

Puget Sound Soaring Association operates from Bergseth Airfield which is located approximately four miles NE of Enumclaw, WA. Follow 408th street to the end and you'll arrive at Bergseth.

Since flying is dependent upon having acceptable weather conditions, we suggest you call our operations line for the status of flight operations for the day.

PSSA Flight Operations Line
206-660-0019

To receive more information you can leave a message on the operations line or see our website.

www.pugetsoundsoaring.org
e-mail: info@pugetsoundsoaring.org



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REQUIREMENTS FOR GLIDER PILOT CERTIFICATION

Student Pilot:

Student pilots may solo at a minimum age of 14 with a student certificate endorsed for solo flight by an FAA-Certified Flight Instructor for Gliders (CFIG). Generally, 30 to 40 flights with a CFIG are required to solo. This is roughly equivalent to 10-12 hours of flight time and is dependent upon the progress of the student.



Private Glider License:

After solo, student pilots may qualify as a Private Pilot-Glider provided they: are at least 16 years of age; have logged at least 10 hours of flight time in a glider and that flight time must include at least 20 total glider flights, with 2 hours of solo flight time in a glider; have passed the FAA written examination, and have passed the flight exam with a FAA Examiner.



Commercial Glider License:

Applicants for Commercial Pilot-Glider must be at least 18-years of age; pass a written FAA examination; hold a Private Pilot license with 25 hours of flight time in gliders and 100 glider flights as pilot-in-command, or a total of 200 hours of flight time in heavier-than-air aircraft including 20 glider flights as pilot-in-command; 3 hours or ten flights training in a glider, and five solo flights in a glider, and passed a flight test.



Add a Glider Pilot Rating:

Holders of a valid FAA Power Plane license with 40 hours as pilot-in-command need a minimum of 10 solo glider flights to qualify to take the glider flight test. No written exam is required to add a glider rating to a power license. In all cases, refer to the current Federal Aviation Regulations for details on pilot licensing.



Discover Soaring



Puget Sound Soaring Association

a Soaring Society of America affiliated club



ABOUT PUGET SOUND SOARING

Puget Sound Soaring Association (PSSA) is an organization for individuals and families who share a common interest in soaring. Established in 1974 as a non-profit club, PSSA's mission is to provide flying facilities, equipment and training for its members. In addition, PSSA promotes soaring by offering the uninitiated the opportunity to experience the excitement and beauty that soaring has to offer through its Introductory Flight Program.



Blanik L-13 flying over Bergseth Airfield

PSSA operates from Bergseth Airfield, a beautiful private airport which is nestled in the Cascade foothills, just four miles north-east of the city of Enumclaw, Washington. Operations are held March through October on weekends and occasional weekdays. Depending on weather conditions, flying is generally conducted from late morning until dusk. In addition to local flying, annual trips to other soaring sites in Washington, Oregon, California, and Nevada provide a wide variety of excellent soaring experiences for our members. PSSA aircraft include two 2 place gliders, one single seat glider and a towplane. In addition several members also own their own gliders.

WHAT IS SOARING?

Soaring is simply the act of sustained flight without the assistance of some type of man made propulsion. There are three types of soaring, all of which are made possible by the never ending heating and cooling of the earth's atmosphere.



Blanik L-13 on tow behind Super Cub

Ridge Soaring utilizes wind that is forced upward when it meets a ridge. Extended flights along ridges can continue as long as the wind continues to blow against the ridges. Bergseth Airfield is located at the base of Enumclaw Mountain, a 2,000' ridge that is a great starting point for exploring the western slope of the Cascade Mountains.

Thermal Soaring is accomplished by finding and flying within columns of rising air (thermals) to gain and maintain altitude. It is possible for experienced soaring pilots to stay aloft for many hours when thermals are active. In western Washington a combination of ridge and thermal soaring is often used for making flights lasting several hours.

Mountain Wave Soaring generally takes place at high altitudes where strong, upper level winds take on a wave form as they flow across mountain ranges, or large, individual mountains such as Mt. Rainier. Mountain waves, like thermals, cannot be seen on their own but often visual clues give away their presence in the form of clouds. The lenticular cap cloud that appears over Mt. Rainier on the front of this brochure was formed by mountain wave. Wave flying in Washington can result in spectacular flights in excess of 20,000 feet by skilled glider pilots.

INTRODUCTORY FLIGHTS

For those who would like to experience soaring, PSSA offers introductory glider flights. No reservations are necessary, however, if you're limited on time we suggest you call ahead. Depending on the conditions of the day, introductory flights

typically last twenty to thirty minutes. Included with each PSSA introductory flight is a limited, thirty day club membership. This membership allows those interested to return and make additional flights at regular member rates without the need to purchase a full membership in PSSA. Many people take this opportunity to begin their flight training in anticipation of earning a private pilot glider



Intro flight soaring the ridge

license. PSSA offers personalized instruction that allows the beginner to progress from novice to private glider pilot and beyond. Our instructors are FAA certified and each of our aircraft is maintained in accordance with FAA regulations.

GIFT CERTIFICATES



PSSA also offers Introductory Flight Gift Certificates. Our gift certificates make a great gift for those hard to buy for people or those who have always wanted to fly in a glider but have never quite got around to it.

See www.pugetsoundsouaring.org for additional information on purchasing gift certificates.