



Editor: Dave Kremers

February, 2005

Seattle, WA

[**Note:** Beginning with this month's issue the PSSA Newsletter will resurrect an older title with new graphics. Because this will increase file size and therefore the time required to download it on your computer, you may elect to receive a stripped down version which can be sent to you instead. This version would not contain any graphics or pictures and would download more quickly. Please notify the editor in the case that you would prefer this option.]

Upcoming Events:

Regular Operations

When you read this the next big event should be the resumption of PSSA's regular operations at Bergseth Field in Enumclaw for the new 2005 soaring season. As it stands now, that will be the weekend of March 5&6. If you haven't yet done so, check the new field manager schedule posted on our web site, www.pugetsoundsoaring.org. If there are any questions about an assignment, please contact Stefan Perrin.

Airfleet Maintenance

Although it doesn't count as an "event", the maintenance work on club ships is still in progress with quite a bit of work yet to do on the L-13. There was a good turnout this last Sunday but in spite of lots being accomplished, the work revealed much to do to get MG in shape for March 5. If you haven't gotten involved yet, you should contact Marlene Nelson or Curt Chenowith with a cc to Mark McIntyre ASAP to get scheduled over the coming weekends, or weekdays, if possible, so we can be ready for our opening date. This is where teamwork will make the difference

Expos.

Additional events to keep on your schedule include two opportunities to meet the aviation public and expose them to soaring and PSSA. The first is the Northwest Aviation Conference & Trade Show in Puyallup, February 26 & 27, 9am to 5pm on Saturday, 10am to 4pm on Sunday. As Tim Heneghan has announced, we will be displaying two (possibly 3) of our gliders and will have a booth where we can hand out information about our club. Check with Tim to see that he has your name down for a stint at this show. Following that in March (19&20) we will be displaying again at the annual MOF Glider Expo at Boeing Field. You will be contacted by Dave Kremers soon to help man the booth there. We hope that both of these events will help us increase our exposure to the public and aid in our recruitment efforts.

Tabletop Soaring

As J.C. reminds us, there will be another session coming up on the last Tuesday of the month, Feb. 22, 7pm. Look for us this time at an alternate site, at Shooters, just south of Renton off of hwy 167. It's at 101 S. 41st at the corner of East Valley Blvd. Coming north, get off 167 at S.180th and turn west to East Valley, then north to 41st. Coming south, exit 167 for 41st. Put it on your calendar and let's get talking about the real thing.

Recent Events:

PSSA Winter Party

We hope you were one of the throng who enjoyed the fine hospitality of Tim and Kathy Heneghan at their home on January 29 for the annual PSSA Winter Party. It was great to have the chance to mingle with members and spouses in a relaxed and festive atmosphere in such comfortable surroundings. The food was great, as usual, but Kathy's tasty ribs were a highlight. It also gave us a chance to share ideas about the coming season and the progress of our club's plans to grow and prosper. During the ensuing general meeting, recognition was given to members who have made special contributions over the past year before the group went on to endorse the new board for 2005. Many helpful comments were received by the board which will be instructive in guiding them in the coming year's business.



Guest Dave Kuchenbecker shares



Robert Rackl bids "auf Wiedersehen"

Cross Country Safety Seminar

Following the January get-together a number of members took part in a very valuable symposium held at the Museum of Flight, February 5th. The Soaring Safety Foundation presentation hosted by SGC and featuring noted soaring writer, trainer and presenter, Bob Wander, was very well attended by glider pilots from all over Washington and Oregon. It was a great way for local pilots to get their minds in gear for the coming season with key ideas focused on the ways we can all fly safer, especially in the pursuit of cross country goals. If you weren't able to attend, any of the eight PSSA members in attendance, including instructor Grant Smith, would be glad to share the information they came away with.

Both Tim Heneghan and J.C. Hauchcorne have noted that there is a very interesting article in the February issue of Soaring about a program called Online Soaring Contest. This allows individual pilots to compete with pilots all over the world no matter when or where. J.C. has participated in this and says he will be glad to discuss the practical considerations of this program with anyone interested.

The Word from J.C.

2005, here we come, ready or not!

Yes, the 2005 soaring season is about to start. In my last newsletter we talked about some of the things one can do while the days are short and the nights are long. Like reading up on different publications and planning those long flights for 2005.

So, end of February. Time to put all that planning in action. Get the ships ready and polished, check all systems, and Rock n' Roll!

Let me take this opportunity to alert you to something I have been doing for years. It's called the "On-line Contest" or OLC. In the February 2005 edition of "Soaring" there is a great article about the OLC. I recommend reading this article. The contest is simple, 1 km equals 1 point, and the one with the most points wins. The only thing required to participate is a data logger.

In its simplest form, the data logger is a black box that needs to be hooked up to the ships' power supply, that's all. In its most complicated form, it can be hooked up to the controls and the black box will fly whatever you programmed ahead of time. You just sit and enjoy the scenery; all you have to do is flare on final.

All kidding aside, I log every flight, and submit every flight to the OLC. Read the article in the Soaring magazine, visit the site. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via e-mail or we can talk about it during one our Table Top Soaring events.

Talking about Table Top Soaring. As you know, the last Tuesday of the month is when we get together and talk about soaring. For the month of February the last Tuesday will be February 22nd. This time around we are choosing a new location. Here is the address:

Shooters Sports Bar & Restaurant

101 SW 41st Street

Renton, WA 98055

(425) 251-0687

<http://www.shooters-sports-bar.com>

I just noticed on their web page, free Wi-Fi, if someone has a laptop with Wi-Fi we could check out OLC, but wait, draft beer is only a buck fifty!

Shooters, corner of 41st Avenue SE and East Valley Road, just off Hwy 167 near Valley Medical Center.

Topic for this month OO (Official Observer)

Official Observer:

I have been flying competitively for over 20 years, either in competitions (mostly Hang Gliding), or attempting to set new records. As mentioned in previous articles, the flying of a record is the easy part. Anyone can do that. Get towed up, release, point the nose down wind and stay in the air until the sun goes down. If the wind was blowing strong enough you most likely just flew a new record. Unfortunately this flight will not be valid, no regardless how long the flight was. You could have flown across the country and the record would not be valid. The Official Observer (OO) was missing. Every flight has to be witnessed by an OO. Here are the rules as published on the SSA web page:

Q. Who can act as an Official Observer?

A. In the United States, the SSA has established the following requirements for a person to act as an Official Observer (OO) for any FAI Badge or Record flight or SSA State Record or Awards flight:

1. Must hold at least an SSA B Badge or higher SSA Badge (C or Bronze Badge), or a leg of an FAI Badge (e.g., Silver Altitude) or completed FAI Silver, Gold or Diamond Badge.
2. Must have a working knowledge of the FAI Sporting Code as it pertains to gliders (Section 3) including Annex C which is a guide to the Code.
3. Must be an SSA Member.
4. An Airport Manager may also act as an Official Observer.

Q. What are the duties of an Official Observer?

A. An Official Observer must satisfy him or herself that the FAI Sporting Code was complied with in the

performance of the flight. By signing their name to the Application Form, they are certifying the flight. For more information on the rules governing badge and record flights, the FAI Sporting Code can be accessed on our website —www.ssa.org. Additional information is available from Bob Wander's book, "The Silver Badge Made Easy" and Jackie Payne's Book, "The Badge & Record Book". Both are available from the SSA Merchandise Department. Send all completed applications and documentation to the SSA, PO Box 2100, Hobbs, NM 88241-2100.

In order to avoid having a great flight not recognized, here is what we need to do. We need as many soaring pilots as possible in our club to get a B Badge, or a leg of a Silver or Gold Badge. There is nothing more frustrating than trying to find someone who can act as an OO. So lets get some Badges!

Operations:

As noted above our new season opens with the weekend of March 5th and 6th at Bergseth Field. If you haven't been out to the field recently, you will notice that we have a new addition. The new side runway is in place and will soon be ready for seeding new grass. It is very important that we avoid any driving on that runway, especially when wet. It is still susceptible to damage if we're not careful. Keep abreast of operations plans and developments by regularly checking the PSSA web site at www.pugetsoundsoaring.org. And, pay special attention to the ops schedule to note any changes there made by operations chief, Stefan Perrin. Below find the scheduled assignments as currently posted.

Field Manager assignments:

Sat. Mar. 5 - John Anderson
Sun. Mar. 6 - Curt Bryan
Sat. Mar. 12 - Van Chaney
Sun. Mar. 13 - Curt Chenoweth
Sat. Mar. 19 - John Ennes
Sun. Mar. 20 - Wayne Ginther
Sat. Mar. 26 - Mark Hudgins
Sun. Mar. 27 - Dave Kremers
Sat. Apr. 02 - Charlie Long
Sun. Apr. 03 - Justin Long
Sat. Apr. 09 - Mark McIntyre
Sun. Apr. 10 - Marlene Nelson
Sat. Apr. 16 - Kenji Ominato
Sun. Apr. 17 - Stefan Perrin
Sat. Apr. 23 - Kim Sears
Sun. Apr. 24 - Dariush Zand
Sat. Apr. 30 - John Anderson
Sun. May 01 - Curt Bryan

Note: If for any reason you should be unable to complete your assignment or need to exchange with another member, be sure to advise Stefan Perrin of the change at stefanp@nventure.com.

Newsletter contributions:

As always, your input to this newsletter is very important. Please let us know if you have new information, valuable experiences, constructive comments, even gripes which will help to make this a better club offering the safest and most cost effective soaring opportunity in the area.

Send items to Dave Kremers (dkremers@earthlink.net)