

The Flypaper

Newsletter for the Crestline Soaring Society
USHGA Chapter 16



P.O. Box 9052, San Bernardino, CA 92427-9052, www.crestlinesoaring.org

President's Report

Well it appears that we have exhausted all avenues of negotiations with the USFS to get Marshall opened prior to what their own schedule of opening will be. We still don't know when they will open it because they themselves will base the opening on the growth of vegetation on the hillsides in the area. They are saying it could be the end of the year and it could be 3 more years.

The next plan is to elevate their perception of what the public NEED is in the area. This is to be done by each and everyone one of us writing letters. The description of what to say and whom to write to will be published on the CSS website within the next few days. Although we may not be able to bring about an immediate opening of the area, we may be able to expedite the opening by many months. Wouldn't it be better to get it open 2 years from now instead of 3 years? Or 1 year instead of 2? We are very lucky to have the Crestline launch area to use in the meantime.

At the LZ, we are seeing many improvements including repainting of the shade structure, new signage and also a rebuild of our solar electrical system with new batteries and lower wattage bulbs.

Remember that all our memberships expire at the end of next month. Please help support the CSS with a membership renewal.

Finally, I know there has been less flying as compared to previous years but not so much as to reflect and account for the incredible drop in accidents. We have gone 6 months now without any accidents or incidents. Previously we would see an average of 3 weeks between incidents. All those who have been out flying in the last 6 months period since the fire should be proud of this safety improvement.

If there is anything you wish to contact me about, remember that the best way is to drop an email to president@crestlinesoaring.org

- Rob McKenzie, CSS President

Notes From The Vault

Well good news from the depths of the vault. We currently have about \$34,300.00 in reserves and have established a credit union account in the Society name and tax id number. Thanks to Len and Rob for making the trek to Ontario. With all the new regulations they had to see warm, breathing bodies in order to take our money.

Looking at last year's income and expenses, it appears the balance should remain pretty much constant in a 'normal' year. We had some extraordinary expenses last year due to the construction of the railroad tie fence after the fire, and are fortunate to have some reserves to assist with this year's projects.

- Alan Crouse, CSS Treasurer

Newsletter/Website News

All agreed that publishing the newsletter online was simple and both time and cost effective. No changes have been done to the website recently.

A Soar Point – Article about the Marshall Peak closure and the CSS. From the San Bernardino Sun Newspaper, 4/16/04, is on the CSS website:

http://www.crestlinesoaring.org/A_Soar_Point.html

- Ken Howells, CSS Webmaster/Editor

Board Meeting Minutes

CSS General Meeting - April 10, 2004

Members in attendance:

Rob McKenzie (president), Alan Crouse (treasurer), Kathy Rhodes (secretary), Dianne McKenzie (site coordinator), Ken Howells (web master)

Dusty Rhodes, Ashley Rhodes, Mark Leahy, Jim Masterman, Meg Westfall, Kenny Westfall, Alex Cheng

Meeting Start time 6:30pm. Call to Order

Reading Minutes of Last Meeting-Kathy Rhodes

Treasurer Report- Alan Crouse

We currently have about \$34,300.00 in the credit union account. Alan

reports that he feels that the balance should remain constant. With 200 memberships being renewed the account should balance annually.

Site Coordinator Report-Dianne McKenzie

The sign issues that were brought up last meeting have been taken care of. The site needed some maintenance that has been taken care of including painting the wood shade structure. New safety cones were donated to help mark appropriate parking and the exit from the airpark.

Website/ Newsletter Report- Ken Howells

Ken stated that he liked receiving information from the board members after the meetings and creating a pdf file seemed like an easy and efficient way to get word to the members. The board members had agreed to pay the DSL bill that went with the weather station and that has been taken care of. There were no changes to the web site that needed to be mentioned. He will add the article from The Sun newspaper from April 6, 2004 to the web site.

Presidents Report-Rob McKenzie

Status of USFS permit. Application for Marshall.

The forestry would not entertain issuing a permit for just hang gliding or paragliding in the national forest because it is already legal. They would however accept a permit to improve the Marshall launch in some way, adding a parking lot or toilet facilities. Even if we had a permit to do these types of things that would not grant us access on to the fire road 2N40. At this point the permit options have been tabled.

Old Business

Water Storage Capacity- a 1,100-gallon tank has been added to the current water storage replacing what was lost in the Old Fire. The tank has been installed and it currently in use.

Electrical Storage-maintenance has been performed to up date the old batteries used in conjunction with the solar system to run the lights and sprinkler system. New low wattage bulbs have been replaced in the floodlights to increase electrical efficiency.

Replacement of the Crestline Stairs-This was an item that was continued from the March 9, 2004 board meeting in order to bring it to the general membership for discussion. The stairs need to be maintained at the Crestline Launch and the idea for replacing the existing railroad tie stairs with concrete was suggested. Dusty Rhodes

has volunteered to be the project manager. A motion was made and agreed upon.

New Business

10th Anniversary fly-in. This was an item that was continued from the March 9, 2004 board meeting in order to bring it to the general membership for discussion. The date was proposed to have the fly-in on July 10, 2004. A motion was made and agreed upon.

It was suggested that T-shirts could be made just for this event. Two options were discussed for creating the shirts. One-Dianne was going to talk to Marcello and see if he would like to come up with a design. Two-Ken Howells was going to check and see if they had the original design from the first annual fly-in and see if it could be used. This item was tabled and will be discussed by board members at this time.

19th annual Andy Jackson memorial fly-in. This was an item that was continued from the March 9, 2004 board meeting in order to bring it to the general membership for discussion. The date was proposed to have the fly-in on September 4, 2004. A motion was made and agreed upon.

In the past CSS has held a community event at Camp Pavika in Crestline. It was suggested by Ken Howells that this tradition be continued. Ken will be the project manager and try to get pilots to show up at the camp with gliders for photo opportunities and a chance for disabled children to speak to pilots about flying. Ken will be advertising this on the web site and in the forum. A projected date will be July 10, 2004 from 10:00am to 12:00 before the anniversary fly-in. A motion was made and agreed upon.

Begin Letter Writing Campaign. The members of CSS feel that it is important to keep pursuing options that may lead to the opening of 2N40, the road to Marshall Peak. At this time all current avenues for opening the road have been closed. The motion was made and agreed upon to start a letter writing campaign. Addresses and sample letters will be provided to pilots so the correct department and persons in charge will receive the letters. Web links such as The OZ report, Hang gliding and Paragliding Magazine, Big Air Form, and San Diego flying community links will be used to present the campaign. It was suggested that e-mail links also be included with the addresses so that pilots have the option to write letters electronically. It was also suggested that there be contact information so that people who know of additional web sites can add them to the campaign. Officers will handle the form letters and how the information will get to the

pilots. A motion was made and agreed upon.

A second motion was made to decide on whom the letters should go to. It was suggested that the USFS local office in Lytle Creek would be contacted with Bob Wood as the contact person. Also the local congressman, Jerry Lewis would be contacted. Officers will handle the form letters and how the information will get to the pilots. Other officials in the area could be added to the list. A motion was made and agreed upon.

A third motion was suggested to contact the local businesses. A form letter needs to be created so that a local businessperson could just sign a letter and a CSS member could solicit the local establishments for support. Dianne McKenzie has offered to coordinate the local business letter writing campaign. Officers will decide on the format of the form letter. A motion was made and agreed upon.

A fourth motion was discussed to have the mayor of San Bernardino write a letter that supports the CSS. Other agencies such as the Chamber of Commerce maybe contacted as well. These letters are considered to be support letters whereas the letters in the first motion from the pilots would be encouraging the selected officials to reopen access to Marshall Peak 2N40. It was suggested that copies of form letters or letter writing information be included in the membership renewal applications to be mailed soon and copies available from the site monitor for any visitors who may want to participate. A motion was made and agreed upon.

7:20 Meeting Adjourned

- Kathy Rhodes, CSS Secretary