

Branches

2014: 2 November 13, 2014

Newsletter of the



Board of Directors Election

Calendar:

- * BOD Meeting Dec. 13
- * Christmas Party Dec. 13
- * BOD Meeting Jan. 10
- * Mayhem May 30
- * Team Challenge Aug. 16-22

It's time once again to elect the Tree Toppers who will manage the affairs of *America's #1 Hang Gliding Club* for another year. 2015 presents interesting questions for the future of our club and free flight in *The Hang Gliding Capital of the East!*

facilities, parking, LZ, etc., but who are extended no voting privileges? Shall they be full voting, BOD eligible members?

Presently, we regulate no sites we do not own, and we own no paraglider launch sites, so this would be a significant departure from our historical operation unless other solutions become available.

Technology is also here to stay, which has presented a question of presence at BOD meetings. Should members who attend via teleconference be counted as present for the purposes of satisfying Article III, Section 4 of the TTT Bylaws?

Your vote is important. Please review the enclosed BOD ballot, cast your vote, and let your voice be heard!

**PARTY ON THE LAKE
WITH THE
TENNESSEE TREE TOPPERS
DECEMBER 13, 2014**

7:00 PM EST

AT



Paragliders (and associated pilots) are here to stay. What will be the nature of their relationship with the TTT? Shall they continue to be members of another club (Southern Para Pilots) with whom we enjoy a reciprocal agreement? There's some indication that this relationship, as it exists, may not persist (through no action of the TTT). Shall they be guests who pay a regular fee to the TTT for use of restrooms/

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TTT Christmas Party

Our Christmas party this year will be at Ari's Harbor Light Restaurant, 9718 Hixson Pike, Soddy Daisy, Tennessee. It's about a half hour from Henson's south on Ill to 27, south to the Sequoyah Road exit, left turn to Hixson Pike, then a right turn to Harbor Lights Marina and Ari's. Just downstream from TVA's Sequoyah plant it's a nice place with great food at reasonable prices in a casual dining atmosphere

and a beautiful view of Lake Chickamauga on the Tennessee River. The menu will include:

Rib-Eye Steak	\$18.95
Jumbo Fried Shrimp	\$17.95
Grouper (grilled, blackened, broiled, or fried)	\$16.95
Blackened Chicken	\$13.95



Please make your plans now to join us for the Tree Topper Christmas party on the evening of Saturday, December 13th at Ari's on the Lake near Harbor Lights Marina!

It would be good to tell us you're coming (423-949-6912, danshell@bledsoe.net), but don't let not tellin' keep you away!

TTT @ July 4 *by Dan Shell*

Once upon a time in The Hang Gliding Capital of the East, the Tree Toppers sponsored a float in the Dunlap July 4th Parade. This is easily the largest community-wide celebration in *The Hang Gliding Capital of the East* so it's a good place for *America's #1 Hang Gliding Club* to show appreciation for the hospitality of our beautiful valley and be part of the community.

This year our PR Committee aimed to restore Tree Topper presence to the Dunlap July 4th festivities, and our aim was true! We ordered new banners from FastSigns in Chattanooga and Michael Bradford was "Johnny-on-the-spot," dropping by to pay them

first so they'd get started, then dropping by again to pick them up for us when they were completed. He also picked up a couple of buckets of "throw candy" for the parade and delivered it all to the parade formation in a timely manner July 4 AM.

Clark Harlow made it happen in a big way, supplying the trailer, designing a banner display frame, glider configuration, and supplemental decoration. It was a beauty, especially for something three people could bolt and zip tie together in a few minutes.

Our parade placement was also convenient, allowing Jackson and me to march in the front of the parade with

the Community Band (ahead of the horses), walk the parade route back viewing the whole thing, then jump into the car with Clark just as our TTT float entered the parade route to ride and help Clark throw candy.

Thanks to Clark and Michael for making this happen. It was another important Tree Topper appearance before our community in one of its major celebrations.

Thanks again to all who assisted with our successful presentation of Tree Topper history, artifacts, and FLYING at ValleyFest

Clark Harlow, Rick Jacob, Marco We-

ber, Ollie Gregory, James Anderson, Jackson Shell, Rob Dallas, Eric Donaldson, Al Sasser, and Jeff Laughrey, Michael Bradford, Tim Cocker, and Southern Para Pilots for pledging the landing prize money. Read more about it in the August edition of *Hang Gliding and Paragliding Magazine*.

It has been my pleasure to chair this committee, as it has offered the best perspective on Tree Toppers working together to accomplish important work. This committee's work has been a true Tree Topper collaborative effort, not the heroic effort of one or two. Clark's effort, especially July 4, was pretty heroic. Still, the combined effort pulled it off. Let's do it again next year!

2014 TTT BOD Meeting Attendance

BOD Member	February	March	April	May	June	July	September	October	November
James Anderson	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P
Michael Bradford	P	P	P	P	T	P	P	P	P
Eric Carden	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	A	T
Tim Cocker	P	A	P	A	A	A	P	P	P
Buddy Cutts	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	T	P
Rob Dallas	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	T	T
James Dean	P	A	A	A	Resigned				
Ollie Gregory	A	A	A	A	P	P	P	P	P
Clark Harlow	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
Rick Jacob	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A
Robin Kastle	P	P	P	A	A	A	P	A	A
Barry Klein	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	P
Kathy Lee	P	A	P	A	A	P	A	A	A
Steve Lee	P	A	T	A	A	T	A	A	A
Dan Shell	P	P	P	P	P	T	P	P	P
Kenny Sandifer							P	P	P

P=present, A=absent, T=teleconference

TTT 2015 BOD Elections

The following TTT members have volunteered to serve on the 2015 TTT BOD. These volunteers will donate a great deal of time, treasure, smarts & hard work to keep *America's #1 Hang Gliding Club* running smoothly throughout the coming year. We ask that each member complete this one simple and very important task. Thank you for your time. We know you are very busy.

Please vote for no more than fifteen (15) candidates.

James Anderson (I)

Michael Bradford (I)

Eric Carden (I)

Tim Cocker (I)

Buddy Cutts (I)

Rob Dallas (I)

Tom Dwelley

Eric Grabowski

Ollie Gregory (I)

Clark Harlow (I)

Bryson Harper

Rick Jacob (I)

Wesley Johnson

Kathy Lee (I)

Steve Lee (I)

Lucas Ridley

Kenny Sandifer (I)

Dan Shell (I)

Marco Weber

NOT A VALID BALLOT

(I) indicates incumbent.

2014 Tree Topper of the Year

Many dedicated Tree Toppers do many things over the course of a year to make the TTT *America's #1 Hang Gliding Club*. This is, by no means, an all-inclusive list. Some of our heroes continue to make quiet contributions year after year, so if you've noticed the efforts of someone not yet nominated, please use the write-in blank. Vote for one of the nominees listed below or write in the name of the member you feel is deserving of the prestigious Tree Topper of the Year award.

Eric Carden- Team Challenge volunteerism.

Buddy Cutts- TTT website maintenance.

Florida Group (Rocketman aka David Sweigart, Tyson Richmond, Roger & DoraLisa Sherrod)- Team Challenge volunteerism (pre, during, post).

Ollie Gregory- Competition Chair, Team Challenge.

Clark Harlow- July 4th Parade TTT float build.

Wes Johnson- tree clearing below launch.

Dan Shell- PR Chair, TTT at ValleyFest.

Marco Weber

Other (write-in):

Mail to:



BOD Elections

by 12/13!

PO Box 1286

Dunlap, Tennessee 37327



TTT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*****All fields marked with ** are required *****

You have two options to submit this form:

1. Complete this form and submit it (with payment) directly to a TTT Board Member and have them sign as your witness. Your membership will become effective immediately. -OR-
2. Complete this form, have any adult sign as a witness, and mail it with payment to: Tennessee Tree Toppers P.O. Box 1286 Dunlap, TN 37327. Your membership will become effective when the TTT has received and processed your application and payment.

Name**: _____ Address**: _____

City**: _____ State**: _____ Zip**: _____ Country**: _____

Your Phone #**: _____

Your Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Authority of Medical Directive: _____ And Phone # _____

USHPA #**: _____ USHPA Rating**: _____ USHPA Expiration Date**: _____

Membership Type (check one):**

- Life \$1000 5-Year \$400 Annual \$100 Family \$50 (per additional member) 3-Day \$25 1-Day Tandem \$5

In consideration for being permitted to use the facilities and equipment of the Tennessee Tree Toppers, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the TTT, and to engage in the sport of hang gliding, solo and/or tandem instruction, and other related activities, (hereinafter collectively referred to as Hang Gliding Activities), I hereby agree as follows:

Initial Here** I (print name)** _____ hereby RELEASE AND DISCHARGE the United States Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association and any of its members, the cities of Dunlap, TN and Whitwell, TN, any owners of land where Hang Gliding Activities are conducted, the TTT Board of Directors, TTT members, and TTT designees (hereinafter collectively referred to as Released Parties), from any and all liability, claims, demands or causes of action that I may hereafter have for injuries and damages arising out of my participation in Hang Gliding Activities including, but not limited to, losses CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASED PARTIES.

Initial Here** I further agree that I will not sue or make claim against the Released Parties for damages or other losses sustained as a result of my participation in Hang Gliding Activities.

Initial Here** I also agree to INDEMNIFY AND HOLD THE RELEASED PARTIES HARMLESS from all claims, judgments and costs, including attorneys' fees incurred in connection with any action brought as a result of my participation in the Tennessee Tree Toppers Membership Application and/or Hang Gliding Activities.

Initial Here** I understand and acknowledge that Hang Gliding Activities have inherent dangers that no amount of care, caution, instruction or experience can eliminate and I EXPRESSLY AND VOLUNTARILY ASSUME ALL RISKS OF DEATH OR PERSONAL INJURY SUSTAINED WHILE PARTICIPATING IN HANG GLIDING ACTIVITIES, WHETHER OR NOT CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASED PARTIES.

Initial Here** I have been advised and recognize that my Hang Gliding Activities are not covered by any personal accident or general liability insurance policy issued to the Released Parties.

Initial Here** I hereby expressly recognize and accept that this Agreement-Release of Liability is contract pursuant to which *I have released any and all claims* against the Released Parties resulting from my participation in Hang Gliding Activities, including any claims caused by the negligence of the Released Parties. I further agree to abide by all of the TTT rules and Flight Regulatory Program (FRP) and to report any non compliance of these regulations to a TTT official. I have received a copy of the TTT Bylaws, Site Guide, and Flight Regulations defined in the FRP. I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT - RELEASE OF LIABILITY IN ITS ENTIRETY OR HAVE HAD IT READ TO ME, FULLY UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO ALL OF ITS CONTENTS, AND SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Your Signature**: _____ Your Printed Name**: _____ Date**: _____

Witness Signature**: _____ Witness Printed Name**: _____ Date**: _____

Witness Address**: _____