

HPAAC Annual General meeting 2007 – Minutes

Attendance: Christopher Ball, Randy Corcoran, Brian Wheaton, Kevin Harvey, Tim Reicker, Trevor Romo, Mark Dempsey, Tim Parker, Brendan McKenna, Michael Fuller, Brian Boudreau, Blake Daley.

Meeting called to order at 21:00

Christopher read the minutes for 2006. Approved.

Business Arising From Minutes

- Half Island – Mark Dempsey reached Kathy Milner, a government representative from Natural Resources, two weeks prior to this meeting. The request has been turned over to a technician to ensure that the proposed launch is on gov't land; Once that is determined, there will be a meeting at the site with Natural Resources and someone representing us. We have to determine who is going to represent us and we need to decide what is the best location for a launch. It was agreed that SW is the best spot for a launch. Mark Dempsey Trevor Romo and Tim Parker volunteered to be at the meeting should it happen. The \$500 that was committed to the site in 2006 will remain on the books until the technician's report and the meeting have determined the site availability.
- Welsford – The Welsford information did not get on the Web site; Tim Reicker will get the info to Judith for inclusion. The info is currently posted on the Yahoo site, but is not on the HPAAC Web site.
- National Web Site. Michael asked how often we use the HPAAC and HPAC web sites and what would make us go there more often. Most of the group visited the sites occasionally, most often to renew. The HPAAC site is good for visiting pilots who need to know more about the local area. Kevin mentioned that the BC website was invaluable when he visited there.
- Crabbe Mountain – Tracey Dempsey had initiated the site, but has not recently been involved in the sport so the site development has lost inertia.
- There hasn't been any recent news on the Cape Breton towing incident

Treasurer's report

Tim read the treasurer's report. The full report is on the HPAAC site. The balance at the end of 2006 was \$2075. After expenses (Fox River launch, Joint stocks registration etc) and income (dues paid from HPAC), the balance is \$2500. The festival brought in \$100.

The status of monies given to the "Newfoundland Hang Gliding Association" by the Gov't of Newfoundland is that the money was assigned for site development there, so we do not have control of that money even though we have jurisdiction in that region.

Treasurer's report was approved. Michael Fuller 1st, Mark Dempsey 2nd

President's Report

Talking of the recent incident at the festival, Brendan said that Kenny has had surgery for his femur and is alert and doing well. There are no complications, but he will be in Moncton Hospital for several days. An arrangement was made for a get-well package, (Brendan and Blake took care of it).

Brendan thanked Tim for all his work for the Maritime Challenge and encouraged us to all get out and participate.

Safety Report

HPAC has just appointed a new safety officer for the National level and will have a new safety focus.

In the Atlantic region we had two accidents and one incident. Brendan hurt his ankle while trying a new launch; there is always a risk charting an unknown place. Kenny broke his femur at West Bay while top landing behind launch. Rotor is the most likely cause of his fast descent. Also at West Bay a visiting American Pilot hit high voltage power lines while top landing behind launch – no injury.

Michael Fuller made a motion that Hang Gliders be restricted from doing top landings at West Bay. 1st Blake Daley, 2nd Brian Boudreau. Approved.

A sign should be posted at the site warning of the danger of top landings and that the site restricts top landings by HG. A warning should also be put on the web site that West Bay has the potential for dangerous rotor behind launch and all pilots should not go back beyond the driveway. Blake will put an advisory on the Web Site.

Blake mentioned that he saw ridge rules being broken twice at this festival and reminds us all to review our ridge rules and make sure we understand them.

National Report

The Instructors advisory committee has been restructured and there is a new Chair, so the rating changes have not been made yet. It has been shown that very few pilots go beyond a Novice rating. Should there be an increase in the level of proficiency for Novice if few go on? And by how much? Right now, the committee is trying to reach an agreement on a more stringent level of proficiency for Novice. There is also a discussion of having sign-offs for special skills (Aerotow, Foot Launch etc). Please speak to Michael about your concerns and issues.

HAGAR – HPAC is approaching Transport Canada to see if we can administer our own exam, especially since test sites have become more difficult and expensive.

A discussion ensued about the HAGAR. Some pilots feel that it is the major disincentive to proceeding to Intermediate, but it was pointed out that this was a transport Canada requirement in order for our sport to be self-regulated. It was also pointed out that the HAGAR is not that hard and that it is valuable information and useful knowledge. The biggest disincentive right now is finding a test site.

HPAC Web site: What would make us go there more often? The web site has become intrinsic to the operations of HPAC, but it is also becoming expensive to fix and maintain. Let Michael know what you would like to see for the web site and he'll take it to National.

Promotion. HPAC recently issued bumper stickers. There is a push to make us better known so that people who might have an interest in the sport can discover it.

Safety: There is a new Safety officer at HPAC. Michael reminded all to file safety reports. People tend to be embarrassed to report, but it only helps the flying community. Michael concluded the National report and Brian Boudreau thanked Michael for the work he is doing on our behalf.

In-flight Magazine – Mark apologized for the delay, but has most of the info put together and plans to put the next newsletter out in June.

Maritime Challenge – Tim has found a name for the “Welsford Site” and it will now be known as the Cauldron’s Lip (The story was too long to transcribe here, But it has something to do with bowls, magic, witches and potions). The date for the Cauldron’s Lip Challenge is June 1,2,3. The site needs to be assessed by experienced pilots, rated and any warnings or restrictions (if applicable) be posted. Hopefully the challenge will receive a good turn out and the site can be assessed then.

Maritime Challenge awards: There was less flying last year than was hoped, but there were still some good achievements:

Longest time: Kenny Bryenton

Most Accumulated airtime: Kenny Bryenton

Furthest Distance: Greg Boyd

Highest Flight: Greg Boyd

No entries for “Furthest out and back” or for “Most Logbook entries”

Tim produced some amazing looking awards for the winners and we all thanked him for his hard work on this concept.

It was decided that Challenge points will only be counted at HPAAC events. This will make it easier to verify and encourage pilots to attend the events. The fee will remain the same at \$10.

New Business

Christopher suggested a work party for High Head. The launch is uneven and dangerous for HG pilots in particular. A date will be organized through the Yahoo discussion group.

Re: Windsock for Sturla McRea’s airstrip, (which the PEI pilots make use of). The windsock cost \$360. A motion was made by Michael Fuller to contribute \$150. 1st Christopher Ball, Mark Dempsey 2nd, Approved.

A discussion of the Festival of Air-sports date and “changing it for bad weather” was started, but due to the late running of the meeting, the discussion will be referred to the Yahoo discussion group. It was noted that the village of Parrsboro is involved and the community likes it; the date is hard to change for those who take the time off work or restructure their schedules; and other weekends already have established events. If you have an opinion, get on Yahoo and share it.

Maneuvers Course – There has been no official response from California. Mark Dempsey spoke with Ann O’Connor about the options, but they were all very expensive.

Elections:

There were no new nominations from the floor; so last year's board has been acclaimed:

President: Brendan McKenna

VP: Michael Fuller

Secretary: Christopher Ball

Treasurer: Tim Parker

Web Site Dev't: Judith Newman

Newsletter: Mark Dempsey

Safety: Blake Daley

Motion to Adjourn at 23:30