

91 Osprey Lane
Kitty Hawk, N. C.
27949 U.S.A.
Aug. 23, 1988

Mr. and Mrs. J. Dickenson
101 Elanora Road
Elanora Heights, NSW 2101 Australia

Dear John and Amy,

I was delighted to get your letter of July 11, 1988 with the recent photos and interesting historical enclosures. Because it came soon after the start of a month long visit by many members of our family, including our first great grandchild, I had no time to study it or search for related material until about two weeks ago when the family went home. We looked through boxes in the attic, then closets and shelves in the living area, and finally in the basement in boxes I had packed when I retired in 1970 and moved to Kitty Hawk in 1972. Fortunately the third or fourth box contained your correspondence. We found two of my letters to you in addition to the three that you already have, and five of your letters to us, plus some drawings and photos. We are sending you copies of the letters you lack and of the pictures and drawings you sent me in the early days.

In my first letter to you Sept. 28, 1964 I enclosed three papers. I am enclosing three other papers (written in '62, '68, '72) that may be of interest to you. In that first letter I also mentioned Robin Bisshop, with whom I had corresponded in the 1960s and from whom I had learned of your activities and obtained your address. I had hoped I might contact him while I was in Australia, but did not.

As I stated in my enclosed Washington paper, Purcell had built towed gliders and Palmer had built foot-launched gliders in '61 or '62. However, the combination of flexible wing, control bar, and pilot suspension that you developed became the most popular. Your fellow Australians Moyes and Bennett continued the flexible wing activities you started in Australia, and then demonstrated such flight in Europe and America where others, including Dave Kilbourne in California began flying wings similar to yours.

In 1973 Vic Powell promoted a national Hanggliding meet here on our big dunes, and pilots from many states came with gliders much like the one you developed. Peter Brock was here, and a few months later he gave me a wing from his factory. Consequently I have been flying your glider design since 1974 instead of continuing my development of fully-flexible foot launched gliders.

I hope you will write about your early days, and you may quote anything I have said or written. You have made a valuable contribution to hang gliding, and should be included in its history. We also hope we meet with you again, either here or in Australia.

With best wishes,

Francis Rogallo
Francis and Gertrude Rogallo