

Utah AAA Paragliding & Hang Gliding Sprints, at the Point of the Mountain

Dates: May 15-17th (Friday-Sunday)

Goal of Event:

The annual Utah AAA Paragliding & Hang Gliding Sprints, at the Point of the Mountain have been organized as an invitational and developmental competition for paragliding and hang gliding pilots. This competition is intended to support development of pilot skills through sport and a camaraderie of fellow enthusiasts while promoting a positive public image of foot launched flight via a spectator friendly and appealing event.

Description:

The Utah AAA Paragliding & Hang Gliding Sprints in some way resemble other cross country paragliding competitions in that it incorporates a launch window, a start cylinder, multiple turn points, a goal, and of course a very complicated scoring scheme. However, Utah AAA Sprints differ from almost every other cross country competition in that it has been designed to promote a wide variety of pilot skills for those who have little to no competition experience. Utah Sprints also differ from other competitions in that this event has been designed to be spectator friendly (most of the event will be visible from the ground).

The Utah Sprints consists of two classes of pilots: 5 (five) invited professional competitors and many Amateur Class pilots (non-ranked P2–P4). The invited professionals are permitted to fly any wing they desire. The Amateur Class pilots will be divided into two categories (those flying DHV 1-2 or below wings and those flying DHV 2 to 2-3 wings). The event will be held Friday May 15th thru Sunday May 17th. The event will be scored in the same manner that the US Paragliding and Hang Gliding Nationals are scored. All scoring parameters will be announced at the beginning of the event and explained in the Pilot Handbook. The Utah Sprints will resemble other competitions in that each task shall be comprised of multiple turn points. However, the tasks will be set to ensure a high percentage of pilots make goal. The course will be set to challenge most novice to intermediate pilots yet provide a structure for expanding skills (flying in gaggles, use of the speed bar, flying with a GPS, race theory/strategy, etc.).

Finally, the Utah Sprints differ from most other competitions in that pilot development workshops will be conducted prior to each task. These workshops will have an agenda that covers topics critical to competition flying (e.g. ensuring you are familiar with basic race strategy, use of the GPS, flying in gaggles, previous day analysis, viewing and analyzing the three dimensional playbacks of track logs, individual coaching, and so on). These workshops will help reduce the tension newer pilots often experience when first entering higher levels of competition.

The Utah Sprints will be administered by a Race Director, a Task Committee, a Safety Committee, and a Scoring Committee.

Race Day Schedule:

1:00-3:30: Daily Development Workshop/Coaching

3:30-4:00: Task Committee and Safety Committees meet to explore options and set the task.

5:00: Course and launch window are announced.

TBA: Launch window opens

TBA: Sprint begins

TBA: Race window closes
@7:00: Barbecue/Post Race Party begins

Tasks:

Tasks will be set that are both challenging and creative. Tasks may include multiple triangles, out and backs, or some kind of zigzag course. The task and safety committees will evaluate the conditions and will set a course that should take between 45-120 minutes to complete. GPSs will be collected at goal, data downloaded and returned to the pilot. Other specifics will be announced on the race day (e.g. will re-launches be permitted, thermalling direction in the start cylinder, etc.).

Awards:

- To be announced. Probably a pat on the back and bragging rights, maybe a tee shirt.

Development Workshops(s):

Three pilot development/coaching workshops will be held during the competition. These workshops will bring in experienced competition pilots to discuss a variety of subjects. A tentative agenda for these workshops has been written and is as follows:

- Day One: Using your GPS in flight; Basic Race Strategy; Competition Etiquette
- Day Two: Review of Day One task; Q&A; Flying in Goggles and Speed Flying
- Day Three: Review of Day Two task; Q&A; Personal Coaching

These workshops will be cumulative. That is, each workshop will build upon the knowledge and experience gained from the previous. Participation in all is strongly encouraged.

Scoring:

CompGPS, or equivalent, will be used to score this event. Result will be posted at the pilot development workshop. Results will also be posted at launch and on the UHGPGA.org website.

Requirements:

- Acceptable GPS (cable recommend) – email the race director if you have any questions or concerns about your GPS.
- Appropriate safety equipment (recently packed reserve, helmet, cell phone, etc.)
- Membership in the UHGPGA and USHGPGA. Out of town pilots can purchase one day memberships for each heat @ \$5.00 for each day.

Cost/Registration:

Registration opens on March 31st. We anticipate the cost of the Sprints is \$35.00 and includes: workshops, event, scoring, barbecue diner(s), awards ceremony, a tee shirt or some other form of apparel, lots of freebies, and lots of fun. Pilots must register for the entire event.

Questions can be e-mailed to: airutah@hotmail.com

The 2009 Utah Triple "A" Sprint
A Paragliding & Hang Gliding Event At the Point of the Mountain, North Side Flight Park

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Age*: _____

Make and model of the wing you intend to fly: _____

Make and model of GPS you are intending to use: _____

Do you have a cable for this GPS: Yes No

USHGPGA Rating: P2 P3 P4 H2 H3 H4

USHGPGA Membership Number: _____

Tee Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL _____

Please briefly describe your past competition experience: _____

* Note: Waivers will be signed day one of the event. If under the age of 18 at the time of the first day of competition a parent or legal guardian must be present to sign waivers.

Registration opens on March 31, 2009 and is a first come basis (determined by the postmark). Checks must be made out to the UHGPGA and mailed to:

UHGPGA
P.O. Box 711133
Salt Lake City, UT 84171

The cost of the event is \$ 35.00 and includes: workshops, event, scoring, barbecue(s), awards ceremony, a tee shirt or some other form of apparel, and fun.