

Gallagher Go-Getters



"Gadget Gary" enjoys his powered paragliding hobby.



Gary comes in for a landing.

GB's "Gadget Gary" Brown goes powered paragliding

GB's Gary Brown has quite a few unusual hobbies after work hours, including ham radios, astronomy and the weather, but he's most passionate about powered paragliding (PPG).

"It's the most incredible form of aviation that I have ever experienced!" Gary says. "Powered paragliding has proven more fun than any other general aviation aircraft I have ever had the opportunity to fly." And, Gary knows what he's talking about. A licensed private pilot and certified "air nut," he has also flown single-engine, multi-engine and jet aircraft.

Gary says a powered paraglider is the ultimate in personal flight aircraft—a small, safe, transportable, personal, foot-launched vehicle—that permits a pilot to easily, safely and very controllably fly thousands of feet in altitude or just inches off the ground.

"Imagine the experience of running on your own two feet to take-off, fly and eventually land again, virtually anywhere!" he bubbles over with enthusiasm. "It's very 'god-like.'"

The basic PPG setup is comprised of a paramotor, which is the backpack engine/propeller, and a paragliding wing, which is a parachute. The average cost of a paramotor is \$4,500-\$5,500, and the average cost of a paraglider wing is \$1,800-\$2,300. PPGs usually fly at 20 to 30 miles per hour, but they take off and land much more slowly. A pilot can stay aloft for 2.5 hours and can fly to very high altitudes.

Safety is of the utmost concern for Gary when he goes powered paragliding. Although he believes the aircraft is safe, he acknowledges that it isn't risk-free. Gary has taken extensive aviation and paragliding instruction, and limits his flying to only the safest weather conditions and times of day.

Gary is so enthusiastic about his hobby that he hosts a personal Web site about his PPG experience (<http://ppg.thebrownhouse.org/>). Visitors can view photos and video of Gary's flights.

NOMINATE!

You can nominate someone for Gallagher Go-Getters.

How?

E-mail itasca_insider@ajg.com
or call Cristina Cribari
at 630.285.3434

When?

The deadline for March issue
is Feb. 18