliders, and is located at the 1,000 foot elevation point on North-

gate Road. As you are driving up the access road from Walnut Creek (Northgate Road), you will see a 1,000' elevation sign and a trail head on the right side of the road. There is a gate and fire road which is used to access the landing zone. It is advisable to check the landing conditions prior to heading up to launch, and you should also mount a windsock or other directional device toward the middle of the landing zone. Please bear in mind that turbulence is known to occur (even in very light breezes), so be aware.

(b) South Landing Area: This is an alternative landing zone and should be used only when it is determined that you cannot safely reach the main 1,000 Foot Landing Area. It is located approximately 5.3 miles up the Northgate Road from the entrance, and 2.2 miles from the 1,000 foot landing area. Its approximate elevation is 1,600 feet. This landing area consists of an unfenced field due North of the Turtle Rock Ranch buildings. At the West end of this field, the Northgate Road makes an abrupt hairpin turn. Pilots are requested not to land at the Southeast end of this field, near the hairpin as it may distract traffic in the turn. Instead, they will land mid-field, and that chase vehicles pick them up at the turnout located next to the speed limit sign also located mid-field along the Northgate Road. Pilots should be aware that this landing zone can be extremely turbulent in South and Northwest/North

wind conditions.

(c) Helicopter Landing Area: This also is an alternative landing zone. It is located approximately one mile down the Southgate Road from the midpoint Junction Ranger Station. This landing area is situated at the dirt helicopter pad on the East side of the road. It is an established hang glider landing zone. This area is to be used by pilots flying the South side of Mt. Diablo, or who are attempting to fly cross-country and have determined that they are unable to leave the Park. Pilots should be aware that this landing zone can be turbulent in Northwest/North wind conditions. In addition, helicopters DO USE this landing pad on occasion. If any helicopters are noticed in the area, use another landing area if necessary.

## LAUNCHING AREAS

(a) Juniper Camp Launch: This is a large, grassy, nicely sloping ridge facing Southwest that is used as the primary launch. There are camping facilities adjacent to this launch site. This site should only be used in West to Southwest wind conditions. Launch altitude is 2,900 MSL and the 1,000' landing area is basically straight out from launch. This launch can be soarable at times, making it possible to top-land. Only gliders with a 6:1 or above glide ratio should be flown. Making the landing zone can be difficult if wind is present, so please use your Advanced rating judgment and do not

*(Continued on page 7)*

## **Accident Reporting Procedures**

*Paragliding is still evolving as a sport. Safety awareness and knowledge are vital components for avoiding accidents. If you sustain a paragliding injury, please help to raise the awareness of your fellow pilots by submitting an Accident Report to USHGA. If your accident occurs in the Bay Area, please also send a copy to :*

**BAPA Safety Director**  
P.O. Box 1809  
Pacifica, CA 94044-9998

*Contact the BAPA Safety Director to Obtain an Accident Report form. Forms are also available online at : [www.ushga.org/emailacc.htm](http://www.ushga.org/emailacc.htm).*

## **Bay Area Wind and Weather**

### Wind Talkers

Ed Levin	408.946.9516
Fort Funston	415.333.0100
Mt. Diablo	510.838.9225
Mt. Tamalpais	415.381.9463
Stinson Beach	415.868.1922
Marina / Sand City	831.384.3184

### Internet URL's

Funston Webcam	– <a href="http://www.sirius.com/~mlbco/webcamx.html">www.sirius.com/~mlbco/webcamx.html</a>
Bay Area Wind	– <a href="http://sfbay7.wr.usgs.gov/~jonathan/wind.html">sfbay7.wr.usgs.gov/~jonathan/wind.html</a>
Mission Webcam	– <a href="http://www.bigfoot.com/~missionlive">www.bigfoot.com/~missionlive</a>
BAPA	– <a href="http://www.sfbapa.org">www.sfbapa.org</a>

# BAPA 2000 – 2001 PARAGLIDING CALENDAR

Updated January 12, 2000 by Jerry Schimke

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## FEBRUARY

- 7 BAPA Meeting, 7:00 P.M. at Round Table Pizza in Pacifica  
10,11 Reserve Clinic -- Two day weekend, \$200. Learn lots about reserve chutes, possible scenarios, when and how to deploy, what to look out for.  
Contact Mark Broudoures: (415) 716-9317 or mboudoures@elanpharma.com  
9-11 Aerobatic & Maneuvers Clinic, Lake Havasue (includes ½ day ground school)  
Contact Enleau O'Conner: (530) 472-1427  
17,18 Winter Venture to Potato Hill -- Weather dependent.  
Keep tuned to SFPAPA list sfbapg@lists.wildpackets.com  
23-27 Skill Excellence Clinic. Lake Havasue. Airplay.  
Contact Dixon White (520) 526-4579 or dixon@paraglide.com

## MARCH

- 7 BAPA Meeting, 7:00 P.M. at Round Table Pizza in Pacifica  
10 First Aid/CPR class. Open to first 10 people who sign up. Cost is \$20.  
Contact Mark Broudoures for details: (415) 716-9317 or mboudoures@elanpharma.com.  
16-18 Aerobatic & Maneuvers Clinic, Lake Havasue (includes ½ day ground school)  
Contact Enleau O'Conner: (530) 472-1427  
26-30 Skill Excellence Clinic. Lake Havasue. Airplay.  
Contact Dixon White (520) 526-4579 or dixon@paraglide.com

## APRIL

- 4 BAPA Meeting, 7:00 P.M. at Round Table Pizza in Pacifica  
20-22 Informal fly-in at Dunlap.  
Contact Dave Sondergeld for details: (650) 756-4530

## May

- 26-28 Starthistle Fly-In -- Woodrat Mountain, Ruch, Oregon  
Contact Chris Wick -- wickz@uswest.net

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## OTHER CLUB MEETING INFORMATION

**Wings of Rogallo** meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, but currently the traditional meeting place (Omega Restaurant in Milpitas.) is out of commission. Location to be determined. Social hour @ 7:00 pm, meeting starts at 8:00 pm.

**Sonoma Wings Hang Gliding Club** meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at the Round Table Pizza, Hwy 12 and Stonypoint Rd. in Santa Rosa at 7:00pm.

**Marin County Hang Gliding Association** meets on the last Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Round Table Pizza in Corte Madera. (Come early to start on your pizza)  
Stonypoint Rd. in Santa Rosa at 7:00pm.

## **BAPA & USHGA Region 2 Contacts**

### **BAPA Club Officers**

President	Ann Sasaki	650.355.8888	ann_sasaki@forecross.com
V. President	Ken Davis	650.756.7560	paraken@aol.com
Secretary	Cheryl Cohen	650.593.7458	cheryl_ehm@msn.com
Treasurer	Pam Brenner	415.883.4332	jnpsf@mindspring.com
Site Director	Gene Pfeiffer	408.356.7782	genep10302@aol.com
Safety Dir.	Mark Boudoures	650.355.1376	mboudoures@elanpharma.com
Activities Dir.	Jerry Schimke	530.758.0582	jschimke@dcn.davis.ca.us
Past Pres.	Mike Galvin	415.584.5610	chrism@oceanvista.com

### **S.F. Bay Area Site Administrators**

Stables	Dave Sondergeld	650.756.4530	dave_sondergeld@gap.com
Mt. Tam	Wally Anderson	415.456.3670	tipvortx@thegrid.net
Mt. Diablo	Bob Clem	925.825.4979	bclcm@earthlink.net
The Dump	Phil Neri	650.737.7926	
Ed Levin	Mission Soaring Center	408.262.1055	
Mission	Mission Soaring Center	408.262.1055	

### **USHGA Region 2 Observers**

Mondie Beier	408.957.6003	mbeier@adaptec.com	Ed Levin
Steve Thorpe	408.260.7029	thorpes@arklogic.com	Mission Ridge
Kim & Mike Galvin	510.748.0451	mgalvin1@home.com	Ed Levin
Scott Gasparian	650.218.3984	gaspo@igi.org	the Dump
Kathy & John Wilde	650.556.1320	wildeblu@aol.com	Ed Levin
Gene Pfeifer	408.356.7782	genep10302@aol.com	Ed Levin
George Morford	510.661.0889	gmorford@bigfoot.com	Mission Ridge
Dave Sondergeld	650.756.4530	dsonder@slip.net	the Stables
Martin Lades	925.216.9756		Ed Levin
Gerald Meyers	707.923.3353	penguin@humboldt.net	Mattole
Dave Bingham	408.923.0394	daveb@hooked.net	Ed Levin
Claudia Lehman	510.465.6037		Ed Levin
Phil Neri	650.737.7926		the Dump

### **USHGA Region 2 Examiners**

Jack Hodges	650.728.0938	
Ed Stein	650.367.9707	
Kathy Wilde	650.556.1320	wildeblu@aol.com
Scott Gasparian	650.218.3984	gaspo@igi.org

*The Ridge Dancer is published monthly to benefit the members of the Bay Area Paragliding Association (BAPA).*

*BAPA is an organization of paragliding enthusiasts. The charter of the club is to promote and encourage the sport of paragliding. BAPA is a registered chapter of the United States Hang Gliding Association (PC006).*

*Neither BAPA nor its officers makes any warranties or representations and they assume no liability concerning the validity of any advice, opinion or recommendations expressed in this material. Readers are encouraged to report errors of fact to the Editor.*

*Material for publication should be sent to the Editor and may be edited for format or space considerations. Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. Submissions can be made via email to : [spease@interserv.com](mailto:spease@interserv.com). Classified advertisements are free for BAPA members. This newsletter is available on paper or in electronic (.PDF) formats. Send your request for email Ridge Dancer to Pam Brenner at [jnpsf@mindspring.com](mailto:jnpsf@mindspring.com).*

## **BAPA Meeting Minutes of 1/3/01 – submitted by Cheryl Cohen**

The meeting opened with a video of Rob Whittal's trip to Nepal.

President Ann Sasaki called the meeting order at 7:30 pm. Eighteen members were present.

### **Officer Reports**

#### Site Director

Gene mentioned that there has been a problem with drivers speeding and parking in the wrong place at Diablo. Wally pointed out again that Tam requires a P-4 rating, or P-3 with a sponsor.

#### Secretary

Cheryl has the membership solicitation but is still waiting for the mailing labels.

#### President

Ann stated that her goals for this year would be to recruit new BAPA members, to improve our safety record, to promote new

activities, to streamline the meetings by following rules of order, and to offer more value to members (entertainment, education) at the BAPA meetings. New columnists have been recruited for the Ridge Dancer.

### **Old Business**

A motion was approved to accept the minutes of the last meeting.

Chris Jones asked that we follow up on the idea of a swap meet.

### **New Business**

Dave Sondergeld reported that the Stables webcam is currently out of funds. About \$240 is needed to fund the phone line for one year. A motion was passed to spend \$240 for this purpose.

There was a discussion about opening Mon-

tara Mountain as a flying site. Dave and Gever will check it out.

Julie is working on updating the webpage. She proposed that we spend \$70 to pay for a new hosting facility with better access. Motion passed.

Al Baldini noted that there will be a fly-in at Dunlap the weekend of April 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Notable Flights**

Gene flew at Anderson Flat on New Years. A large group was at Big Sur over New Years where it was flyable all three days. There was an accident that weekend involving a pilot who had problems at takeoff and spun his wing near the ground, breaking both feet. Tom and Eric flew at Valle over New Years.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Bay Area Paragliding Association  
**Membership Application & Renewal Form**



**Instructions :** Complete and mail this form, along with your payment, to : BAPA, PO Box 1809, Pacifica, CA 94044-9998. Forms may also be given directly to the Treasurer at the monthly BAPA meetings. Make your check payable to: "Bay Area Paragliding Association".

**Member Information :**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_ HAM Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

USHGA Number \_\_\_\_\_ USHGA Rating \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

First Aid Rating(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Other interests \_\_\_\_\_

- \* Check here if you do not wish this information to be published to other club members [  ]
- \* Check here if the information above has changed since your last renewal [  ]
- \* Check here to reduce club costs by electing to receive our monthly newsletter, "**The Ridge Dancer**", by e-mail (.PDF format) [  ]

**Membership dues (based on a calendar year) :**

<b>Dues Renewal - \$25.00 per year</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>New Members - \$2.00 per month</b>	<b>\$</b>	
from application date until end of year		
<b>Club Donations</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>Total Enclosed</b>	<b>\$</b>	

**Site Sticker Information :**

You may obtain stickers, as well as additional site information, by contacting the following Site Administrators :

<p><b>The Stables</b>                  Dave Sondergeld                  650.756.5430                  dsonder@slip.net</p>	<p><b>Mt. Diablo</b>                  Bob Clem                  925.825.4979</p>	<p><b>Mt. Tamalpais</b>                  Wallace Anderson                  415.456.3670                  tipvortx@thegrid.net</p>
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**Site Sticker Renewal :**

To request a sticker renewal for the current year, please send BAPA a photocopy of your current USHGA membership card, write your sticker number on the photocopy and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Mail to: BAPA, PO Box 1809, Pacifica, CA 94044 9998. Please indicate which site(s) you wish to renew your sticker(s) for :

The Stables [  ]                      Mt. Diablo [  ]                      Mt. Tamalpais [  ]

Your donation will help to defray site maintenance, insurance and sticker costs - ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Site Information :**

<p><b>Ed Levin &amp; Mission Ridge Point Reyes</b></p>	<p>Stickers and info available by contacting Wings of Rogallo, PO Box 361885, Milpitas, CA 95036-1885.</p>
<p><b>Pacifica Dump</b></p>	<p>Permits are available at the Bear Valley dispatch office on weekdays between 8:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. Flying without a permit is a \$200 fine.</p> <p>The dump is an unregulated site. BAPA recommends that you speak with an experienced local pilot for a site intro. prior to flying this site.</p>

----- **FOR BAPA USE ONLY** -----

Payment Amount received _____	Payment Method _____
Date of Receipt _____	Date in Database _____

# Mt. Diablo Procedures - by Gene Pfeiffer

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*(Continued from page 3)*

launch if you feel conditions will prevent you from reaching the landing zone. The alternative landing areas described above may be used; otherwise, landing out is prohibited, unless it is an emergency or otherwise unavoidable.

(b) Lower Summit Parking Lot South Launch: This is a launch which is also used by the hang glider pilots. It is directly South and opposite the restroom facilities located on the lower summit parking lot. Its use is limited to days in which wind conditions are Southeast/South.

**(3) Pilot Registration/Waiver:** All pilots must read this document and sign the registration and "Assumption of Risk and Release" forms. All forms may be obtained from a sponsoring pilot. It is required that a pilot's first flight from Mt. Diablo be sponsored by a BAPA/Mt. Diablo stickered pilot who has previous flying experience at this site.

**(4) USHGA Membership:** All pilots must be current members of the United States Hang Gliding Association (USHGA), and hold the required Advanced rating, and have their current USHGA rating card in possession. Foreign pilots with an equivalent rating to a USHGA Advanced rating must fill out the appropriate forms, and pay the requisite fees to become a USHGA member before being permitted to fly the site.

**(5) BAPA/Mt. Diablo Helmet Sticker Identification:** All pilots must display current BAPA/Mt. Diablo helmet stickers on their helmets while using the site. The sticker will identify the pilot as being authorized to fly at Mt. Diablo. When first obtained, the sticker will display the date of issue, written on the sticker by the sponsoring pilot. Later, when the paperwork has been processed, the pilot is sent a small sticker displaying the valid year for the main sticker. You may obtain helmet stickers by registering according to paragraph 3 above; including a copy of your valid

USHGA card displaying the required rating; making an annual \$12 donation to BAPA for purposes of maintaining USHGA site insurance and costs of printing and mailing stickers. Your sponsor will have the necessary forms to mail everything back to BAPA at:

Bay Area Paragliding Association  
P.O. Box 1809  
Pacifica, CA 94044-9998

From time to time, the rangers will visually inspect stickers affixed to helmets. They will only permit pilots to fly if they have a Mt. Diablo sticker with a valid, unexpired, "year" sticker, or a Mt. Diablo sticker with an issuance date that is no older than 30 days.

**(6) Guest Pilots:** No pilots are allowed to fly unless they have a BAPA/Mt. Diablo sticker.

**(7) Vehicle Operations:** Pilots arriving at Mt. Diablo must sign in at the Park Headquarters building located at the junction of Northgate Road and Southgate Road. Vehicles may only park in the designated parking areas. All drivers must hold a valid driver's license and all vehicles must carry appropriate insurance. Mt. Diablo State Park requires all entrants to pay day use fees or obtain annual passes. If the ranger stations at the gates are closed, pilots should stop at the main ranger station to pay the fee. Pilots are asked to identify themselves to the rangers at the gates as being paraglider pilots if they intend to fly. Parking in the Juniper campground is reserved for registered campers. The Rangers will cite all other vehicles parked in the campground. Vehicles may not be left in the park overnight. If a flight takes the pilot out of the park, it is the pilot's responsibility to remove their vehicle before the park closes. If the pilot cannot make it back to the park, the rangers must be notified to prevent ticketing of the vehicle.

**(8) Safe Practices:**

(a) IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY,  
CALL CENTRAL DISPATCH FOR

STATE PARKS (800) 548-1431. Please keep this number with you, it is a better number to dial from a cell phone than 911. Dialing 911 from a cell phone connects you to the CHP. CHP will then have to relay your information on to other agencies. By calling the Central Dispatch number you bypass the delays.

(b) All landings within the park shall be restricted to the designated Landing Areas except for landings dictated by obvious safety considerations. (Pilots must notify a ranger in case of a landing out, see below).

(c) All pilots shall fly with a reserve emergency parachute and a helmet AT ALL TIMES.

(d) Pilots shall not use the park for testing experimental gliders, unnecessary parachute deployments, or any hazardous operations.

(e) Pilots shall not fly over houses at lower than 500 feet altitude for any reason and must not fly close to paved roads to avoid causing any possible vehicular accident by distraction of the driver.

(f) Never land out on paved roadways.

(g) Motorized paragliders are not permitted in the area.

(h) Pilots should be aware of hang gliders, powered aircraft, and sail planes in the area.

(i) Pilots should be aware of horses and horseback riders, and must always yield the right-of-way to them. Horses have been known to react violently to paragliders launching or flying by. Delay your launch if a horse is near, and if flying, try to avoid getting too close.

(j) No launching from one hour before sunset to 8:00 AM.

(k) Once again, it is required that a pi-

*(Continued on page 8)*

# Mt. Diablo Procedures – by Gene Pfeiffer

(Continued from page 7)

lot's first flight from Mt. Diablo be sponsored by a BAPAMt. Diablo stickered pilot that has previous flying experience at this site.

(l) Flying alone is not recommended. You must at the very least have one assistant with you to monitor your flying.

(m) There is a metal lock box next to the pay phone with a combination lock. Only BAPAMt. Diablo stickered pilots are to be given the combination. Inside the box is a folder with sign-in forms. All pilots must sign-in every time they fly this site.

(n) The Rangers try to monitor the 2-Meter HAM frequency 146.415 megahertz. In the event of a landing outside the designated landing zones, it is a good idea to transmit a generic message, such as: *"The paraglider pilot who just landed in the vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ at a time of \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock is OK. There is no emergency."* The Park Rangers monitor this frequency when their work load permits. They monitor using a scanner and do not have the means to acknowledge the radio call. Due to the varied terrain and because the Rangers are often busy with other situations, there is a good chance that they may not receive the transmission. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the pilot who landed out to let the Rangers know as soon as possible via telephone, fellow pilot or in person that an out-landing has occurred and there is no emergency. Possibly the most efficient way would be to radio to a fellow pilot who is going back up the mountain to stop at the mid-point Junction Ranger Station and let them know. Or, if a cellular phone is available, call the Central Dispatch for State Parks (800) 548-1431. This Central Dispatch number is also the fastest way to summon emergency personnel.

(o) Pilots are encouraged to call various "Wind Talkers" to get wind info before coming to Mt. Diablo. The

Diablo wind talker is located on the tall antenna mast at the main hang gliding launch. This wind talker, like many others, is not always accurate, and should only be used in conjunction with other weather reporting sources, and your own observations. Mt. Diablo Wind Talker 925-838-9225. The Concord airport ATIS can give you important information such as ground level wind speed and direction. This information can help in determining the conditions at the 1000 foot LZ. Keep in mind that the wind speed and direction at Juniper launch and at the 1000 foot LZ are often vastly different. Concord ATIS 925-685-4567.

(q) Paragliding is still evolving as a sport. Safety awareness and knowledge are vital components for avoiding accidents. If you sustain a paragliding injury, please help raise the awareness of your fellow pilots by submitting an Accident Report to USHGA and a copy to: BAPA Safety Director, PO Box 1809, Pacifica, CA 94044-9998. Contact the BAPA Safety Director to obtain an Accident Report form.

**(9) Park Environment:** Due to potential fire hazard, smoking is NOT permitted in the launch or landing areas or on the access roads AT ANY TIME. The Park Rangers, Site Committee members, or BAPA officers may close the site at their discretion due to adverse flying conditions. Notice of the site closure will be posted at the entrance stations and/or the junction locker box. Pilots should check for such notice before going to a launch. Please obey and be courteous to the Park Rangers, observe the park rules handed to you at the gates and DO NOT LITTER. Violations should be reported to Site Committee members or BAPA Club Officers in order to preserve our site. Also, keep in mind that sound travels, let's keep it peaceful. All wind indicators ie. Flagging tape/wind socks etc will be removed at the end of each flying day.

**(10) Violations:** Each qualified BAPA/Mt. Diablo pilot is responsible for en-

suring that site procedures are followed. Violation of these procedures will result in the suspension or revocation of flying privileges of the offending pilot. Repeated violations may result in the closing of the site to all pilots. It is the responsibility of all pilots and their guests to follow all rules and regulations.

**(11) Procedure Changes and Information:** The Mt. Diablo State Park Paragliding Site Procedures are revised and updated as required by the BAPA Site Committee subject to approval by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Information about the procedures and the site may be obtained from the Site Committee members or BAPA club officers. (<http://www.igi.org/bapa/>)

FLY SAFE!

## BAPA/MT. DIABLO HELMET STICKER APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please fill out the "BAPA Membership Application" included in the Ridge Dancer. Include a check for \$12 (made out to "Bay Area Paragliding Association"). Also include a completed "Assumption of Risk and Release" form (a copy of which is included with this issue of the Ridge Dancer), and a copy of your valid USHGA rating card showing the required "Advanced" rating. Your sponsor will give you the required helmet sticker as well as the lock box combination. Your sponsor will be responsible for sending your forms back to Bay Area Paragliding Association, P.O. Box 1809, Pacifica CA 94044-9998

If you have any questions, or wish to become a sponsor, please contact:

Charles R. (Bob) Clem  
1671 Amhurst Way  
Concord, Calif.  
94518-3808  
Home (925) 825-4979  
email: [bcllem@earthlink.net](mailto:bcllem@earthlink.net)

# Safety Savvy – by Mark Boudoures

First, I would like to thank all of you who voted for me. I hope that I can make your flying a bit safer and more enjoyable. My role as Safety Director will be to promote safety through education and to support our Site Administrators in their efforts to maintain the highest possible level of safety at their respective sites. This will not be limited to any one site and I will do my best to visit all of the sites as often as possible. This, of course, means I will need to fly them all frequently....tough job.

I am certainly not the most experienced pilot or even one of the best but we do have quite a few within our group who are and I hope to draw on their experiences and pass their insights on to you in upcoming articles.

I will also be setting up a data base for incidents at our sites. This collection of data will help us to further identify problem areas and hopefully remedy some situations that are contributing to injuries. I will list questions such as - "How many of the accidents were new students?," "how many accidents occurred at each site?" and "how many accidents were self taught pilots?" to determine specific problem areas that we may or may not have control over. Each successive Safety Director will have this information to draw on and learn from with a continued goal of improved safety.

March 10<sup>th</sup> we will be holding CPR / First Aid courses at 700 Gateway blvd. This is an eight hour class and will include certification for all participants. The cost is only \$20 and I strongly urge

everyone who possibly can to attend. The knowledge gained in this course will last a lifetime and might save someone close to you. Courses are limited to 10 students each on a first-come, first-served basis. We will hold as many classes as necessary and I will also be trained to teach future classes.

For more information on these classes and other safety related issues please feel to contact me at [mboudoures@elanpharma.com](mailto:mboudoures@elanpharma.com) or call me at 415-716-9317.



**Wild Cattle Launch at Big Sur**

*- photo by A. Gentles*

Bay Area Paragliding Association  
**Mt. Diablo Assumption of Risk and Release Form**

**Instructions :** Complete this form as well as a BAPA Membership form. Make a copy of your current USHGA membership card (Advanced Rating only), include your payment of \$12.00 and mail all to : BAPA, PO Box 1809, Pacifica, CA 94044-9998. Make your check payable to Bay Area Paragliding Association.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ USHGA (Para 4) #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. \_\_\_\_\_ Ham License # \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am a member in good standing of USHGA and that the foregoing is true and correct, and I have read and understood the BAPA site rules for Mt. Diablo.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Pilot: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Pilot Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**MT. DIABLO ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE**

In consideration of permission to engage in paragliding at Mt. Diablo State Park, I \_\_\_\_\_,  
for myself, my personal representatives, heirs, next of kin, spouse, and assigns, do agree as follows:

**I. ASSUMPTION OF ALL RISKS OF PARAGLIDING**

I understand and acknowledge that the sport of paragliding has inherent dangers and risks of personal injury, death and property damage that no amount of care, caution, instruction, or expertise can eliminate. Nevertheless, I VOLUNTARILY ELECT TO ASSUME ALL RISKS, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, OF PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE CONNECTED WITH MY PARTICIPATION IN THE SPORT OF PARAGLIDING, HOWEVER CAUSED, EVEN IF CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THE ACTION, INACTION OR NEGLIGENCE OF THE "RELEASED PARTIES".

\_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

**II. RELEASE, WAIVER AND DISCHARGE**

I hereby release, waive and forever discharge:

- A) The State of California and Its Agents
- B) The East Bay Regional Park District
- C) The Bay Area Paragliding Association

all collectively referred to in this document as "released parties", and each of them, their agents employees, directors, members, committees, boards, officers, representatives, and leases from any and all liability and claims for personal injury, my death or property damage, connected with my paragliding activities, however caused, even if caused by negligence of the "released parties", or arising under the doctrine of strict liability.

**III. CONSENT TO MEDICAL CARE**

I acknowledge that paragliding activities at Mt. Diablo State Park is not covered by any personal accident or general liability insurance policy issued to the "released parties", I hereby give consent to whatever medical care might be provided or available to me.

**IV. CONSTRUCTION OF RELEASE**

I agree that this "Assumption of Risks and Release" is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of California and is not intended to be broader than allowed by California including Civil Code Section 1668. If any portion of this document is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance thereof shall continue in full legal force and effect, and shall be construed to be only as broad as allowed by California Law.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

I have read this document. I am an advanced-rated paragliding pilot. I understand that this is a release of all claims. I assume all risks inherent in paragliding. I voluntarily sign my name showing that I accept all of the terms of this "assumption and release".

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_