

# USUA FLYING CLUB 1 NEWSLETTER

July 1990

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## FROM THE LEFT SEAT

by Tom Simmons

I think it is safe to say that the 1990 flying season has officially opened for USUA #1. Our fly-in was well attended, by members, other flying clubs and many guests. And I believe a good time was had by all.

On Saturday, six members of USUA #6 braved the weather in two ultralights and three cars. Tom Gunnarson and Jim Laurenson flew Jim's new-used two-place MXL down from Reese's field, where Jim is taking his BFI course. And a generally breezy afternoon did not deter many pilots from their appointed pattern rounds.

On Sunday, after accompanying the club #6 pilots on the first leg of their journey home, Tim Hansen, Chuck Tippet and I returned to Whitman Strip to find a whole new contingent of attendees, including a group of familiar faces from EAA 186.

Several USUA #1 members had called me to offer their help during the fly-in, and their generosity was greatly appreciated. The pattern was generally quiet, with most flying activity going on away from the airport, so strong controls were neither needed nor enforced. Let's hope that this will continue to be the case for future events held at Whitman Strip.

Fly Safely!

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## ADVISORIES

Among the fun flights planned for this month, the McClung summer home fly-in is still scheduled for July 7th & 8th. This will be a flight over the Blue Ridge Mountains, a gas stop at Luray Caverns Airport, and a quick jog down to a neighbor's field. It should be a great weekend. For details, call Paul McClung at (703) 787-0631.

Also, final preparations are underway for the flight up to Ultraflight. If you are interested in making the flight, and did not attend the July 1 pilot briefing at Whitman Strip, please call Jim Laurenson to announce your intentions. (703) 266-9532. Pilots considering this trip are urged to have lots of recent hours and well maintained engines and planes. No one wants to screw the pooch 200 miles from home.

## AND AWAY WE GO

by Tom Simmons

It's here. It's this month. It's the biggie! Ultraflight. Just *think* about it.

As we enter the final countdown, at least five pilots are seriously committed to making this 267-mile flight. Three or four spouses, significant others or buddies will be meeting us there with ground transportation.

Verbal planning in preparation for this trip has raised hyperbole to a new level of art. There is talk of flying to Niagara Falls for the day. There is talk of flying to Vermont for a few days. About the only thing that hasn't been talked about is a flight to the moon. But give us time. We're still thinking about it.

What seems certain is that this trip will be memorable. And it will certainly break new ground for USUA #1. Of course, we may still get weathered out. Or some other circumstance may alter the current mood of celebration. But barring the unforeseen, it is likely that we will have some new stories to tell.

To put the flight in perspective, Tim Hansen, Chuck Tippet and I made an early flight on Sunday, June 24th. We flew to Shannon Airport, Clifton Aqua-Land, Chimney View (private) and back to Whitman. Our flight itinerary was just under 100 miles. We were back on the ground by noon.

Not long ago, Tim Hansen, Rob Brooke, Jim Laurenson and I flew to Luray Caverns, Front Royal and then

back to Whitman's. That trip is about 120 miles. Our flight time of five hours included a leisurely lunch, and an extremely lazy flight from Luray to Front Royal.

What all this means is that flying half of the distance to Ultraflight in a day will not be an unusual strain, so the flight should be an easy and pleasant two-day trip. Our lay-over will be either at Carlisle, PA or Loch Haven, PA, depending on the weather.

Once we get there, who knows what new lands we might conquer. Wish us luck!

## FREQUENT FLYERS

by Tom Simmons

This year's frequent flyer program is already separating the real flyers from the hanger jockeys. Although my list is probably not comprehensive and complete (please call me if you feel you've been gypped), here's how things are stacking up as of June 29th.

Tim Hansen	19
Tom Simmons	13
Jim Laurenson	6
Andy Schaffer	4
Rob Brooke	4
Chuck Tippet	4
Jim Gildea	3
Jim Birnbaum	2
Tom Allder	2
Ted Wachtmeister	2
Paul McClung	1
John Shalestock	1
Dick Walker	2

Scoring has been pretty liberal; almost any flight has counted. Andy Schaffer even got credit for showing up one day

when he chose not to fly (it was raining, but cleared up later).

Remember, five credits gets you a frequent flyer patch; 10 credits gets you a special patch. We may have to invent an entirely separate category for Tim Hansen, who has taken up weekend residence at Whitman Strip, rain or shine.

Originally, I had hoped that this program might coax some of the reluctant flyers out of the woodwork, but so far, the ones earning credits are flying pretty much according to their set habits. Well, such is the glory of the patch.

### NEW IN THE AIR

By Tom Simmons

Yes, there are some new things under the sun. New pilots and new planes.

Dick Walker, after years of planeless membership in USUA #1, purchased a rakishly purple MXL some months ago, and after getting some proficiency hours under his belt, flew it up to Whitman Strip from West Point. That's a pretty impressive first cross-country flight, covering just about 110 miles. Congratulations!

Jim Gildea has completed his S-9 and begun putting his qualifying hours on the new bird. At this writing, he's not sure if he'll be finished in time for the Ultraflight trip, but we can expect to see his contrails crossing the Culpepper area in the coming months.

Ed Lynch, a man who has owned more ultralights than Liz Taylor has had husbands, has broken a rather

persistent cycle of bad luck by successfully soloing his Firestar.

And finally, Jim Laurenson, the original inventor of the in-flight radio hammock, is working on his BFI rating in his two-place MXL.

Anyone else with a new plane? Let me know about it.

## FLIGHT PLAN

July 5 - Club meeting, Washington Gas  
Light, Springfield Center, 7:30 PM.

Mystery Flights this month:

July 1 (Sunday)

July 7 (Saturday)

June 15 (Sunday)

July 21 (Saturday)

July 29 (Sunday)

Scheduled flights this month:

July 7 & 8            McClung Ranch

June 14 -22            Ultraflight

## CLASSIFIEDS

CHINOOK ULTRALIGHT - 66 hrs,  
instruments, brakes and winter or  
summer comfort with customized,  
removable doors. \$4,800, with BRS  
\$5,300. Perfect condition. Call Bill  
Fore, (703) 662-5581.

QUICKSILVER MX - Rotax 377,  
ultraprop, lower tail kit, flexshaft,  
strobe. Night hawk sails, Stitts coated.  
100 hr. overhaul, with new pistons,  
performed in July '89. All upgrades  
added. Steerable nose-wheel by coax  
cable (one of a kind). Very actively  
used and maintained. \$4,395, firm.  
Call Woody, (301) 879-1995.

CUYUNA ENGINE - 30 HP, recently  
overhauled, with shaft. Also spare  
parts for MX (almost everything but  
wings and tail). \$600 takes it all. Call  
Brant or Tina, (703) 642-3643

ROTAX 277 - geared reduction drive,  
throttle cable, brand new 60/29  
propeller. Zero hours since complete  
overhaul. Best offer. call Tom  
Simmons, (703) 548-3347.

\*\*\*\*GENERAL INFORMATION\*\*\*\*

The United States Ultralight Association's Flying Club #1 is a non-profit, educational club dedicated to the sport of recreational ultralight flying.

Meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the first Thursday of each month in the auditorium of the Springfield Operations Center of the Washington Gas Light Company, unless stated otherwise in the newsletter. To reach the WGL Center, take the Edsall Road West exit from I-395; turn left at the second light (Industrial Road); continue until the "Y" in the road; bear right and continue until you reach the WGL Center at 6801 Industrial Road on the left.

**1990 Chapter Officers**

President	Tom Simmons	703/548-3347
Vice-President	Tom Alder	703/914-8922
Secretary/Treasurer	Charles Maples	703/941-8167
Member at large	Jim Laurenson	703/266-9532
Member at large	Paul McLung	703/787-0631

\*\*\*Members are encouraged to submit items for inclusion in this newsletter. Articles and non-commercial classified ads will be run, space available, free of charge for current members. Commercial ad rates are: full page - \$20.00; 1/2 page - \$10.00; 1/4 page - \$5.50; business card - \$3.00.

Articles and non-commercial ads may be mailed to Tom Simmons, 311 North Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; or faxed to 703/548-3138. Commercial ads must be accompanied by a check.

Membership Application: mail to Charles Maples, USUA Flying Club #1, 4656 Conwell Drive, Annandale, VA 22003

Application must be accompanied by \$15 annual dues.

NAME\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

CITY\_\_\_\_\_STATE\_\_\_\_ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: HOME ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

ULTRALIGHT TYPE\_\_\_\_\_

USUA MEMBER # \_\_\_\_\_ UL REG. # \_\_\_\_\_