



NEWSLETTER - August 2008



President's Page:

Greetings – Summer is full on in the region with lots of flying and flying stories. Please send me your tales of adventure. We will be having the Labor Day fly-in this year at Seneca Shadows Campground.. For the first time ever we are assigned – GROUP CAMP F. It is, conveniently

located right beside our traditional, camp site E. I hope to see a big turn out. The weather should be fantastic, flights should be epic and thanks to Larry Ball the sites are clean and clear.

Take care - Have Fun

L.E. Herrick

Please pay your 2008 dues of \$40 (\$60 for a family) by writing a check to: MHGA and sending it to: Jim Rowan, 13818 Florida Ave, Cresaptown, MD 21502. You'll be glad you did!!!

MOUNTAINEERS LABOR DAY FLY

IN

August 29 – Sept 1, 2008



Location: GROUP SITE F - Located approximately one mile east of Seneca Rocks, West Virginia on US Route

Directions: Take US Route 33 south from Seneca Rocks, WV for one mile.

MOUNTAINEER AIR TIMES—The Only Edition

5/13/08 – High Pt; NNE 3 – 5 mph; Pat H (S2) launched first and was just surviving at the Northwest Cliffs when he was joined by JR (S2). They scratched around trying to stay up in the weak, disorganized lift, but ended up a few hundred feet below launch in



front of the cliffs. A little piece of something came along and Pat zipped when he should have zipped and was scraped off the ridge. JR stuck with it and slowly climbed to 3900', drifting south in front of launch on a track towards ABL. He got another weak climb over Charlie Twigg's house to 4350' and ended up landing in a field behind the Rawlings, MD post office for a one hour and short (but very fun) six mile flight.

5/25/08 – North (Fork) Mtn; NNW 5 – 12 mph; Saturday of the Memorial Day Fly-In turned out to be a good day. Gardinator (Talon) went first and showed everyone the proper technique for a windy ramp launch. He got up without problem and was followed shortly thereafter by Hugh McGrath (U2), Larryboy (T2), and JR. Gardinator had already started working north along the ridge and Larryboy and Hugh followed him in that direction. JR had initially gotten up with everyone else, but even with a 1000' over the ridge, he soon found out it wasn't automatic and ended up getting scraped off the mountain to the dreaded main LZ. On the positive side of things, he was able to demonstrate the proper landing approach to Hugh who had come back to launch only to find himself getting scraped off the ridge, as well. Meanwhile, Gardinator and Larryboy were finding better opportunities to the



north. Gardinator ended up with three hours and got to 7600'. Larryboy got 2.5 hours and made it to the 7800' cloudbase. Getting to Seneca Rocks was less of an issue than getting down at the end of the day. They both landed at Yocum's Campground. Will DNF, but helped launch folks, along with Lisagirl Ball, Sally McGrath, and Lisa Apsey.

5/26/08 – Spruce Knob; ENE 5 – 10mph; After Will (Talon) survived the most butt-ugly HG launch ever seen at Spruce Knob, he and JR ended up having the best flights of the day getting an hour and climbing to 7600' and 7200' respectively in the bowl north of launch. Hugh and Gardinator flew in over the Knob where JR and Will were getting up, but they apparently pulled the ladder behind them and both of the new arrivals got scraped off and headed for the LZ. Larryboy launched a little while later and was able to get to 5800' on a 45 minute flight. Stretch (Sport) made a late and rare appearance and was able to get 12' over launch before joining everyone in the main LZ. Dannyboy and Ron Hott DNF, but helped those that did.

6/2/08 – High Pt; WSW 2 – 5 mph; JR and Homer got extended sleds of about 15 minutes followed by Gardinator who got a straight sledder to the LZ.



6/15/08 – High Pt; NNW 3 – 8 mph; Florent launched first and stuck for about 45 minutes before getting scraped-off and returning for a second flight of about 15 minutes. He got to 2300' on his first flight. Marvin (Falcon) managed to get 25 minutes and to 2500' in the scratchy conditions. Pat H got 20 minutes and to 2100'. Ben took a sled on his PG followed by LE who got to 3113' on a 25 minute flight. JR launched last and ended up with the FOD getting to 3140' on a 55 minute flight after almost getting

scraped off the ridge at the NW Cliffs.

6/24/08 – High Pt; WNW 10 – 20+ mph; After a crappy launch, JR found himself in a major left turn heading for the trees, but the openness of the launch allowed him time to correct and fly away from the hill. He found the air to be very "sporty". After getting to 3740' in a strong (5.5 – 6.0) thermal, he plummeted more than a 1000' in what seemed like a free-fall. He later said he didn't know he had that many "down-bars" on his vario. At that point, discretion seemed like the better part of valor and he flew south down the ridge to Zirks to avoid having to land in the main LZ. He hung out there for about a half-hour getting to 3400' at one point and was getting clear radio communications with Pete Lehmann who was flying at the Templeton flying site north of Pittsburgh over a hundred miles away. JR eventually got scraped off the ridge and was happy to have a huge, open

LZ in which to land after a little more than an hour in the air. Meanwhile, back at launch, Greg (S2) got off the hill and also found the “sporty” air not to his liking. He was braver than JR and put it down in the main LZ in what he later described as a “controlled crash”. There was no glider or pilot damage other than soiled underwear.

7/1/08 – WNW 3 – 8 mph; JR and Homer (S2) got extended sleds while a late arrival allowed Gardinator to get to 3000’ during his two hour flight. To add insult to injury, Gardinator then took the spot money to complete his total victory for the day.

7/14/08 – High Pt; NW 5 – 10 mph; Florent launched first and was struggling to stay up at the NW Cliffs when he was joined by JR. Flo had a couple hundred feet on JR and was eventually able to find something to keep him up while JR floundered and after venturing across the Gap to the W Face, was scraped off to the LZ. Flo later indicated that JR had chosen to launch at the absolute worst moment because after almost getting scraped off himself, it became easy and he ended up getting to 3000’ during his two hour flight.

7/21/08 – High Pt; W 5- 10 mph; The first day of the 2008 Allegany County Fair and conditions were almost perfect for a flying demonstration. JR launched and was able to maintain between 1600’ – 1850’ over the NW Cliffs. He was followed by Shawn McDuff (Falcon) and Brian Van-Hull (Falcon) with Shawn marking a good (2.0) thermal near the Fairgrounds launch that he took to 2750’ with JR climbing below him to 2200’ (these low altitude gains are great when the idea is to put on a flying demonstration). Brian was



the first to get flushed to the LZ after about 25 minutes and he almost overshot the LZ (on a Falcon?) landing to the north. Homer launched just about the time that both JR and Shawn were sinking-out and he ended up with an extended sledder landing towards the north. JR was just above him setting up his own landing approach when he noticed the streamers switching to the south and opted for a landing in that direction as did Shawn a few minutes later. They both got about 45 minutes. LE and Gardinator launched last and found improving conditions (a glass-off?). They were able to get to 2850’ in aerial ballet that lasted for about a half hour.



7/22/08 – Fairgrounds; W 3 – 8 mph; JR (Falcon) did a solo flying demonstration for the massive Fair crowds below. He managed to get 20 minutes and 1540' (a couple hundred over launch) before gravity had its way with him. Williboy performed driving duties.

7/24/08 – High Pt; W 7 – 15 mph; Day four of the Fair (day three was OD'd) proved to be the best day. Florent launched first followed by Chuck Daus (Falcon). Chuck hadn't flown his HG for over a year and almost sunk out early-on by being too far away from the ridge. As he became more comfortable, he was able to scoot in closer and ended up getting two hours when it was all said and done. Larryboy, Gardinator, and JR (S2) dove off in quick succession. Lift was abundant with climb-rates in the 2.5 – 3.5 range to 3500' – 4000', although the thermals sometimes had sharp edges and it was often difficult to do a complete circle in lift. At one point, everyone got pretty low and it looked like a massive flush to the LZ, but gravity lost that battle as conditions turned back on. It ended up becoming very smooth and "poosh-out" became the order of the day. After 1.5 – 2.0 hrs and with the LZ shrinking as it filled with cars, everyone chose to land. Flo landed first followed by Gardinator and Chuck who both landed north and had interesting approaches in the switching conditions. JR and then Larryboy both landed to the south just minutes later.



7/25/08 – Fairgrounds; SE 3 – 6 mph; JR (Falcon) and Larryboy dove off in a lull and plummeted to the LZ. The rotor, although not severe, was clearly present. Gardinator, Ben, LE, and John Hamm DNF.

7/26/08 – Fairgrounds; SSW 3 – 5 mph; JR and Gardinator fly for day six of the Fair. Both of them had straight sleds to the LZ, but at least it was easy to know which way to land.

7/27/08 – High Pt; WNW 5 – 15+ mph; The last day of the Fair turned out to be the most spanky/rowdy of the week. Gardinator launched first followed by Massachusetts H3 pilot, JJ Coelle (Falcon) who reported that the air was a “little bumpy”. JR (S2) launched with Ben and LE’s help and immediately discovered the air was a lot more than a “little bumpy”. He soon got a sustained climb of over 9.0 to 4400’ where the air was just as rowdy as it had been at ridge-top level. The lack of good control and the leaf-in-a-breeze feeling that came with it eventually sucked the fun out of the day for JR and he found himself flying south down the valley towards Barton’s LZ. At one point he veered SE towards Zirks thinking he was giving up too easily. A good spanking over Zirks LZ was all it took to chase him back out to Barton’s where he landed after a half hour that seemed more like an hour. JJ also decided to land, but being unfamiliar with the area and flying a Falcon, he opted to land in the main LZ where his car was parked. He said the air was very active over the LZ until he started on final approach and then it smoothed out significantly. Gardinator got to 5000’ before flying down the ridge to Zirks and then out to Barton’s LZ to join JR after an hour. Ben and LE DNF, but did help those that did and drove JR’s truck down the hill.

8/3/08 – High Pt; WNW 5 – 15 mph; Pat H, JR, and Gardinator picked a beautiful Sunday for a flight. The conditions looked promising with a sky filled with fluffy clouds and low humidity. JR had the gain of the day climbing to the 6350’ cloudbase at 6.0 – 7.0 on his 20-second averager. With Pat only a few hundred feet lower and Gardinator climbing up to them from below, it looked like it would be a group exodus OTB; however, Pat headed back upwind to the ridge looking at other clouds. JR, who was feeling guilty about leaving his sick dog at home, decided to follow Pat back to the ridge and Gardinator couldn’t resist sticking with herd. The lack of a driver didn’t help, either. The sailplanes were out in force and they proved to be great lift markers. JR was able to stay parked over three of them as they climbed as a group to 5000’ behind Fairgrounds launch. Gardinator eventually decided he had to go



OTB and dribbled downwind towards PCR. He landed shortly thereafter north of Ft Ashby, WV for about five miles. At 4500', JR flew over High Pt launch and headed for Barton's LZ so he could check on his ailing boxer. Even with a crossing headwind and a good bit of sink, it was a pretty easy glide to an uneventful landing at Barton's. Pat flew down the ridge to Zirks where he boated around until getting high enough to make the jump out front to Barton's. He eventually made the jump with altitude to spare, but he was a little low turning onto final approach and couldn't get the glider turned directly into the wind. This resulted in a mild whack, but it was enough to take out one DT.