



Purpose of this operating procedure

1. This operating procedure defines procedure for issuing the association Awards.
2. Association awards are normally issued annually, however the Board of Directors reserves the right to not make an award in any given year at its sole discretion.

Objectives of the Awards

3. The objectives of the Awards are to recognize outstanding service to the HPAC/ACVL and the sports of hang gliding and paragliding by a member, volunteer, group, landowner or public official.

Association Awards

Award Name	Description	Eligibility
Cliff Kakish	Awarded to an outstanding volunteer who has contributed to the sports of hang gliding and paragliding during the past year	<p>All volunteers are eligible</p> <p>A volunteer need not be a pilot or a member of HPAC/ACVL to be considered and can have made their contribution at the national, regional or local levels</p> <p>May be awarded to the same individual more than once.</p>
Jamie Christensen	Awarded to an outstanding individual who has made a long-term contribution towards the growth of hang gliding and paragliding but who may not be able to meet the requirements for a Master rating.	<p>Any person who has made a long-term contribution to the sports in any capacity is eligible for this award.</p> <p>An individual need not be a pilot or a member of the HPAC/ACVL to be considered and can have made his/her contribution at the national, regional or local levels.</p> <p>Cannot be awarded to the same individual more than once.</p>
Solid Ground	Awarded to individuals, landowners, organizations and/or officials who have contributed in an outstanding way to the sports of hang gliding and/or paragliding in Canada through contributions related to flying sites.	<p>All individuals, landowners, organizations or officials who have contributed in an outstanding way to flying site improvement, establishment of flying sites, launch and landing zones access and/or long term contribution of property to the advancement and continuation of our sport are eligible.</p> <p>Recipients of the award may be of national, provincial, regional or local importance.</p> <p>May be awarded to the same party more than once.</p> <p>The number of awards given in any year shall be determined by the Board of Directors.</p>
Domagoj Juretic Leadership Award	Awarded to an individual who demonstrates exceptional leadership in relation to the sports of Hang Gliding and Paragliding in Canada.	<p>Any individual is eligible.</p> <p>May be awarded to the same individual more than once.</p>

Award Name	Description	Eligibility
Michael Robertson Instructor of the Year	Awarded to an instructor who promotes and supports the sports of Hang gliding and/or Paragliding in Canada by transmitting skills, knowledge and passion to new generations of pilots while maintain a high level of commitment safety and excellence.	Any active instructor in good standing with HPAC in the past year. May be awarded to the same instructor more than once.
Lew Neilson	Awarded to the Canadian National Hang Gliding Points Champion based on points accumulated in hang gliding competition during the preceding two years.	All HPAC pilots competing at HPAC/ACVL sanctioned hang gliding competitions. Hang gliding competition points may be collected at the international, national, regional or local levels.
Willi Muller	Awarded to the Canadian National Paragliding Points Champion based on points accumulated in paragliding competition during the preceding two years.	All HPAC pilots competing at HPAC/ACVL sanctioned paragliding competitions. Paragliding competition points may be collected at the international, national, regional or local levels.
Chris Muller	Awarded to a top 10 (Canadian NTSS) placing pilot who exemplified the true spirit of competition for hang gliding and/or paragliding during the past year, including extraordinary skill in competition, a positive attitude, sense of fair play, and respect toward other competitors.	All HPAC pilots competing at HPAC/ACVL sanctioned hang gliding and/or paragliding competitions.

Procedure

4. Any member of the HPAC/ACVL may nominate an individual for an award. Nominations must be forwarded to the Executive Director prior to the annual Board of Directors meeting to be considered.
5. The recipient(s) of awards granted to points champions and the Chris Muller award shall be determined by the Competition chair(s) and communicated to the Executive Director.
6. The recipient(s) of all other awards shall be selected by a vote of the Directors at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors.

Appendix A — About Cliff Kakish

Cliff Kakish was a Canadian hang gliding pioneer. Born in Foam Lake, Saskatchewan, Cliff began flying hang gliders as a university student in the 70's. His first glider was made of plastic.

Cliff was involved in the Alberta Hang Gliding Association (AHGA) and was involved with the formation of the HGAC, the precursor association to the HPAC/ACVL. Over the years, he served as President of both the AHGA and the HGAC. More specifically, Cliff served the HGAC in the following capacities:

- 1977, Vice President
- 1979 - 81, President
- 1978 - 81, Insurance committee
- 1980, Instructor standards committee
- 1981 - 85, FAI/Record committee
- 1977 - 1987, Legal adviser to the HGAC

Cliff also worked with Transport Canada on the original ultralight/hang glider regulations.

Cliff was a devoted and active competition pilot and he represented Canada at the World Championship in 1981. He founded the Cochrane Cup, a XC competition to promote XC flying which was the impetus for multiple 100-miles flights in Alberta. He was the first Canadian to file for an official world record.

Cliff became involved in the Olympic Movement for Calgary '88 on the bobsleigh committee. He, along with Willi Muller, started the Skeleton movement in Calgary.

Cliff was the 6th recipient of the HPAC Master Rating. He also received the Paul Tissandier Diploma, awarded by the FAI to those who have served the cause of Aviation in general and sporting aviation in particular, by their work, initiative and devotion.

Appendix B — About Jamie Christensen

Jamie wrote the original HAGAR study manual which was photocopied and passed around all over western Canada. He was an HPAC Paragliding Instructor living in Kelowna.

Appendix C — About Michael Robertson

Michael Robertson has been flying hang gliders since the 1980's and has logged over 15,000 flights. He is a HPAC Senior Tandem Instructor and has introduced innumerable pilots to the sport. He holds an HPAC Master Rating and USHGA 4th Diamond Safety Award. He created the Robertson Charts of Reliability (RCR), and is recognized as the inventor of the base bar safety wheel for hang gliders.

Through his school he has provided hang gliding technical expertise and piloting film work including "Fly Away Home" and "When Night is Falling". Television credits include Outdoor Life Network and a Diet Pepsi commercial. Michael is notable for being one of only two pilots to fly from the CN tower on Toronto (as part of the Pepsi commercial in 1988).

Appendix D — About Lew Neilson

Lew Neilson was Canada's first Hang Gliding National Champion. A resident of Vernon, British Columbia, Lew began flying hang gliders in 1974. He was one of the driving forces in the creation of the Vernon Hang Gliding Club (later renamed to the Okanagan Soaring Association) and in the development of the competition scene in Canada.

Appendix E — About Willi Muller

Willi Muller built and successfully flew (on skis) a kite in March 1971 after seeing Les Oitz fly his Jobe Kite down the Men's Downhill at Lake Louise. In January, 1973 he formed Muller Kites Ltd and started his factory in downtown Calgary. In January 1973 Willi entered the "World Snow Kite Championships" at Big White Kelowna and won the 'free-flying' competition.

In 1973 Willi and Vincene Muller purchased land on Cochrane Hill which is now the Cochrane Flying Site. Muller Kites manufactured kites until 1978 and then transitioned to importing kites and became Muller Hang Gliding Ltd.

Willi formed the Alberta Hang Gliding Association in 1973 and was the founding president. Transport Canada approached him and said that they would like a National body to deal with and subsequently HPAC was formed with Willi as founding president. In 1975 he was part of a group of instructors who developed the initial Instructor Standards.

In 1987 Willi bought his first paraglider. Paragliding became part of Muller Hang Gliding in 1988. Willi held a Master Rating with HPAC and Senior Instructor status for both hang gliding and paragliding.

Willi represented Canada internationally several times in hang gliding and he held a World Paragliding Record and many Canadian Hang Gliding & Paragliding Records. He was Canadian Hang Gliding Champion three times and Canadian Paragliding Champion once. His best international result was 7th at the 1981 World Hang Gliding Championships in Japan.

Appendix F — About Chris Muller

At age five, Chris began hang gliding by catching rides with his dad Willi. When he got too big for Willi to take him tandem, he began to paraglide (age eleven). He chose paragliding because he was still too small to fly hang gliders. It wasn't long before he became an accomplished pilot in both disciplines. He grew up teaching others to fly hang gliders and paragliders and went on to become a Senior Instructor and HPAC Instruction Committee Chair. He set world records at age 15 and became an internationally acclaimed competition pilot in both hang gliding and paragliding. He was a three-time Canadian champion, a US champion, placed first in international competitions in Brazil, Mexico and placed second in both the Pre World and World Paragliding Championships in Austria.

Chris was equally respected by his teammates and his opponents, both for how he competed and the type of person he was. His positive attitude, his sense of fair play, and his understanding of the real meaning of competition, distinguished him as a true ambassador for the sports of hang gliding and paragliding and competition flying. Although Chris was a gifted pilot who won many contests, competition for Chris was about sharing flying with friends. He competed for fun, adventure, and to be the best pilot he could be. There are few elite competition pilots that have been able to earn as much respect and admiration from their fellow competitors, both nationally and internationally, as Chris did. Chris embodied the real spirit of hang gliding and paragliding competition and was an inspiration to others.

Appendix G — About Domagoj Juretic

Domagoj Juretic loved the sport of Paragliding and spread his joy for the sport to fellow pilots, to colleagues on the Boards on which he served, and to his many friends. He served 2003-2013 as President of the Quebec Free Flight Association and 2008-2016 as President of the Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association of Canada until his untimely death in 2016. Dom was an exceptional leader, a champion for the flying community in Canada and abroad, a skilful negotiator and a diplomat.