

# Paragliders soar in new documentary

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Black hawks catching thermals and making lazy circles in the sky will never look the same again.

Not after viewing *Into the Wind*, a documentary film about powered paragliding - produced, directed, and filmed by Pearland resident Chris Page. Most of the footage is shot in the air, either by Chris or his intrepid paraglider team.

Did you know these little motorized contraptions can fly up to 19,000 feet, the world record? Beery Miller, a paraglider from Clear Lake, broke 10,000 feet in Galveston in May 2005. And Page recently flew 51 miles over Santa Barbara - on automatic pilot.

*Into the Wind* debuted at a private screening last week at the Starlite Cinema in Webster. The documentary could be seen as a modern take on a 1965 action/adventure/comedy hit

*Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines*. The latter film won an Academy Award for Best Writing. The 2 ½ hour feature zeroed in on the daring pioneers of aviation back in 1910 and their odd-looking flying contraptions, to the tune of 'Those magnificent men in their flying machines, They go uppity up up, They go down, diddilly down down.'

"Each year our parasails normally kick off the Ballunar Lifftoff Festival in Clear Lake," said Page. The Ballunar Lifftoff is an annual event occurring around the third weekend of August near the NASA/Johnson Space Center. The festival attracts a crowd of delighted families, and includes a festival of skydiving, stunts, music, a 'Balloon Glow,' hang gliders, and astronaut signings.

Page submitted his film about the sport of powered paragliding to the 21st Santa Barbara International Film Festival, to be held Feb. 2 - 12, 2006. More

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## Above the clouds

Powered paragliders such as this aviator flying over Damon, Texas last May, have soared to 19,000 feet - the world record for the sport which mates motors with parasails.

*Photo courtesy of C. Page*

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## Film puts power paragliding in focus

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than 50,000 attended last year's festival.

"We've got our fingers crossed," said Page. "We've applied and we hope to premiere."

He started shooting the film, which was budgeted for \$80,000, in December of 2004, and wrapped production in August of 2005. He shot film across Texas, Mexico, Florida, and Colorado.

Two of the film's stars, Camilyn Brucker and Ken Reeder, live in Pearland. Ken Reeder is an information systems manager and business owner, not your average all-American guy, married with three children. Reeder decided to try paragliding with a little apprehension. "Now I'm so relaxed, I take up some music with me to whil away my flyin' time."

Camilyn Brucker, a legal assistant, and Ken's wife, despite a rocky first landing - on a runway and petite weight, 93, says "more women need to take up the sport!" Reputedly, the machines are actually slimming down. They now average, in a backpack, 50 to 80 lbs. Women who take up this sport look buff. And no wonder. The training, which includes running a quarter of a mile with a 50-80

lb. backpack before liftoff, would put anyone in shape.

Dave Gorham, the film's writer and narrator, hails from Friendswood, and is a former meteorologist with KUHF, Houston Public Radio.

Director's friends spices up film's integrity and sound

Six years ago Page met up with musician Jason Campbell while both were volunteering in their church's music and film areas. "We hit it off and have been friends ever since," said Campbell. Campbell's musical arrangements are a powerful part of the film. Campbell evokes a Mojo Lingo and a "Jim Dandy to the rescue" kind of style. Kelly Grace is Campbell's partner on the film's musical track, and lives in the Humble area of Houston. Campbell is a Baytown resident and maintains a Web site at [www.JasonCampbellMusic.com](http://www.JasonCampbellMusic.com)

Andy McAvin, who lives in Webster, both sells paragliding equipment, and trains folks who want a cheap alternative to owning, flying, and maintaining their own plane. "I fly for enjoyment and peace," McAvin says. "I don't fly if conditions are going to scare the (expletive deleted) out of me."

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