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MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

SPOTLIGHT ON ... We think we know him, but do we really? **Chad Wildman** tells us about himself and shares some words of wisdom.

Chad Wildman



Where are you from? What do you do for a living? Grew up in Ohio and now live on the edge of the Pine Barrens in Pemberton, NJ. I'm employed by a manufacturing company called Indel Inc. I am officially a corporate pilot. However, my duties include but are not limited to: assisting with aircraft maintenance(I was an F-16 mechanic for 7 years in the Ohio Air National Guard), mowing the grass at the company's private airport(spring thru autumn), generally being the gopher boy(cleaning the hangar bathroom, taking out trash, sweeping, etc as necessary)

How long have you been flying? What got you into hang gliding? Do you fly anything else? Hang gliders: training hill may '05-may '06. 1st mountain 5/06/06. I think the first time I saw a hang glider was on an episode of Mork and Mindy. I must have been 8 or 9 years old. I did 1 day on a training hill in Ohio in about 1994 and one in AZ in 2002. I started with Mountain wings in earnest and have never looked back. I have about 4000 hours in airplanes ranging from 2-seat trainers to a Learjet. I've been to 50,000 ft in the jet.

Where have you flown that you particularly enjoyed? Where else would you like to fly? I've

flown E-ville, Brace mtn, Utsyanta(Stamford, NY), Hancock, NY, West Rutland VT, The Pulpit (McConnellsburg, PA), Hyner View, PA, and some towing at Highland in MD, and Wallaby. I do not have an AT rating as of yet(goal for summer 2010)

What flying milestone have you achieved that you're particularly proud of? What are your flying goals for the future? I made it over the back of Ellenville. I made it to 8,000 ft on that day and managed a 14-miler. I would have to say that my first x-c is one of the more memorable milestones(11 miles up the valley to the Brick House on 209) Hang gliding goals for the future are the same that I've had since I started back in '05: namely to fly a 100-mile x-c over flat ground(I am shooting for the Ohio state record), and to loop a hang glider.

What words of wisdom can you offer other pilots and students? I'll offer some advice that was given to me early on. Be mindful that as we cross the river of life, hang gliding is but one stone on which to stand while on the journey. Flying is an amazing endeavor, but it is just part of the picture...don't burn yourself out.

What else do you do for fun? Do you have any particular talents? I play guitar. I like sailing(I have a little racing dinghy that has been out of the water for waaay too long) I love tennis. Canoeing is a favorite of mine. Talents...hmmm. Is flatulation a talent, or a gift? Nothing really stands out as a talent. The skills that I have acquired have come to me through practice, not because I have some particular inborn talent.



What is your favorite Food? Song? Movie? Book? Pork chops! Favorite song...that's a toughy. How about a few artists/bands? Todd Snider, The Be Good Tanyas, The Damnells, Tracy Chapman, Neil Young, Toad The Wet Sprocket, The Jayhawks, Chris Isaak, the list goes on. Favorite movie has to be "A River Runs Through It". I've read a couple good books lately. I stick to non-

fiction. “Confession of an Economic Hitman” by John Perkins, and “JFK and the Unspeakable: Why He Died and Why it Matters” by James W. Douglass. You know, your basic anti-government conspiracy theory light reading.

Who is your flying hero? I’ll answer with Clarence “Kelly” Johnson. Kelly Johnson was the head of the Lockheed advanced development projects office (skunk works). Here he supervised in the design and production of many groundbreaking designs to include the SR-71, F-104, U2, and others.

Rookie of the Year 2009?!

NASA Club Secretary Cathleen O’Connell was named most improved pilot of the season at the SNYHGPA holiday part in December. With the help of Super Greg and Saint Tom she went from flying into the trees at the beginning of the year to actually making it to the LZ without the aid of a rescue party by the end of the season! The honor recognizes relative improvement – not skill level achieved. Cathleen still has a long way to go in her flying but this award was a nice bit of encouragement to keep at it. *[Thanks to everyone who helped me improve my skills – and to those who rescued me when I needed it. Biggest hugs of gratitude to the miracle workers Greg and Tom! – Cathleen.]*



Tom (looking relieved that he got her safely through 2009), Cathleen (looking impossibly glamorous), and Greg (who had NO gray hair before Cathleen started flying) [Photo by Fred McCarty]

NOTES ON FLYING SITES

Featured Flying Clubs of the Northeast

The following are extracts from the websites of some flying clubs based in the northeast. Please use the

link provided to obtain additional information. (Pay particular attention to the rules of each club.)

Northeastern Air Sports Association (NASA)

The Northeastern Air Sports Association was established in 1996 to provide members with access to regional flying sites insured by USHPA and to serve educational and social purposes. NASA insures and regulates the North Knob in Ellenville, and also explores new flying sites and sponsors trips to ensure maximum flying opportunities for its members.

*

Southern New York Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association (SNYHGPA) <http://www.snyhgpa.org>

Generally pronounced with mock formality as "Snig-PAH", and usually called "The Club", SNYHGPA are mostly hang glider pilots, though there are tales of paraglider pilots attending meetings in the past. Club members normally fly in Ellenville, NY though on occasion a few get loose and get into all sorts of mischief at other sites.

*

New England Paragliding & Hang Gliding Club (NEPHC) <http://new.nephc.org>

Formed in 1993 to promote safe free flight in the New England Area, NEPHC is a very diverse group of aviators that represent every state in New England and New York - men and women of all age groups, ethnicities, and professional backgrounds all brought together by a spirit for flying.

*

Vermont Hang Gliding Association (VHGA) <http://www.vhga.org>

VHGA is a group of hang gliding and paragliding pilots that enjoy the beautiful skies of Vermont. VHGA insures and regulates flying at several places in New England, including Burke Mountain, Mount Ascutney (NW and S), Mount Equinox, Mount Washington, and West Rutland.

*

Connecticut Hang Gliding Association (CHGA) <http://ct-hanggliding.org>

The primary flying site is Talcott Mountain; monthly meetings are held at George’s Pizza in Unionville, CT.

*

Rochester Area Flyers (RAF) <http://rochesterareaflyers.com>

RAF is a club of hang gliding and paragliding enthusiasts who meet monthly to discuss flying techniques, experiences, instruction, site regulations and equipment. Meetings frequently include film footage of hang gliding in the Rochester area. The RAF has access to several hang gliding/paragliding sites within a two hour drive from Rochester.

*

Hyner <http://www.hynerclub.com>

Located in scenic central Pennsylvania, Hyner View has been home to foot-launched flying for both hang gliders

and paragliders since 1975. Launch is on D.C.N.R land known as HYNER VIEW STATE PARK. Hyner, 1300' AGL (1949' MSL), was home of the 1978 Hang Gliding Nationals and holds fun Fly-In events throughout the year. With launch facing WNW, Hyner offers great flying during post-frontal days but can also be launched from SW to North winds due to the round shape of the mountain

*

Little Gap (Palmerton, PA)

<http://www.littlegap.com>

Little Gap is a P2/H2 site with a Volunteer P3/H3 Mentoring program. P2/H2 only fly mid day conditions observed. Newbees generally observe the senior pilots and assist in retrievals between 12-4 pm. In return, the mentors agree to observe, coach and fly along with the freshmen. This is a voluntary agreement between the two parties designed to assure the growth and safety of the sport.

Little Gap is, depending on the conditions flyable from West North West to North

*

Water Gap Hang & Para Gliding Club (WGHGC)

<http://wghgc.com>

WGHGC is an inter-regional chapter of the USHPA serving Hang Glider and Paraglider Pilots in the NY-NJ-PA tri-state area. Regular business meetings are usually held on the 3rd Thursday of March, June & September in Upper Mt. Bethel PA or Palmerton PA.

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Other Clubs in the Area:

- The Condor Club Otisco, NY
- Southern Tier Skysurfers Binghamton, NY
- MHGA Massachusetts

CLINICS

Parachute party! On January 16 Greg Black led a clinic on throwing 'chutes in an emergency – when, how – then everyone had a chance to get in their harnesses and practice, while Tom simulated the physical conditions of an emergency situation. Greg also explained the reason behind the requirement for regular parachute repacking. Chutes were left to “relax” prior to being repacked. Then everyone danced! **Be safe – have your chute repacked every six months.** You want it to open immediately and cleanly if you ever need it.

Fun was had by all. And an important safety task was completed.

Greg going through some background information



Carl tossed about by turbulence (aka Tom)



What color is your parachute, Wayne!



Après deployment, the tango competition!



DOGS OF THE FLIGHT PARK

This issue features Delilah, Elan Schultz' daughter's little pet. Too rarely seen at the flight park you can't miss her when she IS around!



Miss Congeniality – Delilah!

Distribution List

Name	Glider	Telephone	email
William Alderondo	Target	914 980-4253	
Victor Alvarez	Moyes Extralight	973 809-6221	victor@classicfitness.com
Imthiaz Azeez	Pulse 10	732 238-4569	
Steven Bailer			bailer665@yahoo.com
Carla Bates	Horizon 170	810 946-9461	
Sue Becht			suebecht@gmail.com
Richard Behrends	Pulse 10M		rbehrends@verizon.net
Jonathan Betz	Falcon 225	908 656-1349	
Charlie Black			Chasbo6669@yahoo.com
Greg Black	Freedom 190		mtnwings@verizon.net gblack2@hvc.rr.com
Reg Boeding	Horizon 170	201 410-2330	
Dave Cannon	Sport 2		Dave42can@yahoo.com
Jonathan Clark	Horizon 180	845 541-9222	jonathanclarkus@gmail.com
Carl DiPiero	Easy 190		kiheikarl@hvc.rr.com
Gary Fleming			gscotfleming@gmail.com
Kenny Foldvary	Formula		KJFold@yahoo.com
Nikolai Francis	Sting 175	914 433-6712	
Timo Friedrich	Thalhofer Swing		friedrich.timo@web.de
Tom Galvin	Pulse 10M, Discus		tom@tirnalong.com
Jim Georg	Moyes Lite Sport	802-235-1402	jeorg@msn.com
Seth Kestenbawm	Target 170	917 783-5290	
Kiho Kim			luvwofear@gmail.com
Megan Kymer	Easy 170	973 895-5800	m.kymer@gmail.com
Mike Longo	Freedom 170	203 241-3842	Michaellongo1@yahoo.com
Tom Lutz	Horizon 180	973 207-1859	tommylutz@gmail.com
Fred McCarty	Nikon camera	845 888-4508	fmccarty@hvc.rr.com
John Merryman	Easy 190	917 696-2109	
Tyler Neckles			tylerneckles@yahoo.com
Wayne Neckles	Freedom 190		wayneneckles@yahoo.com
Cathleen O'Connell	Pulse 9M	908 770-3037	coconnel@its.inj.com
Eduardo Ponton	Easy 170	212 864-2374	Eduardoponton@yahoo.com
Enrique Sallent	Easy 170	917 698-1229	esallent@yahoo.com
Brian Schiel	Sonic 165	516 318-8058	
Elan Schultz	Pulse 10M		eschultz@quilvest.com
Jon Sehl	Fun 190		jonathansehl@yahoo.com
Mike Smith		(203) 788-8008	Mikesmith10@bellsouth.net
Sue Sparrow			sparrowsue@hotmail.com
Mike Storr			mnsstorr@yahoo.com



The NASA Flyer – January/February 2010
 Newsletter of the Northeastern Air Sports Association
 Chapter 221

Name	Glider	Telephone	email
Nikolay Stoyanov	Freedom 170		nikolay@alum.mit.edu
Tonia Tagliaferro		845 380-5845	ToniaTriangles@optonline.net
Remesis Vazquez	Saturn 120	732 687-3397	
Daniel Vinish	Freedom 170		vinishjlc@yahoo.com
Glenn Wagner	Easy 170		flyboywags@hotmail.com
Evan Wies	Easy	917 573-0234	
Chad Wildman	Formula		cwildmancbus@yahoo.com
Lance Wlankowski	Freedom 170	347 219-7342	lance@lancelotdesign.com
Konstantin			ukrtrain@gmail.com
Joanie and Manuk			image@huc.rr.com

Please send updates and any information missing from this table.

NASA Membership: Please be reminded that your dues is critically important to the ability of NASA to open and maintain flying sites. Insurance is a major expense that increased in 2009 and will go up again in 2010. The construction work that was described in a previous issue to improve one of the launches has costs associated with it as well. Therefore it is very important that each member be current with dues payments in order to retain access to NASA sites. Please note that for these reasons club dues will be increasing in 2010 – details to follow.

Contribute an item to the newsletter: Members and friends of NASA are requested to send in ideas, articles, photos, web links, notices, and other content that would be of interest to the NASA community. Contact Cathleen with your suggestions.

Thanks to the following members and friends for their contributions to this month's issue: Chad Wildman, Fred McCarty, Tom Galvin, Cathleen O'Connell. Did I miss anyone? Thank you all!