

Well if you have a passion for hang gliding, the opportunity to meet John Dickenson and Barry Palmer in person is the rough equivalent of meeting Wilbur Wright and Glenn Curtis in person. The good news is that they will be together at my "Hang Gliding Museum" here in Anacortes, Washington in the USA to speak about their pioneering hang gliding experiments and you are welcome, encouraged actually, to attend. The bad news is that it will be this Saturday 27 August. I fully realize that for most of you this short notice insures that you will be unable to take advantage of this never to be repeated historic gathering. Many of you are on the far side of the country and others of you are living in every part of the globe and have to wonder why in the hell would I even include you in this mailing. Although we hope to have a good turn out it is likely we may only draw a couple of dozen. I did not want to leave you out in the event you might just be in the area and can adjust your schedule to participate. This event is free of charge but donations to support my hang gliding history preservation work are gratefully accepted.

I have had the pleasure to have both of these pioneers in my home in past years. Hang gliding has been the defining achievement in my life and it is an unbelievable twist of life to have the opportunity to meet, thank and get to know the people who were the first to fly hang gliders in the modern era. As early as December 1961 Barry Palmer designed, built and flew what most hang glider pilots would regard as the first Rogallo wing hang glider.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sswv4WUi0aY> Just a couple of years later he added a motor and foot launched into powered hang gliding flight, probably the first to do so. By 1967 Palmer designed, built and flew a forerunner to the modern trike. He may well have flown over my unknowing head as he conducted his trike experiments just a few miles from where I was attending high school. What a shock to discover he lives and hour from where I live now!

John Dickenson in 1963 created the iconic configuration that was purchased by Bill Moyes and Bill Bennett. After being trained to fly by the experienced Dickenson the two Bills traveled the world resulting in the pandemic spread of the Dickenson Wing and creating the modern sport of hang gliding. John visited me here in October 2008 and we had a gathering of about 25 to hear about his pioneering work.

http://modelstation.smugmug.com/Hang-Gliding/John-Dickenson/6221329_MUniy

Should it be that you are able to attend please contact me for further details. I only yesterday confirmed Dickenson's visit and Barry Palmer has graciously agreed to join us on very short notice. I am still working on the fine points of this event and will know more in the next day or two. If you can video tape this event please be sure to let me know. Anyone know what it takes to stream this? I have no clue. If you have Skype I will be online during the event. You can call in and ask a question of one of these great pioneers.

Please repost this notice to spread the word.

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<http://picasaweb.google.com/ken.derussy/KenDeRussySHangGlidingMuseum?feat=directlink>

http://www.youtube.com/profile_videos?user=weflyuniv

<http://www.flyaboveall.com/psnews2.htm>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HangGlidingMuseum/> Owner

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NanolightTrikers/> Owner