

**Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association of Atlantic Canada Annual General Meeting**  
28 May 2010 Meeting Record

Attendees:

Tim Parker	Joey Savoie	Michael Fuller
Scott Newman	Maxine Westhead	Jean-Claude Noel
Greg Boyd	Tim Reicker	Mark Dempsey
Sam Jeyes	Todd Andrews	Chris Ball
Brian Boudreau	Brian Wheaton	Ted D'Eon
George Boudreau		

Regrets:

Judith Newman	Blake Daley	Brendon McKennon
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1. Welcome.

Michael welcomed all to the meeting and noted regrets from Judith, Blake, and Brendon. Michael, as Vice Chair, Chaired the meeting on behalf of Blake, Chair. Michael noted that all opinions welcome, but only members can vote.

2. Minutes of 2009 AGM.

Mark noted that the minutes are in order and reflective of tonight's agenda. Motion to not read minutes aloud was passed unanimously. Minutes passed as distributed.

3. HPAAC Executive.

Blake is re-offering as Chair, Michael re-offering as Vice Chair, Max offered as Secretary, Tim offered as Treasurer, and Mark offered as Safety Officer. Editor of Atlantic In Flight, Christopher offered to continue for another year. Judith offered to continue as Web Officer. No other nominations from the floor, so all offerings approved unanimously.

4. Treasurer's report.

Tim Parker reported that HPAAC changed fiscal year-end from December to March this past year. As of January 2009 there was \$2,548 in the account, and as of March 2009, there was \$1,672. Expenses included excavating at Half Island, Hidden Falls road expenses, Atlantic In Flight magazing, web hosting, and renting the hall last year. Question: is the Half Island work over or under budget? Tim stated the total of Half Island was just under \$1,000, so it came in under budget. Question: why did we change year-end? Tim stated that it's in order to coincide with our AGM and meetings in May, and it's easier to manage the budget. Motion to approve financial statements, and they were approved unanimously.

## 5. National Report.

a. National Hang Gliding and Paragliding Day on May 31 (to follow US). Not all regions were keen on May 31, but the idea was if Canada and the US had the same day then it could pick up energy to become an international event. This year will be low key but next year HPAC will try to be more prepared. It was suggested that the National Day should be on a weekend, rather than a set date. Discussion on both aspects ensued (set date vs. set day of the week). **ACTION:** Mark will raise the recommendation from HPAAC to the National executive that the last Sunday in May be the National Day instead of a set date.

b. Rating requirement changes (paragliding only). Last year increased the requirements for paragliding for hours and conditions in which tasks needed to be accomplished. Novice rating now needs 4 instead of 10 hours, and Michael's opinion was this is too little time. Once novice rating is accomplished, a pilot can much fly almost anywhere, so Michael thinks more flight time should be required. As well, the new novice rating requires capable ground handling in laminar air in a minimum of 15 km wind, so for the conditions here in Atlantic Canada Michael feels that wind speed is too light. Went around the table and most agreed that 25 km minimum is reasonable. **ACTION:** Mark and Michael will word a recommendation to HPAC from HPAAC for 25 km minimum ground handling wind speed in laminar air.

c. Web site. HPAC is about to issue a Request for Proposals to redesign the national website (closes May 31<sup>st</sup>). HPAC is looking to have a new site up Nov/Dec.

d. Air. There was discussion about whether or not to continue producing paper copies of Air. HPAC loses money on the magazine. Mark encouraged the paper version as an effective marketing tool as well it is a service to members. Advertising revenue is a small amount compared to the cost of keeping it going. Discussion focused on keeping Air in print (it's about \$18/member) and possibly a higher quality than currently.

e. ADM. Nothing that hasn't been discussed already. Sam suggested the last meeting was very effective and sorted out a lot of old issues.

f. New logo. HPAC is looking for a new logo design, and a free membership and new variometer will be awarded to the winner. Next version of Air will have a small article on the competition.

**ACTION:** All please send in pictures for the 2011 calendar.

End of Annual General Meeting section.

## Reports:

a. President's report (Michael on behalf of Blake).

There has been a downturn in membership, and there was a disappointing follow up from the outdoor show (two free tandems given away and neither Michael nor Scott heard from the winners). All are encouraged to promote the sport. Nationally numbers have gone up 10-15%, but not regionally. Sam suggests that if you're going out to call the local newspaper. Michael says he gets response from print media the most (also television). Generally all is going well – Chris doing a great job with Atlantic In Flight, Mark is being a great representative on the national board.

b. Safety report. No incidents or accidents to report from Brendon. Mark raised the question of who decides to call an ambulance when an accident happens? Mark suggested striking a sub-committee to look at the four major events that happened here in Atlantic Canada to come up with a protocol. There was a suggestion for Mark and Blake to discuss the issue with other event coordinators (along with Scott, George and Michael). George stated that he is a first medic responder and says that one should never wait to call an ambulance (e.g., today as soon as we knew the location of the powered paraglider pilot wasn't known we should have called). Discussion on radios ensued and some support for standardized radio requirements. Chris and Greg both suggested we use aviation radios. In the future we need to come to some conclusion.

c. Web manager report. No report provided by Judith. If you send site info to Judith (say, PEI sites) then she can post them. Sam will do that for Point Prim.

d. In-Flight magazine report. Chris encouraged all to submit pictures and articles for the magazine. Last year Chris waited until there was enough material to put one out. There was a suggestion for Chris to have a deadline, say fall and spring. There was also a suggestion to continue with the pilot profiles. Brian offered words of support and thanks for those who have worked to put out the magazine. **ACTION:** Chris would like articles by end of September. Scott asked about getting videos on our site and it was noted that Judith is able to do that, so Scott suggested that we put one on the front page. Scott suggested GravitySports.com as a web example we should aspire to.

e. Maritime Challenge Awards. Tim Reiker was pleased to hand out the Maritime Challenge awards. Tim Parker won most accumulated air time (16 hours 41 minutes). Longest flight went to Mark Dempsey (1 hour 30 minutes). Highest flight went to Tim Parker with 577 ft over launch at Economy. No submissions for longest out and back award. Longest distance flight to Christopher Ball at 1 km. Winner of the new log book was Tim Parker. Tim Reicker says he won't be continuing the challenge, and the longest out and back is still up for grabs in 2010/2011.

New business.

a. Flying site development and maintenance. Sam led the discussion on Point Prim, a NW launch near Charlottetown about 80 feet long with a 30-40 foot wide clearing. They've been working on it for several years but there are still some holes and rotted out trees. Sam requested money for filling in holes and seeding to make it nice and flat. The request is \$300 this year, plus a work crew (someone noted that \$500 was approved last year but not spent). Sam and Todd will look into site development again. Mark moved that we earmark \$500 for this year and the motion was approved. There is also interest in a wind talker at the site. Todd has a connection and may be getting one set up. Maybe a work crew could come over for work instead of Tow Jam next year. Scott noted that he was disappointed that no airport towing happened last year (winds were too high). **ACTION:** Explore the possibility of an alternate weekend for Tow Jam (Scotty and Michael to discuss).

b. Half Island report. Tim Parker noted that the excavation went well, the grass is growing great and the site is ready to be flown.

c. Other sites. Joey on behalf of Mike Fougere noted that they would like to get roots out and grass growing around Dennis Beach. The site also needs to be cleaned up. Ground is rough, raspberry plants require trimming, and a new tall windsock would be very useful. There was

consensus to get windsock on Dennis Beach. Scotty offered to fix up his lawn mower and donate to HPAAC and consensus reached to give Scotty \$100 maximum to fix his mower. Someone asked if there was interest in developing Fitzpatrick Mountain (N/NW facing, near Green Hill). The site needs a good day to clear it out, and we have full support from the landowner to use. All it needs is a work crew, probably no money. George offered his time, and Sam will work with George to get that done. George has access to old conveyor belts if we want some for our sites – call him if anyone wants any. **ACTIONS:** Windsock to Dennis Beach, Scotty to fix up and donate his lawn mower to HPAAC, Sam and George to work on Fitzpatrick Mountain.

Annual winter meeting. There was no AWM last year and there was discussion on timing. Mark suggested moving our AWM to November – traveling not as much of an issue and it's 6 months post AGM so it makes sense. Support from all on having the AWM in November and having it in Parrsboro. **ACTION:** Blake to convene AWM in November in Parrsboro.

Forum and Discussion Group. We now have 2 groups (Google and Yahoo) and HPAAC should only have one. It was suggested that we delete the Yahoo group and move to Google (Google has unlimited capacity, and we can export all pictures and messages if we move to another site). There was lots of discussion around keeping archives of text and images from Yahoo. **ACTION:** Judith to explore how to save our Yahoo archives while moving to Google Groups and shutting down the Yahoo list.

East Coast Ultimate Record Breakers (ECURB). Tim Reiker led the discussion on this competition. This is open to anyone in the world, no matter what they are flying. Tim read the hand out explaining ECURB. **ACTION:** Tim to email Chris, Judith and Michael the electronic version of the description to get in In-Flight, and on web sites. There was a question about GPS tracking of a flight, and Tim clarified that as long as there is an official observer one can submit a record (many pilots don't have GPS units). **ACTION:** Tim will change the document to reflect the observer/GPS criteria before sending it out. A huge round of applause ensued for Tim's initiative and creativity in getting this going!!

SIV course. Discussion around how we'd all like to see one here but we're not equipped to have one (need lake towing). **ACTION:** Scotty will think of how we could become equipped to do something.

Intermediate course. Michael noted that there is a Novice course going on this summer and encouraged all pilots who don't have it yet to consider Novice certification order to fully more develop their skill set. As well, without a Novice rating pilots aren't able to fly sites outside of Atlantic Canada. In the US one needs an Intermediate rating (e.g., Torrey Pines). Michael asked if there was any interest in an intermediate course. The course is undefined (not set length) and is more about accumulating airtime and carrying out tasks via a logbook. A minimum number of sites flown are required. One Maritime-specific difficulty is in getting flights above a certain height (pilots will likely need to travel to fly other sites). Michael commented that he is retiring soon and will be putting his school on the market. He encouraged all to think about achieving

intermediate rating and thinking of the possibility of part-time instruction at the very least. He requested all pilots to spread the word to anyone who may be interested.

Other business. Marketing in NB discussion led by Joey. BC has the most pilots, then PQ, then AB, NS, NB, PEI. Joey has list of 20 events available to the paragliding and hang gliding community to use to get the word out and increase the visibility of the sport. Suggested Canada Games, International Acadian festival (NE NB), New Brunswick Day at Alma, school demonstrations, Atlantic Balloon Festival, etc. Joey encouraged us to get more publicity and work on getting the sport a higher profile generally. Scott said the Atlantic Balloon festival is hugely popular and a great opportunity for high number of tandems. Sam encouraged Joey to look at what HPAC has to offer for rebates for new school set-up and new instructor certification.

Max was awarded the “Closest to the Pool” winner. Joey was awarded “Bomb Drop” winner.

Meeting closed.