

LIFESTYLES

Hawaii Marine B Section

April 12, 2001

Surfing the SKY



A glider passenger braces himself before being pulled into the horizon by a tow plane at Dillingham Army Airfield.



Glider passengers are treated to an aerial tour of the lush Leeward Coast. Inset, A passenger prepares to be secured in the glider minutes before his ride begins.



Gliders take off from the airstrip at Dillingham AAF, which is dwarfed in comparison to its surrounding features, during a glider ride.



Mr. Bill's glider moves across the Leeward countryside during a flight.

Gliders offer different spin to Oahu scenery

Army Staff Sgt. Kanessa Mynett-Allen
and
Army Sgt. Travis C. Butler
Hawaii Army Weekly Editor/17th Public
Affairs Det., Schofield Barracks

There's more than one way to surf Oahu's beaches. There's always the traditional way, hitting the waves with a wetsuit and a surfboard, and then there's sky surfing, offering adventurers a bird's eye view of the island.

Mr. Bill's Original Gliders at Dillingham Army Airfield offers enthusiasts the option to see Hawaii's beautiful sandy beaches from a higher perspective while gliding through the air.

Located at Mokuleia across from the Gliderport, Dillingham Airfield, Mr. Bill's gliders prove to be a heavenly ride in the sky.

Don Rohrbach, Mr. Bill's general manager and pilot can show people Hawaii like they have never seen it before, he said.

Rohrbach, who has been flying gliders since 1977, said, "gliders are the safest airplanes ever built."

The glider rides, he said, offer an opportunity to see places on the island that are inaccessible in a car. Each two-seat glider has a bubble jet canopy allowing passengers to see everything around them while enjoying the 20 - 30 minute flight.

"They say a picture is worth 1,000 words but your eyeballs take the best picture in the world," Rohrbach said.

The excitement begins when a tow plane hooks up to the glider, pulling it into the air for an unforgettable ride.

As the glider is released from the pull of the tow, it gracefully "surfs" on the wind currents high above the North Shore's gorgeous mountain

ranges and turquoise blue ocean water.

Glider passengers can clearly see the coral reefs on the ocean floor, and if lucky, may get an amazing look at whales just off the coast.

The view itself is well worth the flight, but Mr. Bill's will take it one step further, allowing the passenger to become a "backseat pilot."

Rohrbach said, "We give you the option to fly the aircraft without being a pilot."

Rohrbach said that he feels not only the pleasure of flying, but also the pleasure of making people happy.

"The people are the most enjoyable thing about gliders," he said. "We give them the experience of a lifetime. I have people who write me all the time saying it was the best part of their vacation," he said.

The chance to see Oahu's beauty while high in the sky is definitely an adventure one should take part in. It's probably a good idea, though, to eat a light lunch before launching into the graceful journey over the coastline.

As Rohrbach noted, some people experience minor queasiness. There's really no way to describe the island's beauty while soaring bird-like high above the earth's surface.

As Rohrbach put it, "Out of all the things you've ever done, this is one that will stay with you forever."

Mr. Bill's Original Glider rides offer not only a terrific adventure and a great view from the sky, but a wonderful opportunity to get a group together to barbecue and have fun.

The location offers the perfect backdrop for a unit party or family get-together. Group rates and discounted servicemember rates are available.

For more information, or to schedule a flight, call 677-3404.

For more information on different ways to see Oahu and neighboring islands, contact the K-Bay Information, Tickets and Tours office at 254-7653 or the Camp Smith ITT at 477-5143.

MCCS

MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES
www.mccshawaii.com

POSSIBILITIES IN PARADISE

By Debbie Aisoff, MCCS Public Affairs

MCCS Celebrates Children

Spring is in the air and Marine Corps Community Services is in full bloom with a family event that celebrates three occasions. Paying homage to Month of the Military Child, Child Abuse Prevention Month and Easter, you and your family are invited to attend "MCCS Celebrates Children," at the Mokapu Mall Courtyard, April 14 at 9:30 a.m.

The MarForPac band will kick-off the event with a performance from 9:30 – 10 a.m. The Easter Egg-Stravaganza Egg Hunt happens at the Child Development Center at 10 sharp (children in various age categories will be allotted time slots) followed with Art-N-the-Park activities to include Easter Egg coloring, Dinosaur Digs and more.

Train rides to Mokapu Mall, bouncy houses, a Federal Fire Department display, free car seat safety inspections, and many MCCS information booths will be showcased. Winners from the Domino's Pizza Library Bookmark and the Me and My Military Family coloring contests will be awarded.

More entertainment from Dance Movement Academy, K-Bay Gymnastics, Ronald McDonald Magic Show and musical chairs for parents and kids will ensure you have a hopping good time. Join us for this annual Spring festivity where you and your family are the guest of honor.

Mahalo to the MCCS Celebrates Children's sponsors: McDonald's, AAA Hawaii, AIG Hawaii, United Benefits, United Forces Association and the University of Oklahoma.

Now You're Hoppin'

Two delicious Easter buffets are hopping your way Sunday. Bring the family to the O'Club for relaxing ambiance and a scrumptious

Sunday Easter Brunch. You and your guests may make a reservation for the 10 a.m. or the 12:30 p.m. seating. Choose and sample croissants, salads, pancakes, Hawaiian Eggs Benedict, cream of beef, apple crepes and more. \$15.95 for members, \$17.95 for non-members, \$8.50 for kids 6 – 12, \$4.50 for kids 3 – 5, children under three are free. For more egg-citing information, call 254-7650.

Bring your appetite. Bring your Easter Basket. Bring the family to Fairways Easter Breakfast. Children of all ages will love to indulge in a bountiful Easter Breakfast, Sunday April 15 at Fairways from 9 – 11 a.m. Enjoy everything from fruit cocktail, chocolate chip pancakes to scrambled eggs and baked ham. Mom and Dad can relax while the kids take part in the egg hunt. (Make sure to bring in baskets from home.) Tickets are on sale now at Fairways, Bldg. 3038, \$9.95 for adults, \$5.95 for kids 5 – 11 years old and kids four and under are free. Get your tickets before their eggs-tinct! 254-5592.

National Billiards Day

Are you ready to cue up? Put a little topspin in your Thursday night and find out how all those hours studying geometry will pay off. Drop in the E-Club April 12 and ring in National Billiards Day starting at 5:30 p.m.



Plenty of pool, darts and relaxation are your only orders at Club-E. You'll also score with 25-cent hot wings, "Big Beverage Specials," and enjoy a live performance with "Happy Gets Lucky" and DJ house music beginning at 8 p.m.

The first international billiards championship was held in Detroit Michigan in 1859. Keep the tradition going. For more information call 254-7660.

Paradise Interrupted

Well, congratulations! You're now living in Hawaii. Isn't it peaceful? Isn't it paradise? Isn't it pricey! Don't let your first impressions of large bugs and large price tags scare you to death. Marine Corps Base Hawaii is paradise, you just need to be let in on a few secrets.

All spouses are invited to attend the Spouse Aloha

Orientation Thursday, April 19 in Bldg. 267 room # 2 from 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. This comprehensive, friendly workshop will give you the tools and resources to ensure you and your family benefit from the variety of services offered through both the base and MCCS. You'll also have the opportunity to meet and network with many other spouses who have useful and humorous stories to share.

Free refreshments and free childcare is available upon request when making your reservation. Meet your neighbors. Niche your network. For more information, call Marie Jesus at 257-7787.

Diamond Skills are a girls' and a boys' best friend

It's a keiki's World Series. Hit a homerun with your child and bring them to Windward Federal Credit

Union's Youth Diamond Skills Baseball Competition, Sunday, April 29 from noon – 5 p.m. at the G-Street Sports Field aboard MCB Hawaii.

The Diamond Skills Baseball event is a free event open to children ages 7 – 14 years old and is "The Official Skills Competition of Major League Baseball."

All children will compete in three categories to include: Batting, Fielding/ Throwing and Base Running. Winners from this competition will advance to the state level scheduled May 3.

You may register on-site between noon – 4 p.m. Parents must bring a birth certificate for the participating youth and fill out a registration form. For more grand-slammin' information, call Youth Activities at 254-7611.

"I Do," So Now What?

It takes two seconds to say, "I do," and a lifetime of "doing." Are you contemplating marriage? It won't take long to realize that marriage is hard work. Add to this already vulnerable institution challenges that the military lifestyle presents and it becomes even more volatile.

To better prepare and enhance your marriage, Personal Services offers a free, two-day Marriage Skills Workshop that is designed to strengthen communication,

budgeting and listening skills. Taught by a professional staff, this workshop will pry off those "infatuation blinders" and equip you with a dose of reality. All authorized military I.D. cardholders who are married or single and anticipating marriage are invited to attend the next session April 18 and 19 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. in Bldg. 267 room # 1.

Give your marriage every opportunity to excel. We're ready to help. To make a reservation, call 257-7787.

Slow Pitch & Slide Fast

All softball enthusiasts, it's time to batter up. Round up your softball team and enter Camp H.M. Smith's double elimination Spring Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament May 5 and 6 at Bordelon Field, Camp Smith. Teams may register at the Semper Fit Center, Bldg. 9 aboard Camp Smith now through April 30. This event is open to the public and registration fee is \$175 per team. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for teams and individuals as they compete within a six home run limit per game, open roster and adhere to the Amateur Softball Association Rules.

A coaches' meeting is scheduled at Camp Smith's Semper Fitness Center May 2 at 6 p.m. Don't wait to pitch this to your teammates, contact Dave Pablo for more information at 477-0498.

SM&SP

Single, active duty military...

Sunday & May 13, Deep-Sea Fishing Frenzy, \$60. Price includes all equipment & bait.

Shank & Slice II, Golf Tourney, Friday, April 27. Tee time 12:30 p.m. \$20 per person. Prizes awarded on blind-draw. Spaces limited.

Cinco De Mayo 5k Run, May 4, Pop Warner Field at 7 a.m. \$15 entry fee, which includes T-shirt. This event is open to the public.

Maui Memorial Weekend Trip, May 26-28, \$205, includes airfare, shared accommodations & rental car. Limited to the first 20 people.

Oceanside Paintball, Be your own action hero! Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sun. noon - 5 p.m. Call for equipment rental fees.

Youth Sport Volunteer Coaches Needed, contact David Kawada at 254-7610.

For upcoming program information, seek out your SM&SP unit representative.

For more information, call the SM&SP Coordinator, Dawn Williams at 254-7593.

MOVIE TIME

Down to Earth (PG-13)
3000 Miles to Graceland (R)
15 Minutes (R)
Saving Silverman (PG-13)
How the Grinch Stole Christmas (PG)
Sweet November (PG-13)
15 Minutes (R)

Friday at 7:15 p.m.
 Friday at 9:45 p.m.
 Saturday at 7:15 p.m.
 Saturday at 9:45 p.m.
 Sunday at 3:30 p.m.
 Sunday at 7:15 p.m.
 Wednesday 7:15 p.m.

SM&SP's 'Scrimmage Sweep' set for April 28

Debbie Aisoff
 MCCS Public Affairs

Ready to get busy in the end zone?

Marine Corps Base Hawaii's Single Marine and Sailor Program invites single, active duty military personnel from any service branch to compete in the SM&SP Scrimmage Sweep Flag Football Tournament.

The action starts April 28 at the Pop Warner Field aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. (Exact time of event to be determined.)

Registration is \$12 per team. The top two performing teams will win awards.

The K-Bay SM&SP is accepting Scrimmage Sweep registrations now through Tuesday at the SM&SP Office, Bldg. 216 or call Dawn Williams at 254-7593 for more information.



To register for the **Scrimmage Sweep**, call the SM&SP Coordinator at 254-7594.