

MARIN COUNTY HANG GLIDING ASSOCIATION

Tam Airlines

Fall/Winter Edition - October
'24



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Editor's Corner:

Seasons do exist here in California! you just need to pay close attention! Some of our best flying occurs as seasons transition. This Fall has been no-exception, with great soaring flights throughout the months of September, October and November. We heard reports of pilots reaching as high as **4,000ft ASL**.

In other news, Membership has been on the rise! Our commitment to offer weekend Site Intros has been embraced with great enthusiasm. The surge in membership is detailed in the Club Communications below.

With the additional influx of Tam pilots we are elated to announce that sticker fees will remain \$25 for the 2025 season. Inflation be damned!

Finally, 2024 Elections are now behind us, voting was held at the last in person meeting. Club officers remain the same for 2025 and will continue to host meetings over Zoom and in-person.

 **Holiday Party!** Our last 2024 in-person meeting will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Phil & Judi Ray in Mill Valley. **Come meet the extended MCHGA community** and join our White Elephant gift exchange 🎁. [Map and directions](#). All pilots, friends and family are welcome. The evening will include a potluck dinner 🍽️ (the club will provide a turkey 🦃) and an optional silly gift exchange. BYOB.

We look forward to seeing you there.
MCHGA

Fly safe 🦅
Lionel Marks
MCHGA, Editor

Pilots Corner:

Spring or Fall? 🍂

On the Westcoast signs of fall are nuanced. Seasonal change is subtle; Fog makes way for smoke filled skies, windless beaches are warm, paired with luxurious sunsets and most important of all.. pilots begin their pilgrimage to Mt Tam for Fall/Winter/Spring soaring.

Fall is Tam's warmest season for soaring, allowing for t-shirt/shorts flying enjoyment. As Winter approaches, shorter days will cap soaring potential as flying becomes a much colder affair - so enjoy the few remaining soaring sessions this fall before winter and early spring's chill!

Many great October/November flights so far! I personally enjoyed an excellent flight along with over 25 other pilots, many new to the club! Soaring Tam in October is one of my personal favorites.

Spring typically brings our best soaring weather, albeit with colder temps and stronger winds and thermals. PG have found good success these past few falls as they have advantageous sink rates in lighter conditions. HG tend to prefer the stronger winds that arrive post frontal, but have managed a few extended flights at Tam in recent months. The season is in full swing.

Great Fall 🍁 Flights:

October - Record turnout for site intros with over 20+ pilots getting signed-up to fly Mt. Tam!



Many 1h+ flights were reported in the month of October with a few flights in excess of 2hrs on Paragliders.

Conditions were generally SW and dry and warm. **Razi** reported hitting 4,000 ft on October 20th along with several other pilots reporting 3k' plus!



[**Left**] Paul getting high over B-launch Oct 29th with over 2hrs of soaring! PGs commonly find great days in October and early November!

November - November has seen a few pre-frontal days with limited soaring. A few extended sledders with a mix of HG/PG putting their scratching skills to the test. A few weeks remain before Winter sets in so come get some and take advantage of the Fall flying!

Wind-sock - Our beloved windsock located at the end of Walla Vista has been replaced. Be sure to check the wind direction a few hundred feet before you choose your approach.. Downwind landings are avoidable!

Club Communications

Welcome our New Members!:



Thomas Harlay	PG
Riley McDonald	PG

Jacob Rendina	PG
Greg Elsbecker	PG
Casey Gerstle	PG
Larry Caparas	PG/HG
Steffan Otto	PG
Younas Aftab	PG
David Galka	PG
Brian Kellog	PG/HG
Anthony Massie	PG
Robert Parker	PG
Michael Yin	PG
Olivia Bettaglio	PG
Du Haoxing	PG
Arthur Boessenkool	PG
Jeremy Preedy	PG
Brian Cooper	PG
Taylor Mellon	PG
David Mellon	PG
Tabor Henderson	PG
Abhijith Byrappa	PG

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Club Finances:

Last issue we detailed total Paid for stickers (as of mid August):

Total # Paid Stickered Pilots: 160
 Total # Pilots (incl Visitors/Novices): 183

2024 P/L:

Revenue YTD: \$4,871

Insurance: \$4,329

USHPA Subsidy: (\$1,100)

State Park Permit \$375

G&A Est: \$1,700

Total Expenses: \$5,302

Net Profit(Loss) (\$431) Estimated

Treasury Balance: \$9,000

Insurance Update:



The RRG informed us that insurance costs will remain flat for the 2025 season. This is excellent news as previous years had experienced significant premium spikes leading to sticker price increases. This of course assumes that we receive the same subsidy as 2024. If the subsidy is not offered we will experience a \$1,000 increase in expenses for FY2025.

Sticker prices will remain \$25 for 2025 as a result!

year(s)	premium	subsidy
'01 - '09	\$100.00	
'10 - '15	\$750.00	
'16 - '22	\$1,500.00	
2023	\$3,778.00	\$1,139.00
2024	\$4,329.00	\$1,100.00
2025	~\$4,400	~\$1,000.00 Estimated

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Site Intro Updates



A new Telegram Group has been established to encourage easier access to approved PG/HG sponsors that are authorized to offer up site-intros for HG/PG and sponsored flights for P3 pilots.

The Telegram Group is invite only and should not be broadcast in other Telegram channels. Instead send the direct link <https://t.me/+LyiB2Z-rT9tiMDRh> to anyone requesting intros in the general channel.

The goal being to offer faster access to pilots seeking a sponsor through modern communication channels. Several pilots have already benefited from its use and we intend to schedule more group intro days on a regular basis - with the explicit goal to expand membership and interest in flying Mt. Tam

Fall/Winter Safety & Advisories:

Each member receives club rules for flying the site. Copies are available on <http://mchga.org> - Each wing type has separate [rules](#) due to the unique nature of flying Mt Tam for each wing type and historically based on previous dual club operations of MCHGA/BAPA which are now combined.

In addition to the club rules here are some important reminders of safety hazards and up-to-date advisories:



Beach Safety

Fall/Winter bring fewer crowds as temperatures cool. Warm weekends still occur which may lead to unseasonal crowds. If you plan to fly on weekends pay close attention to the beach prior to Launching. Upon landing, avoid setting up your final into congested areas. This is especially true for HG pilots. It's better to have a longer walk back to the breakdown area than to risk hitting beach goers.

Winter brings storms that could lead to beach erosion or narrow beaches. Please be sure to check tides and visually check the beach prior to launching

Rating Requirements



A minimum rating of H3 or P3 (intermediate) is required to obtain a sticker to fly the site. All pilots are *required to get a site intro before their first flight* from an authorized sponsor listed on the website. Additionally, P3 pilots are required to have an authorized sponsor to observe their first flight *prior to receiving an official sticker*.

Walla Vista Access

This access is adjacent to private homes; please be mindful of noise levels and unnecessary congregations in this access way.

Next Meetings:

Holiday Party

Our last 2024 in-person meeting will be held on **Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** at the home of Phil & Judi Ray in Mill Valley. Come meet the extended MCHGA community and join our  White Elephant gift exchange. [Map and directions](#). All pilots, friends and family are welcome. The evening will include a potluck dinner (the club will provide a ) and an optional silly gift exchange. BYOB.

The club is currently holding two meetings per month: one in person, and one on Zoom. The in-person meetings are held on the *first* Thursday of each month, and the Zoom meetings on the *last* Thursday of each month. If you would like to attend a meeting, either online or in person, please RSVP to info@mchga.org. All are welcomed and encouraged to join, even for non-members.

Next Newsletter

What would you like to see in the next newsletter?
Have a flight story to share?
Topics to be covered?
Feel free to drop us a line at:

editor@mchga.org