

# Off Tow Newsletter

Puget Sound Soaring Association, Inc.

January / February 2012

## Annual Winter Party

A BIG thank you to Wayne and Judith Ginther who graciously opened their home again for our annual winter food-fest potluck and membership meeting on Jan 7, 2012. With spouses, guests and members there were approximately 35 filling the home. And as usual, the wine and culinary treats were wide and varied. No one left hungry.

The evening of fellowship, story-telling and hangar flying, along with a brief business meeting, jump started the enthusiasm for the 2012 flying season, which hopefully will arrive earlier this year. It was encouraging to have a prospective new member and tow pilot, Ron Knutson, as a guest. Thank you for extending a warm welcome to him. He later commented: "I am really excited about the organization." PSSA will continue to be as vital as we are proactive, in sharing our love and passion for the sport of soaring. Keep sharing the joy in 2012!



Good eats, fun  
and fellowship at  
the Winter Potluck



## 2012 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors meets monthly to keep PSAA growing, healthy, and energetic. Your 2012 board is as follows: (see picture at bottom right)

President— Stefan Perrin

Vice President— Tim Heneghan

Secretary— Curt Chenoweth

Treasurer— Peter Dodd

Maintenance—Dan Henderson

Operations & Safety—Mike Worrell

Training— Greg Bahnsen

Thank you to 2011 *outgoing* Board of Director members:

President: Marlene Nelson

Secretary: Dan Henderson

Maintenance: Ronnie Rogers

Operations & Safety: Brano Mikulik

Along with a revision of the bylaws, your year of service also accomplished the acquisition and purchase of the sleek, 2-place PW-6 aircraft.

Please note: Tim Heneghan (Vice President), Peter Dodd (Treasurer), and Greg Bahnsen (Training) remain in their current positions on the 2012 board to serve a consecutive term. Thank you for your commitment and service to the club.



**2012 Board of Directors:** L-R: : Tim Heneghan, Dan Henderson, Mike Worrell, Stefan Perrin, Greg Bahnsen and Curt Chenoweth. Not pictured: Peter Dodd

## Meet the Members

**S**ome of you have been members for many years, while others are club newcomers. Many faces are familiar but the names are not. In an effort to become better acquainted, this section of the newsletter will feature member bios on a regular basis. Of course, keep in mind that once the floppy hat and sunglasses are added - they may not resemble the photos you see here!

*Watch for member Bios and photos in each issue.*

**2012 President, Stefan Perrin.** My first exposure to soaring was as a youngster at my grandparents home in Gelnhausen, Germany. There was, and still is, a small soaring club there and I would see them thermaling directly overhead and wondered how they were able to stay up so high without a motor. My grandfather took the time to explain it to me although I was too young to understand the principles. My aviation start began at Clover Park Voc-Tech Institute where I earned my A&P rating in 1976. After a brief job in Mineral Wells, Texas I returned to the Northwest to join the Boeing ranks and have been there for the past 35 years in various positions of production assembler, tool builder and inspector to currently a Quality Management



Stefan Perrin

specialist. I discovered PSSA at the first Soaring Expo at The Museum of Flight and have been a club member since 1987. I think it was 1989 that I obtained my private pilot glider rating and the commercial rating in 1999. I do remember that Grant Smith was the instructor that first signed me off for solo; it was a cloudy damp day with a slight cross-wind and I still remember the feeling of that first time being alone.

My other interests include attempts at playing drums, mostly what we now call "classic rock" and play with two bands. I also enjoy riding my Harley and traveling with my wife.

**2012 Maintenance Officer, Dan Henderson.** I began my flying career as an Air Force Aviation Cadet, earning my Navigator wings in 1961. In the mid 1960's, while on active duty at McChord AFB, I managed to earn my commercial single & multi engine land, instrument, and single engine sea—between trips to Southeast Asia. I've had an interest in soaring longer than I can remember. My first glider flight was in '03 at Turf Soaring in AZ. Joined PSSA in '07, and passed my private glider check ride at Minden, NV, in June 2010. I like to say that soaring is flying for the pure joy of it.



Dan Henderson

Recently retired from Boeing 747, 777, and 787 Flight Training, I have multiple hobbies and enjoy woodworking, metalworking, and car projects. I am a self-taught machinist and welder, but family, friends and neighbors know me as the 'go-to' for automotive answers or projects.

Carole and I have been married for 46 years. Our 'togetherness' activity is skiing. We have one son who is a Southwest Airlines pilot.

**2012 Secretary, Curt Chenoweth.** My first glider ride was May 2, 1981 off an old grass airstrip at the south end of Lake Sammamish (about where Costco is now located) on a whim with infamous Stan Barclay. I was hooked but it took until July 3, 1986, when I joined PSSA, before I began working on my glider rating. I received my check ride in our current 2-33 (N65907) and added to my single engine, land and sea and multi-engine certificate.

I retired from Boeing in 1999 as Program Mgr for Research & Development Special Projects in the Phantom Works Research & Technology Organization. 16 years were spent on the commercial air-



Curt Chenoweth

plane program and 27 years were on the military program side of Boeing.

I have conceived and disclosed new innovations. I hold several patents, have presented, authored, and published numerous technical papers and a book on Flight Control Actuation System Design.

When not flying or managing my personal portfolio, I enjoy sailing, sea kayaking, hiking and backpacking, skiing and taking occasional trips to fun and rewarding places in the world.

## PUGET SOUND SOARING ASSOCIATION

### Bergseth Field Location:

31500 Southeast 408th Street  
Enumclaw, WA 98022

PHONE: 206-660-0019 after 9:30 AM during operational months

Web Site: [www.pugetsoundsoaring.org](http://www.pugetsoundsoaring.org)

### Mailing Address:

PSSA c/o Stefan Perrin  
5067—38th Street NE  
Tacoma, WA 98422

## Off Tow Newsletter

Puget Sound Soaring Association, Inc.

Monthly Board Meeting at  
Renton Round Table Pizza 7:00 PM

### PSSA 2012 Board of Directors

President: Stefan Perrin  
Vice President: Tim Heneghan  
Secretary: Curt Chenoweth  
Treasurer: Peter Dodd  
Maintenance: Dan Henderson  
Operations & Safety: Mike Worrell  
Training: Greg Bahnsen

### Website

Web Manager: Stefan Perrin  
[Http://www.pugetsoundsoaring.org](http://www.pugetsoundsoaring.org)

### Newsletter Team

Editor: Dan Henderson  
Format / Copy: Carole Henderson

### News Submissions

Email club news, articles and photos to:  
[danhenderson@harbornet.com](mailto:danhenderson@harbornet.com) or  
[carolehenderson@harbornet.com](mailto:carolehenderson@harbornet.com)

## Newsletter Help Needed:

This PSSA newsletter has been on hiatus for a few years and is being revived as way of keeping the membership connected and informed; however, it will only be effective if YOU, the members, contribute and provide articles to the editors. Anyone can be a reporter by snapping photos of guest introductory rides, member check rides and first solo flights. If you know of upcoming events or have news that you would like to share, please send it along with any related photos to the newsletter team via email at:

[danhenderson@harbornet.com](mailto:danhenderson@harbornet.com)—OR—  
[carolehenderson@harbornet.com](mailto:carolehenderson@harbornet.com)

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## Upcoming Events:

### February 2-4:

#### SSA Convention—Reno-Sparks Convention Center

It's not too late to register for the annual convention being held in Reno. Accommodations are at the adjacent Atlantis Casino Resort & Spa. For speaker and safety session information go to: [www.ssa.org](http://www.ssa.org) and click on the Annual Convention tab on the left side of the home page.

**February 18-19: CFIG Revalidation Clinic** conducted by the *Soaring Safety Foundation*. Open to everyone—not just instructors. Holiday Inn Express & Suites at Sea-Tac.

Cost \$150 per person

Register: [www.soaringsafety.org/request/firc\\_register.php](http://www.soaringsafety.org/request/firc_register.php)  
The clinic consists of 16 hours of concentrated instruction by *Richard Carlson* and *Ronald Ridenour*. Richard is a long time gliding instructor and chairman of the Soaring Safety Foundation. Ronald Ridenour is a tow pilot as well as a successful gliding competition pilot and a transport pilot. Ron is also a DE for power and gliding and owned and operated the largest glider flight school in the upper Midwest. For more information or questions contact Mark Nyberg (425-644-5678).

### February 25 & 26: NW Aviation Conference and Trade Show—Puyallup Fair Grounds.

PSSA will have a booth at this show and help will be needed to assemble gliders and work the booth during the show times. Expect a call to help. For more information go to:

<http://www.washington-aviation.org/>

**March 13: EAA Mt Rainier Chapter 326** — Dan Henderson and Gary Ohlinger will share the soaring experience with EAA chapter members at Thun Field at 7 PM. Watch for a follow up report in the next issue.

### March 17-18: Soaring EXPO at The Museum of Flight.

The member clubs of the Seattle Glider Council again present a glimpse into the fascinating world of silent flight at Soaring Expo 2012. Full-size gliders and radio controlled gliders will be on display 10 AM—5 PM each day. PSSA will have a booth & display, so your help will be needed. For more information go to:

<http://www.museumofflight.org/event/soaring-expo-2>

Operations resume  
March 3, 2012  
weather permitting!