

8/27/2021

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

2021-107/9-5

1801899

To: Airport Manager, Orlando Int'l Airport (MCO), FL, FAA (AAS-1)

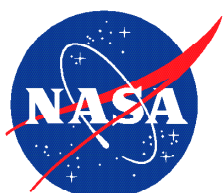
Info: FAA (AVP-1, AVP-200, ASO-600, ATM MCO Tower, ATM F11 TRACON, AFS-280, AFS-200, AAS-300, AJI-144, Director of Air Traffic Operations ESA South), ATSG, ALPA, IFALPA, AOPA, APA, ASAP, A4A, ATSAP, CAPA, IATA, ICASS, IFALPA, IPA, NATCA, NBAA, NTSB, RAA, SWAPA

From: Becky L. Hooey, Director  
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

Re: Hang Glider Activity Vicinity of MCO Airport

We recently received an ASRS report describing a safety concern that may involve your area of operational responsibility. We do not have sufficient details to assess either the factual accuracy or possible gravity of the report. It is our policy to relay the reported information to the appropriate authority for evaluation and any necessary follow-up. We feel you should be aware of the enclosed deidentified report.

To properly assess the usefulness of our alert message service, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your feedback on the value of the information that we have provided. Please contact Dr. Becky Hooey at (408) 541-2854 or email at [becky.l.hooey@nasa.gov](mailto:becky.l.hooey@nasa.gov).



Aviation Safety Reporting System  
P.O. Box 189 | Moffett Field, CA | 94035-0189



## ACN 1801899

### DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence	202104
Local Time Of Day	1201 to 1800

### PLACE

Locale	F11.TRACON
State	FL
Altitude - MSL	2800

### ENVIRONMENT

Flight Conditions	VMC
Weather	Other: Clear

### AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - TRACON	F11
Make Model Name	Small Aircraft
Operating Under FAR Part	91

### AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT Y

Make Model Name	Any Unknown or Unlisted Aircraft Manufacturer
Operating Under FAR Part	103

### PERSON 1

Function - Flight Crew	Pilot Flying
Function - Flight Crew	Single Pilot
ASRS Report Number	1801899

### EVENTS

Anomaly	Conflict - NMAC
Anomaly	Deviation - Altitude - Excursion From Assigned Altitude
Anomaly	Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Clearance
Anomaly	Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published Material / Policy
Detector - Person	Flight Crew
Detector - Person	Passenger
Miss Distance - Horizontal	200
Miss Distance - Vertical	200
Result - Flight Crew	Requested ATC Assistance / Clarification
Result - Flight Crew	Returned To Clearance
Result - Flight Crew	Took Evasive Action
Result - Air Traffic Control	Provided Assistance

### NARRATIVE 1

Never, in my years of flying, have I had such a MAJOR scare of what happened. I was descending southbound on the west side of Orlando (in Mode C ring, outside of Class B) toward my destination with VFR flight following when the passenger in the right seat pointed straight on front of us and said, "what is that"? Almost instantly, I flew right through the middle of about 5-6 hang gliders, some on both sides, above and below estimating only a 100-200 feet away. It was an absolute MIRACLE that I did not hit one of them. If I would have, certain death for whoever I would have hit and maybe all 4 aboard the aircraft I was flying.

That evening I called and talked to the controlling Supervisor, he recalled me telling the Controller of my issue, stating the Controller asked him to check the screen. He said they zoomed and saw nothing. Being hang gliders, I'm guessing they could not pick them up. We talked for a while and I thanked him as he stated there really is nothing they can do.

I'm writing this because someone is certain to die if this activity continues. I contacted the company I thought may be responsible and they stated it was not them but another company. I was not able to find a phone number for them. This is INSANE for them to do this and not even notify ATC, some day we'll be reading about this accident waiting to happen.

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## **SYNOPSIS**

Pilot reported an NMAC event with 5-6 hang gliders while descending toward destination with VFR Flight Following.