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UNITED STATES HANG GLIDING AND PARAGLIDING ASSOCIATION



2020 USHPA AWARDS + CROSS COUNTRY CHASE + RED ROCKS FLY-IN

the reestablishment of flying in the Dunlap valley. There were seemingly endless amounts of weed-eating, removal, and eradication of poison oak, spreading hay for erosion control, and hand-leveling areas for clean running and landing paths."

As one nominator said, "Bob has put in countless hours on the Dunlap flying site as well as Tollhouse. This has been going on for years, ever since I can remember flying. He's always working on the sites, trimming trees, bushes, weed eating, putting gates in, and talking with the landowners. He's a hub to our local flying community. I cannot say enough good about this pilot and friend." Another said, "It is clear to any of the 150+ pilots that flew Dunlap North this year that his contributions were significant and contributed considerably to the greater flying community. It is without hesitation that I recommend Bob Soares for his contributions."

Thanks, Bob, for your monumental effort to open a new site and for bringing free flight back to the Dunlap valley. For those interested in flying at this new site, check out the Central California Hang Gliding & Paragliding Club's website at www.cchpc.club for more information.

Commendation

As Master Yoda once said, "Always pass on what you have learned." In free flight, there is always more to learn, and we cherish the opportunity we have to gain knowledge from the experiences of our fellow pilots. That is why this commendation is in order for **Jerome Daoust** for sharing and publishing information, an invaluable resource for the flying community. Numerous members of the flying community gain insights, knowledge, and references from the extensive information Jerome provides on his website, www.expandingknowledge.com/PG.

In addition to his knowledge, he has a calm, level-headed demeanor and has long provided excellent flight instruction. By many, he is known as a positive force for his local club and the larger flying community. He has the respect of a great many pilots in the flying community as a skilled and safe operator.

Thank you, Jerome, for the extensive resource you provide for the free-flight community.

Commendation

This year, many members of our community had their local flying sites closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It's easy to get discouraged if you don't know when your site will be opened again, but **Jesse Meyer** did not let that get him down.

As one nominator wrote, "While many of us were sitting around complaining our sites were closed, Jesse was one of the few that took the initiative and presented plans for reopening our sites safely with appropriate social distancing protocols. Jesse checked in weekly with the local parks and rangers to get updates on their opening plans. Even when his local teaching site finally opened for flying but did not allow teaching, he maintained positive spirits and encouraged everyone to get out and join him for a socially distanced hike and fly."

Jesse runs a paragliding school, Lift Paragliding, based in the San Francisco Bay Area and is known for developing safe, informed, and community-driven pilots. When social-distancing restrictions became necessary, Jesse turned to Facebook and the online community he built to stay in touch with pilots. "He hosted virtual happy hours, shared old flying stories, led online ground school study sessions, and even helped create a paragliding themed Bingo game played via Zoom, complete with prizes," the nomination noted.

In addition to his efforts during this trying time, he consistently strove to create a friendly, safe, and supportive community of pilots. Another nominator commented, "He gives everyone personalized attention for their learning styles, and is great about helping intermediate and advanced pilots develop their own skills and make informed decisions in their progressions. If the day is flyable, Jesse is out flying or teaching. He's super encouraging of all levels of pilots and also great at organizing trips for different levels."

Thank you, Jesse, for continually going above and beyond for your students, community, and your paragliding family. 🇺🇸

