

2014 HANG GLIDING & PARAGLIDING FATALITIES

PARAGLIDING FATALITIES

February 10, 2014 - Paul MacDonald

Paul MacDonald (34) achieved his Intermediate (P3) rating in 2006 but was not a current USHPA member at the time of his fatal flight in Haleakala, HI. He launched in cloud conditions at a familiar site and suffered fatal injuries after contacting power lines.

February 23, 2014 - Ronald Carter

Ron Carter (54), an Advanced (P4) pilot and USHPA member since 2008, suffered fatal injuries in a towing incident near Draper, UT. After becoming entangled in his wing while practicing advanced maneuvers, indications are that following the rapid inflation of his wing, which had dropped behind him, the subsequent surge sent Ron into his wing. He was unable to deploy his cut-away style reserve due to being entangled in his wing.

March 21, 2014 - Bence Pascu

Bence Pascu (34), a Novice (P2) pilot since August 2013 and not mini-wing rated, suffered fatal injuries during a mini-wing flight at Makapuu, HI after his mini wing deflated, apparently caused by mechanical turbulence while flying in strong winds.

April 23, 2014 - Eric Hill

Eric Hill (31), a Novice (P2) pilot since February 2013 and not mini-wing rated, suffered fatal injuries during a mini-wing flight at Point of the Mountain, UT after a major collapse of his mini wing while soaring during mid-day conditions in close proximity to terrain.

June 20, 2014 – Kevin Smith

Kevin Smith (57), an Advanced (P4) pilot since November 1997, suffered fatal injuries during a flight at Golden, CO after a major collapse within a few minutes of launching. A spiral dive following the collapse resulted in the fatal impact with the steep slope of the hill.

July 3, 2014 – Anthony (Bud) Wruck

Anthony "Bud" Wruck (48), an Advanced (P4) pilot and had been a USHPA member since 2003, suffered fatal injuries during a flight in Slovenia. Very little is known, other than the fatal injuries were a result of a collision with the ground.

July 16, 2014 – David Norwood

David Norwood (55), co-chairman of the USHPA Accident Reporting committee, a Master (P5) pilot and USHPA member since 2007, suffered fatal injuries during a flight at Chelan, WA. He launched a familiar site and suffered a thermic induced collapse, which he was unable to recover from. Fatal injuries resulted from a collision with the ground.

October 27, 2014 – David Pearson

David Pearson (30), an Intermediate (P3) pilot, Advanced (M2) mini-wing pilot and USHPA member since 2013, suffered fatal injuries during a mini-wing flight at Soboba, CA. While speed flying he attempted a barrel roll. David suffered a major collapse during this maneuver. Fatal injuries resulted when he was unable to recover.

November 30, 2014 – Kjell Sporseen

Kjell Sporseen (32), a Novice (P2) pilot and USHPA member since 2007 and not mini-wing rated, suffered fatal injuries during a mini-wing flight at Columbia River Gorge, WA. After launching a familiar site on an 8.5 m speed wing the pilot gained lift. He then intentionally entered a spiral dive to decrease altitude. The diving wing lost altitude quickly and the pilot collided with the ground, resulting in a fatal injury.

HANG GLIDING FATALITIES

September 29, 2014 - Joseph Julik

Joseph Julik (57), an Intermediate (H3) pilot and USHPA member since 2001, suffered fatal injuries landing his Moyes Litespeed at Twin Oaks Airport in Whitewater WI.