

**Proposal from Australia, France, Great Britain and USA
to add an item to CIVL 2012 Plenary Agenda:
John Dickenson's nomination for FAI Gold Award**

The FAI has yet to reward any person from the sports of hang gliding or paragliding with its highest distinction, the Gold Award, even though our disciplines are amongst the most popular forms of flying.

Could there be a more fitting way to honour our sport and could there be a more fitting recipient than John Dickenson, holder of FAI Hang Gliding Diploma in 2006, the man who created and developed almost 50 years ago the hang glider configuration that is still widely used today. Indeed, on the 8th of September 2013 it will be the 50th Anniversary of the first flight of the first modern hang glider, flown by Mr Rod Fuller at Grafton, NSW, Australia.

We so request that the FAI awards the 2012 FAI Gold Award to Mr John Wallace Dickenson, from Sydney Australia, for his invention of The Modern Hang Glider.

This aircraft design still represents the closest mankind has come to the experience of bird-like flight, to the realisation of the Icarus Dream, an aircraft that you can pick up unassisted and run into the sky with.

Proposed citation

In the 1970's the sport of hang gliding exploded around the world. This explosion can be traced back to one aircraft, the Dickenson Wing, first flown on the 8th of September 1963.

The scores of other hang glider wing designs, including other bi-conical designs, that were developed dating from the time of Lilienthal's experiments, and continuing to be developed well into the early 1970s, inspired only a comparative handful of copies.

The Dickenson Wing was the complete package of lightweight, simplicity, ease of transport - whether assembled and being carried up a hill or packed for car transport -, exceptional durability and reparability, and most important, due to Dickenson's pendulum weight shift design, a user friendliness that allowed hundreds of thousands to hurl themselves off hills and, with surprisingly few exceptions, become pilots by touchdown.

Not many aircraft in history can make such claims of success, nor was any other hang glider design before or since ever likely to produce the huge numbers of participants and the viral spread world wide that accounts for the existence of our sport.

Not many women or men, since Lilienthal, have contributed so significantly to modern sporting aviation, to mankind's quest for bird like flight, to human knowledge of low-speed flight. Hang gliding opened the way to other sports like microlights, ultralights, paragliding and successful man powered flight.

For the first time in history, humans started to run into the air and fly as a normal activity, because of the success of Dickenson's aircraft.