



### “Dan the Man”

(by Ralph Sickinger)

On Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2002, Dan Tomlinson had a very special “Flight of the Day” at The Pulpit, in McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania. After pota-toeing on launch *forr-eevv-errr*, some wiseguy came up with the bright idea to promise him songs and poetry if he launched and got up. I suppose the idea was to encourage him to leave the ramp while it was still daylight, and before he fell through the boards. (*He had stayed in one place for so long that they were starting to sag dangerously!*) Eventually, Dan ran down the ramp (*I think I saw Matthew push him*) and lifted off into the air. From there he

floated down the ridge, but there wasn’t enough lift to hold him up, and he headed for the LZ. But, before he succumbed to gravity, he managed to find a spot of

#### *The Song of Dan*

*Dan, Dan, he’s the guy;  
He caught that thermal  
And specked out high*

*We all watched with admiration  
A flight that caused great inspiration  
But none could match this flying feat  
Of skill and style that can’t be beat*

*Even the sky gods couldn’t make the grade  
And sunk out in a sea of haze  
So Dan’s the man with the flight of the day  
The way he flew did truly amaze*



Dan Tomlinson begins his “Flight of the Day”  
(Photo by Ralph Sickinger)

lift that carried him up to 1200’ above launch, officially giving him “THE FLIGHT OF THE DAY”. *<sigh>* As a result, Matthew had no choice but to compose a verse in Dan’s honor...



Ralph Sickinger

### Pre-Flight



You know what? I had a great time at the Pulpit this past weekend! Let me tell you about my flight...

I got on launch, and the wind had gotten pretty light; it was crossing from the right, but there were occasional gusts that came straight in. I had Mark Cavanaugh and Matthew Graham standing by my side wires, but there wasn’t much for them to do, as they kept telling me that the glider was “all mine”. Eventually I got a cycle

that I liked; I shouted “clear”, and took off down the ramp. Legs churning, my stride getting longer with each step, and then I was airborne, and sweeping off to the left to head down the ridge.

#### **Legs churning, my stride getting longer with each step, and then I was airborne...**

There wasn’t really enough lift or sink to set off my vario in either direction, so the flight was very quiet, the only sound being the wind in the wires of my glider. Without any lift, the 7:1 glide slope to the primary put that LZ

just a little out of reach of my Falcon, so I opted for the secondary instead. After a brief circle around the field, I came in behind a small rise, and as I fell into the wind shadow I flared late, and came in on my wheels.

I know, I know; you’re thinking “He’s getting all excited about a sled ride? To the *secondary*??” But you know, after almost two full months of the same @#\$\$ forecast every weekend (*southwest at 5mph*), I was **really** anxious to fly in the mountains again. Yes, I’ve flown at the flight parks this summer, but it’s just not the same. Don’t get me wrong; we [the HG com-

( See [PRE-FLIGHT](#) on page 3 )

# CHGPA Photo Album



Fly safely - the Flight Director is watching you!  
(And he could be anywhere... Photo by Matthew Graham)

## USHGA certified Instructors:

|                |              |                |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Chad Elchin    | 410.634.2700 | Ridgely, MD    |
| Tex Forrest    | 703.492.9908 | Woodbridge, VA |
| Richard Hays   | 410.527.0975 | Baltimore, MD  |
| John Middleton | 703.533.1965 | Arlington, VA  |
| Steve Wendt    | 540.432.6557 | Manquin, VA    |



## Mountain Landing Contest - Current Standings

| #  | Name            | Good | Bad | Percent | Streak |
|----|-----------------|------|-----|---------|--------|
| 1. | Cragin Shelton  | 7    | 5   | 58%     | 6      |
| 2. | Ralph Sickinger | 3    | 3   | 50%     | 3      |
| 3. | Hugh McElrath   | 3    | 4   | 42%     | 2      |

## Capital Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association

CHGPA represents hang glider and paraglider pilots from the Washington, DC mid-Atlantic region. We are committed to the safety, growth and solidarity of hang gliding and paragliding.

### Board of Directors:

|                    |                |                           |
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Gaithersburg, MD  
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Telephone: 202.393.2854

## CHGPA meeting Minutes (24 July 2002)

Held at Lasick's Beef House, College Park, MD

### Old Business:

- Clean-up of Bill's Hill went well, but there is more to do. Please continue to bring equipment to use while you wait at launch.
- A Pulpit clean-up will be scheduled and announced before the fly-in. Tentative dates for the clean-up are 7 or 8 September.
- The Pulpit Fly-in is scheduled for 5 and 6 October. More to follow.

### New Business:

- Two small commuter jets have recently flown through the airspace at Manquin FP. Management is discussing whether NOTAMS should be published to increase the safety of ultralight activities. Until this issue is resolved the ceiling at Manquin is 1200' for ultralight activity.

- For anyone who has direct or indirect communication with the FAA, avoid the phrase "Near miss" while describing your flights. That term has a specific definition within the FAA and also some mandatory investigation and reporting requirements. Used incorrectly, and our community could get some unwanted press.

( See MINUTES on page 3 )

*(PRE-FLIGHT, continued from page 1)*

munity] are truly fortunate to have two great flight parks conveniently nearby (*and to be honest, nobody can party like these flight park crews can after the sun goes down*), but my first love in hang gliding is - and always has been - foot launching, especially in the mountains. To me, there is something magical about running off into the wind, with my glider on my back; the glider lifts off my shoulders, and ceases to exist as a separate object. Instead, it feels like I truly have wings of my own... I continue to run, and the ground falls away beneath me, and I continue into the air; like a bird, I tuck my legs back behind me, leveling off in streamlined flight, and whether it is for a few minutes, or for an hour or more, I enjoy the sensation of pure flight, until I have no choice but to return to Mother Earth.



The author in the middle of his take-off run.  
(Photo by Chris McKee)

Next weekend marks the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my first flight, off the sand dunes of Jockey's Ridge State Park, in the "land where flight began"; spitting distance from the spot where the Wright brothers first took to the sky. My first flight lasted 10 seconds, and I flew maybe a hundred feet down a shallow slope, in an evening breeze not unlike the one I launched into just yesterday. But in those ten seconds, I experienced something that changed me forever, and led me to pursue all of the necessary training to get where I am today.

People ask me, "what's it like?" In response, I usually ask them if they've ever seen hawks, circling in a summer breeze, and soaring gracefully across the sky; and if they have, if they've ever wondered what that would feel like.

Well, I *know* what it feels like. :-)



## Schools, Dealers and Flight Parks

### Blue Sky—Steve Wendt

540.432.6557 Cell: 804.241.4324

[www.blueskyhg.com/bluesky/index.htm](http://www.blueskyhg.com/bluesky/index.htm)

Quality hang gliding instruction, towing lessons, custom sewing for sails and harnesses. Dealer for Wills Wing, US Aeros, Moyes, Mosquito Motor Harness, High Energy Sports, Ball Instruments and more. Get your Glider Savers and protect your investment. Still in the Shenandoah Valley, and now a full flight park near Richmond.

### Highland Flight Park

410.634.2700 [www.aerosports.net](http://www.aerosports.net)

Offers tandem instruction, solo aerotows, and equipment sales and service for Aeros, Airwave, Moyes, Wills Wing, High Energy, Flytec, Brauniger and more. For more information, please visit our website.

### Kitty Hawk Kites

1.800.334.4777 [www.kittyhawk.com](http://www.kittyhawk.com)

Teaching the world to fly since 1974. Certified instruction from the sand dunes to tandem towing. Full service flight park featuring towing behind a Dragonfly aerotug. Dealer for all major manufacturers and a full service shop. Lesson packages and camps available. Open year round. Lessons daily.

### Manquin Flight Park

540.432.6557

Home of Manquin Aerotow, Blue Sky, and Fly Rawling Ultralight School. All types of Hang Glider Towing. 400 acre field, camping and bike trails. Manquin, VA

### Maryland School of Hang Gliding Inc.

410.527.0975 [www.mshg.com](http://www.mshg.com) email to: [mshgflyer@hotmail.com](mailto:mshgflyer@hotmail.com)

Certified instruction: 25 years experience. Richard Hays is a USHGA advanced rated Instructor-Examiner. Specializing in foot launch flight utilizing Wills Wing Falcons and radios for instruction. Authorized dealer for Moyes, Wills Wing, Airwave, High Energy Sports. New and used gliders in stock. Balt./Wash. Oldest Wills Wing dealer. Seven training sites within one hour drive of Baltimore.

### Silver Wings/ John Middleton

703.533.1965

Authorized dealer for Wills Wing, PacAir, UP, and Seedwings. He represents Ball, Sentek, Litek, High Energy, BRS, Blackhawk and many other hang gliding equipment manufacturers. New and used gliders in stock. Demo flights available. Quality, responsible service.

*(MINUTES, continued from page 2)*

- The Treasurer reported we currently have 107 members, 50 CHGPA??, 57 joint??, and 3 non-flying members. In the treasurer we currently have \$17,000, with \$3,000 due out.

- Alan (Hobson?) donated a number of maps, topographical, 3-dimensional, sectionals, etc. They are available for club member's use. If you have an idea for a project that would benefit the club, please let a club officer know. If you would like some for personal use, that may be possible. Final disposition of the maps was not decided. The may become part of a club library or used as gifts at a future fly-in.

- There is no monthly meeting in August. The next meeting is 25 September, we hope to see you there!





**Capital Hang Gliding and  
Paragliding Association**

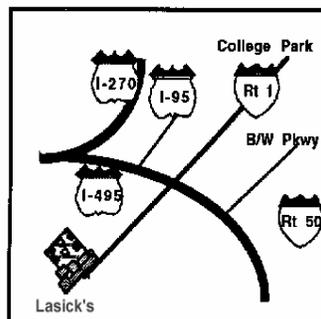
15914B Shady Grove Road #L-197  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-1315

**Next CHGPA meetings will be held:  
NO MEETING IN AUGUST!  
September 25, 2002**

Meetings are held downstairs at: Lasick's Beef House

Directions: 0.8 mile inside the beltway on Route 1 South, just past the Super 8 Motel (College Park exit off I-495).

Note: If coming from points north on I-95, at the Capital Beltway stay right at the split and then take the immediate left exit to Route 1 South, College Park.



Lasick's Beef House  
9128 Baltimore Blvd.  
College Park MD 20740  
(301) 441-2040



*Pulpit Ramp at Dusk—Photo by Susanna Clapsaddle*