



Happy Holidays!



(Party! - Party! - Party! - Party!)

When: Friday, December 20th, 2002

Where: John & JoAnn Dullahan's

Starts around 7pm, goes until...

Directions on page 2...

Ralph Sickinger

Pre-Flight



'Twas the day after Christmas, and out on the slopes,
the people a-stirring were some pretty strange folks!

Dressed in balaclavas and long-johns and boots,
bar-mitts and sweaters and even snow-suits;

They were scurrying around,
moving there, moving here,
setting up gliders and checking their gear;
Spreading their wings in the midst of the snow,
and checking on streamers to see the wind blow.

While other people were home, enjoying their presents,
drinking egg nog, and enjoying roast pheasant,
in front of yule logs, with family and friends,
these nuts were outdoors, freezing their ends!

They paid no attention to me,
as I stood there and stared,
watching them test, and pre-flight, and prepare;

What are they doing out here, I thought, and why?
and then I saw one of them stop, and look at the sky...

(See PRE-FLIGHT on page 3)

A Proposal for the Newsletter

(by Matthew Graham)

Video, as predicted, didn't kill the radio star. But the Internet has put the big hurt on the newsletter. Many of the things that used to fill the newsletter (hangola, announcements, trip reports, lessons learned) are now posted to the chga list-server, the hangola web site and chgpa.org. Hence, a proposal has been put forth to change the newsletter from a monthly to a quarterly publication. But, you ask, what about the newsletter acting as a monthly reminder to come to the meeting? Because everyone has access to email, there is no need to spend money on a monthly mailing. Under the new proposal, every month the meeting reminder will be emailed out to everyone and also posted on the list-server and the chgpa web page. Abolishing the print copy of the newsletter altogether has also long been dis-

cussed. But our newsletter has a long and rich tradition, winning several awards, and a print copy is still needed to keep landowners informed on club activities. A printed publication is also a great document to hand out to new club members and to people interested in the sport. As before, any club member may opt out of receiving the printed version of the new quarterly newsletter by contacting the club treasurer, Craig Shelton, at 703-922-6472, or at cragins@starpower.net. Those who opt out will receive the newsletter via email. And the web version will still be available. A vote on this proposal will take place at the January meeting. Be sure to come to the meeting and vote on this important issue. The newsletter will go on... even if it's just four times per year.



Directions to the CHGPA Christmas Party

John and JoAnn Dullahan
1213 Firth of Lorne Circle
Fort Washington, Maryland, 20744

From South of Beltway:

- Take 95N to Beltway (95/495),
- Follow 95 North (Towards Baltimore)
- Take first right immediately after Woodrow Wilson Brdg
- Keep rgt to **Indian Head Highway (Route 210) South**
- Go about 5.5 miles and six lights
- **Go right at Swan Creek Road**
(it's the next light after Fort Washington Road)
- Continue straight through roundabout (a circle)
- go left at the stop sign (Riverview Road).
- Take first left (Firth of Lorne Circle)
- It's the 4th house on the left, white with blue shutters.

From Washington, D.C.:

- Take 395 east to 295 South.
- Keep to the left at the end of 295
- Continue on Indian Head Highway, (Hwy 210) South
- Go about 5.5 miles and six lights
- **Go right at Swan Creek Road**
(it's the next light after Fort Washington Road)
- Continue straight through roundabout (a circle)
- Go left at the stop sign (Riverview Road).
- Take first left (Firth of Lorne Circle)
- It's the 4th house on the left, white with blue shutters.

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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Flight Director:	Chris McKee	flight_director@chgpa.org
Director at Large:	Matthew Graham	datlarge@chgpa.org

Skyline Editor: Ralph Sickinger skyline@chgpa.org

Web Master: Mark Cavanaugh webdev@chgpa.org

www.chgpa.org

USHGA Chapter #33
15914B Shady Grove Rd.
#L-197
Gaithersburg, MD
20877-1315
Telephone: 202.393.2854

Joe Brauch

Prez-Sez



Happy Holidays!

I am one of those wimpy pilots that waits for some slightly warmer air in which to commit aviation. I have frozen my assets enough on my motorcycle to know that fifty degrees is my limit. I do have a standard procedure for reassessing my skills after a long winters nap. Every spring I spend at least a full day at the training hill to check everything out. I do go to training hills while it is a bit nippy to work on higher wind handling and would recommend this to aspiring 2's that might need some practice. If you are not comfortable with these higher winds make sure you have at least a nose person while ground handling. Needless to say this has not been a flying season for me...so far.

Speaking of not taking your long winter's naps, I am glad to hear and see those die hard pilots diving off the Rock on one of our "open" days. I feel things are falling in place for us. Please keep a vigilant eye on everyone and everything going on when we are there. Everything that happens is a reflection on us. Thanks to all the site monitors volunteering their time to keep us in the air there. Keep in mind that Emma Jane is still in need of extra support. Please remember her when signing that logbook.

Anyway, happy holidays to all, keep warm if you fly, keep dreaming if you don't, I'll try to make sure Santa delivers those thermals you wanted.

Staying warm,

~ Joe



CHGPA Photo Album



Winter Wonderland - (Pulpit Launch) (Photo by Ralph Sickinger)

USHGA certified Instructors:

Chad Elchin

Ridgely, MD
410.634.2700

Tex Forrest

Woodbridge, VA
703.492.9908

Richard Hays

Baltimore, MD
410.527.0975

John Middleton

Arlington, VA
703.533.1965

Steve Wendt

Manquin, VA
540.432.6557

Directions to the CHGPA Christmas Party

From Baltimore and points North:

- Take Beltway south towards Wilson Bridge
- Take exit 3A, Indian Head Hwy (Rt 210) outh.
- Go about 5.5 miles and seven lights
- Go **right at Swan Creek Road**
*(it's the next light after
Fort Washington Road)*
- Continue straight through roundabout
(a circle)
- go left at the stop sign (Riverview Road)
- Take first left, (Firth of Lorne Circle)
- It's the 4th house on the left,
white with blue shutters.

(PRE-FLIGHT, continued from page 1)

I yelled out "Whatcha doin?"
You should be home celebratin'!"
He yelled back "I can't - there's thermals awaitin'!"
"Thermals in winter?! You're nuts!" I cried;
He said "But of course - Winter's a great time to fly!"

And with that he went back to completing his task,
donned his harness and helmet, goggles and mask;
he did a hang-check, then picked up his wing,
and proceeded towards launch, sporting a huge grin.

Then, like a bird, he took off into the sky,
the others right behind him, as they all hurried to fly.
In the blink of an eye, away they did dash
to shouts of "Neutral" and "Clear!" they were off in a flash!

I watched them go by, flying and free;
McGowen and Kingsley, Spencer and McKee,
Gonzo and Matthew, and Carlos and Paul...
Away Lauren! Away Ellis! They flew away all!

They were circling on thermals, coursing through clouds,
cavorting with snow flakes and laughing out loud;
and as the last of those pilots flew out of sight,
I thought...

"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good flight!"





**Capital Hang Gliding and
Paragliding Association**

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

Next CHGPA meetings will be held:

January 22, 2003

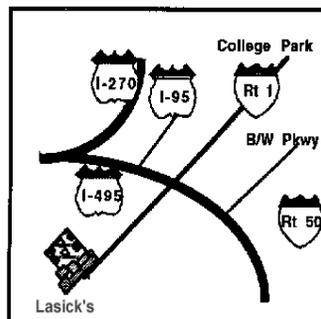
February 26, 2003

Happy New Year!

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