

Sports Page II

Tossin' it around

Tom Clarkson

Hand Launch '97 - Get Ready!

First, I want to thank everyone for electing me Hand Launch coordinator for '97. I truly love this aspect of the sport and I am really looking forward to the upcoming year.

We have a full schedule planned for you in '97. There will be six club contests and, of course our signature event, the International Hand Launch Glider Festival (IHLGF). In addition to our own events, there will be the ISS HLG contest, which will be held May 17 in Riverside. And of course the AMA/LSF NATS will be held in late July in Muncie, Indiana.

With the IHLGF scheduled for the 7th and 8th of June, the ISS contest will be a great opportunity to get in the contest mode. TPG is always well represented at this, the granddaddy of all HLG contests.

Arthur Markiewicz and Steve Condon have been instrumental in making our presence known at the NATS. Joining the TPG NATS team this year will be George Joy. George is always a threat to take hardware home.

Considering TPG's strong contingent of HLG pilots, we should set a goal to sweep the top three spots this year in each of these three prestigious contests. Joe (Wurts) and Daryll (Perkins) are TPG members...aren't they?

Man does not live by contests alone! We also have two Tuesday evenings scheduled for some fun-fly activities. Maybe some distance tasks, limbo, loops off the throw, all up last down, etc. How about...longest flight after dark? You get the idea. Any suggestions you might have for these events would be welcomed. Only one rule: It should be fun!

Experimenting with new HLG tasks

(See *Tossin'* on page 19)

Scale Renderings

Gary Fogel

We all have different reasons for flying R/C sailplanes. Some enjoy aerobatics, others enjoy thermal competition. Some enjoy flying models that are R/C versions of antique model aircraft, others enjoy hand launch gliders. We are fortunate to share a sport that has so many wonderful facets.

My chief interest in R/C soaring is scale. I am fascinated when I watch my model soar overhead and it magically transforms into a 15 meter glass slipper in my mind. I enjoy the challenge of building a scale model and making sure all the details are right. I enjoy that first launch off Torrey Pines, or the way the

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sailplane looks high up in a thermal. I enjoy a well executed landing pattern, complete with a final skid so that the wings touch the ground only after the plane has come to a stop. To me, scale combines everything I enjoy about R/C into one machine.

Ron Scharck, our TPG Editor, has asked my father and I to write a monthly column entitled "Scale Renderings" describing scale soaring and mentioning any activities that might entice TPG members to explore this side of the sport. We accept the challenge!

Let me start off with a brief overview of scale soaring and where and how a modeler might be able to get started.

Scale model sailplanes generally come in two varieties, vintage and modern. A clear distinction between the two is hard to find, but most commonly, aircraft that were designed before World War II are considered to

(See *Scale* on page 17)

SC² Report

Keith Finkenbiner

'97 season planned

On behalf of the TPG, I attended the annual SC2 organizational meeting held January 11. The meeting was held for the purpose of setting the contest schedule, fee schedule, general contest rules and other items of business that effect the SC2. The highlights of that meeting are reported below.

Entry fees increased

Based on a negative cash flow from last years operation, a motion to raise the entry fees from \$7 to \$8 was made, seconded and passed. The motion reflected that the host club would keep \$6.50 and \$1.50 would go to SC2. The host club is responsible for the trophies given at the host club's contest, while SC2 pays for the year-end plaques.

Contest schedule

The following is the 1997 schedule:

Date	Location
Mar 30	Sula
Apr 27	EIDorado
May 25	TOSS
Jun 29	TPG
Jul 27	ISS
Aug 31	SWSA
Sep 28	HSS
Oct 19*	PSS

* Tentitive date due to scheduling

Six of the eight contests will count for year-end points. If only six contests are held, five contests will count fo year-end points.

Scale to be introduced

A motion to hold a scale event between the first and second rounds of the first three contests was made, seconded and passed. A caveate of the motion

(Continued on page 18)

(TOSSIN', continued from page 11)

is what put TPG on the RCHLG map. I intend to continue this tradition by experimenting with some new tasks this year. What about everyone launching from a 100' circle and having to catch the plane to count? At the last contest, Arthur Markiewicz did an interesting thing as CD. He called the task right before the round to match the conditions in order to make the round more challenging. I thought the approach worked well. If you have any ideas for interesting and challenging tasks I would appreciate your sharing them with me. We should keep experimenting. I think that is some of the fun in HL.

I love HLG! As your HLG coordinator, I want to do whatever I can to promote this exciting aspect of soaring, particularly to those who have not tried HLG. I know where I was a year ago. No plane. No technique, and very little flying experience. I just saw these guys throwing little (in relation to what I was flying) planes in the air and having more fun doing it than the rest of us. I

The idea is to team seasoned veterans with those persons new to HLG to help them throw, fly, and work on strategy.

had to try it. I did and I'm hooked. One of my goals is to get as many of you who have not tried HLG to "just do it". I can promise you two things: 1. It will be a blast (once you catch that first thermal and sky out); 2. It will make you a better thermal pilot.

To promote HLG to those who have little or no experience with this aspect of soaring, I will be devising a "Team Contest" to be held in March or April. The concept is to have a contest (more of a fun-fly) where the team consists of two people; one which is new to the sport; the other, a seasoned veteran. The idea is to team seasoned veteran with those persons new to HLG to help them throw, fly, and work on strategy. These "veterans" would help the novice get their plane trimmed out or, perhaps, even loan them a plane. I will be announcing the details of this contest as soon as I "just do it".

I remember my first contest. I showed

February HLG Contest

CD, Mark Navarre, has announced the following tasks for the February 15th, HLG contest which will be held at the Poway Flight Center:

- **Round 1:** Total of three longest flights; minimum of 3 fts. required; 10 min. window; unlimited throws.
- **Round 2:** :30, :45, 1:00, 1:15, 1:30, 1:45, 2:00; 10 min. window; unlimited throws.
- **Round 3:** Six 1 minute flights; 7minute window; 7 throws.
- **Round 4:** Five 2 minute flights; 10 minute window; six throws.

Registration: 8:15

Pilots meeting: 8:45

First round: 9:00

up to fly on a Saturday morning and discovered it was a Hand Launch contest. Woops! I got talked into flying in the contest anyway and Don (Van Gundy) threw for me and helped me figure out what to do. It was exhilarating. I actually caught thermals, thanks to Don's throws. If I can duplicate that wonderful experience for others, just once, I will be one happy guy.

The first HLG contest of the year is scheduled for February 15. So start getting that throwing arm in shape and practicing those smooth thermal turns.

We will be experimenting this year with what I believe will be a formula for great fun: HLG in the morning— pizza for lunch—Combat in the afternoon.

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That's right! We have scheduled the HLG contests in the morning followed by lunch at Round Table Pizza in Poway and then, starting around 1:30 or 2:00, we have scheduled Combat contests (Dog Fights) that will take place at the Poway Slope (wind permitting). By doing this the "slope heads" from up north can plan a trip down here and (provided they fly HLG) be guaranteed the opportunity to fly, even if the wind doesn't co-operate. And if it does, remember the old Doublement gum ad—"Double your pleasure...Double your fun"! All this starts February 15th.

Come join us for an exciting 1997

Please feel free to contact me with article submissions or to share your thoughts on what you would like to see in this column. It is written with you in mind.

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