

Marin County Hang Gliding Association

## **Tam Airlines**

Winter Edition - December '25



Photo: Enese Mentes (Nov 18th)

### **Pilots Corner**

Time to Renew your 2026 Sticker

### **Club Communications**

'25 Membership numbers

New Pilots

### **Safety & Advisories**

Winter Advisories

### **Club Finances**

2025 Finances in Review

## Insurance Update

Premiums and Permits

## Next Meetings





Holiday Party


## Editor's Corner:

Fall season is nearly over. We had a mixed-bag of flying with early Fall offering up its classic "t-shirt-n-short" flying, Mid Fall delivering 2-3 soarable days, and late Fall experiencing deteriorating conditions - with almost a month of steady NE winds.

But winter is coming! So do not despair, historically winter ushers in a relentless conveyor-belt of low pressure systems that are commonly associated with Tam's most epic days. As detailed in previous Newsletters some of the [highest altitude](#) gains have been achieved in the winter season, so we are excited to welcome colder temperatures and frozen hands in hopes of kissing the bases of fat-bottomed cumulus clouds.

2026 Membership renewal is now in play, please double and triple check your email and junkfolders to find your **unique URL link** to renew online. This is the fastest way to secure your 2026 sticker and is entirely on-line. Only new members are required to submit physical paperwork.

 **Holiday Party!** Our last 2025 in-person meeting will be held on Saturday, December 13, 2025 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!

Fly safe 

*Lionel Marks* - MCHGA, Editor

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## Pilots Corner:

**Notable Fall Flights** - See our Telegram for details

- Sept 20th - Lionel Intros 4 new pilots, 30min
- Nov 13th - Phil Ray reports great conditions
- Nov 18th - Dozen or so pilots enjoy exceptional fall conditions [see photo]. Last great fall day!

### **Renewals** - Online

2026 Season is upon us, with the best flying days on deck. Don't neglect to renew your Membership for uninterrupted winter/spring flying.

Renewals have never been easier and are entirely online now for existing members. Please double and triple check your email and junkfolders to find your **unique URL link** to renew online. This is the fastest way to secure your 2026 sticker and is entirely on-line.

New members are still required to submit physical paperwork, which can be easily facilitated during the mandatory site intros.

### **Donations** -

Steve Kessinger, a former pilot (737 and HG) has [\*generously\*](#) donated \$375 to the club to cover our 2026 annual state park permit.

## Club Communications

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Club Rules Update:

- The club is reviewing plans to combine our flight rules for both HG & PG into one unified document.
- As previously noted, there is no longer a wing limit on launches. Previously HG were limited to 5 gliders on each launch and 2PG out of the bag. Please use common sense on busy days, if space is limited please

consider waiting before laying out your wing or setting up a HG.

- All pilots are required to get a site intro before flying, this includes all site intro procedures listed on the [website site-guide](#)

Welcome our New Members!: 🖐️

Jason Seto	PG
Ric Burton	PG
Mau Guerrero-Gaona	PG
Jeremey Bernstein	PG
Tom Zhou	PG
Carlos Roca	PG
Andrei Coperski	PG
Zachary Converse	PG
Nicholas Guerra-Mondragon	PG

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## Club Finances: 💰

Current Membership and P/L Snapshot as of Dec 9th, 2025:

Paid Stickered Pilots:	176
Pilots (incl Visitors/Novices):	182

FY 2025 Year-To-Date Revenue & Expenses :

### **Revenue**

2025 YTD:	\$5,126
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### **Expenses**

Insurance:	\$4,549
USHPA Subsidy:	Zero
State Park Permit	\$375
G&A Est:	\$2,458

<b>2025 Profit/Loss</b>	<b>\$-2,256</b>
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<b>Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$6,750</b>
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## Expenses Breakdown

Entertainment	\$1,050.00
Stickers	\$620.00
Postal	\$380.00
Business fees	\$360.00
Hardware	\$50.00

## Insurance Update:



<i>Year(s)</i>	<i>Premium</i>	<i>USHPA subsidy</i>
'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
<b>2025</b>	<b>\$4,549.00</b>	<b>ZERO</b>

## 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

Beach Erosion and Tides - Winter brings large storms and potential hazards, with significant beach erosion leading to narrow if not completely absent beaches. Always check the beach in the designated LZ area before launching. Narrower beaches force pedestrians and beach goers closer together leading to additional safety concerns upon landing.

### 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**

Jeremy S. and Phil R. have reported improved access to Walla Vista from the beach for Hang Gliders seeking to break down their wings in the alley way.

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

### **Next Meetings: Holiday Party**

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