

PSSA Newsletter

September, 2004

Upcoming Events:

Perhaps you too have noticed the change in our weather and although that doesn't spell the end of our soaring opportunities, it certainly does signal the end of the "high days" that the warmer midsummer days offer. However, we still have plenty of good chances to fly, especially for those newer pilots who want to rack up those all important training flights. And, who knows, there could just be some great unstable days out there before we have to wrap it up for this year at the end of October.

And, now for something completely different (from J.C ,who else?). - "Table Soaring".
Read on.

Recent Events:

The recent annual summer PSSA picnic was enjoyed by a hardy, dedicated group who chose to challenge the weather man's predictions and go for the gusto. The gusto lasted until about 3:30 pm when the rain chased us all under the welcome protection that Joe Salz's motor home awning provided. But not until we all had downed our fill of the splendid array of edibles. If you missed the event, you didn't miss a whole lot of flying (Mark and Joe took home the prize for most bombs dropped near the target by a tow pilot duo) but did miss some high quality camaraderie and really fine eating (thanks to chef Wayne and sous-chef Judith).

You also missed the presentation made by president, Robert Rackl, outlining the options we face in the effort to turn the fortunes of our club around. There was much helpful feedback offered by a number of those present and if you weren't there this the chance to catch up with the special attachment (PDF) accompanying this newsletter.

We'll try to do a better job on weather scheduling next year. The annual picnic is a great opportunity for us all to congregate at one time to share and enjoy each other's company. and with all of the new faces in the club at the present time, it's an even better chance to get to know new people and share our interest in soaring.

If you haven't been to the field recently you won't have noticed the fine job done by honcho **Tim Heneghan**, with the help of Glenn Chouinard, Mark Allen, Kenji Ominato and Dave Kremers to clean and paint the east fence.

Also, you might not have noticed the new Training Center building undergoing preparation by Jim Conley and a group of supporting new members and students. With the help of continued donations by members this new addition to our training program will soon be on line. It bears noting here that it's largely through the excellent efforts of instructor **Jim Conley** that we have seen a welcome upturn in the number of new students and the availability of training opportunities we have seen in recent months. Let's give him a big "huzzah"(that's a "way to go") when we see him next and offer to do what we can to keep this impetus going.

Membership:

We welcome new members **Brian DeMaris, Curt Bryan and John Naubert**.

And, we are sorry to lose a recent new member, Paul Marquardt, who will be following his wife to England for an advanced study opportunity. We also say a fond goodbye to an old and venerated member, Vern Badten. He has been a member for many years and will be much missed by older members of our group.

Reports From Members:

This month there is a very important report from your president, Robert Rackl, concerning the club's future. As has been made abundantly clear recently in this newsletter and at the summer

picnic, this club has entered a period where the survivability of our organization is being challenged. This has come about as a result of numerous forces and trends which, in the final analysis, are threatening PSSA on a financial level. In an effort to come to a new strategy which can help to grow our club, your president has put forth some possible scenarios for our consideration. These are contained in an attachment which will accompany this newsletter separately. In addition, a committee of two board members, Tim and J.C., and a third active member, Curt Chenoweth, working with Mark Allen, are undertaking a more aggressive study of the financial path to a stronger and more vital club. We will await their additional recommendations at a later date. But, in the meantime, get involved and let us know what **you** think.

Operations:

Thun Field:

Our plans for the special promotional flight operation at Thun Field have been pushed back again, largely due to concerns for the weather. We do want this to be a successful event and reflect well on PSSA. Read further for details.

Training & Safety:

News from the Safety Officer:

Have you noticed the leaves are changing colors? It is getting cooler and there is definitely more moisture in the air. That also means I am back in town after Audrey and I spent just about every weekend in Ephrata chasing dust devils and other wild animals. But the season is coming to an end and we are spending a bit more time in Seattle. The PW-5 is still in Ephrata, just in case there is one more great day, but reality says, the season is over. Being back in town, I can spend a bit more time on my duties as a safety officer. Here is the plan for the next few weeks and months

Thursday, September 23. Table Soaring night at the The Mint in Enumclaw.
1608 Cole Street, Enumclaw, Washington
Tel: (206) 825-8361 <http://www.nwbrewpage.com/wapubs/Mint.html>

Sunday, September 26. Thun Field PR Day

Thursday, October 28. Table Soaring night at The Mint in Enumclaw.

Sunday, October 31. Bergseth Air Field: Good-Bye 2004 Soaring Season. Last soaring day of the year.

Thursday, November 25. Table Soaring night at The Mint in Enumclaw.

So, that is the schedule until the end of the year. For the Table Soaring Night at the Mint, I will send out an e-mail to remind everyone. This month topic is: Do Dust Devils have a soul? This topic will be discussed in depth, so be ready for a very deep and emotional session. If you know of someone who is interested in soaring, have them come along. You will get to

meet club members

Sunday, very important, Thun Field PR Day. I need every club member out there helping to promote the club. This is very important, you cannot miss that event. This PR event could lead to the acquisition of a new high performance glider to our fleet!

That's all for now, feel free to contact me at any time either by phone or by e-mail and I am looking forward to see all of you at the Mint or at Thun Field!

Safe Soaring
J.C.

Field Managers:

Let's remember to put out those road signs when we have a good day. It's important to let people know what we're doing and where we are. Also, don't forget to activate the phone and carry it on your person so people can get up-to-the-minute updates. Remember, too, that you can call the Bergseths directly for weather reports at the field. And thanks for your help in providing safe operations for our members.

Field Manager schedule:

Sat. Sept. 18	Stefan Perrin
Sun. Sept. 19	J.C. Hauchecorne
Sat. Sept. 25	Stefan Perrin
Sun. Sept. 26	Dariusz Zand
Sat. Oct. 2	Van Chaney
Sun. Oct. 3	John Ennes
Sat. Oct. 9	Kim Sears
Sun. Oct. 10	Paul Marquardt
Sat. Oct. 16	Mark McIntyre
Sun. Oct. 17	Charles Long
Sat. Oct. 23	Justin Long
Sun. Oct. 24	George Mollison
Sat. Oct. 30	Steve Hill
Sun. Oct. 31	Robert Rackl (LAST DAY OF THE SEASON)

Note: Please contact Van Chaney with any changes you have made with others to your original assignment.

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) or Robert Rackl (robertrackl@RAD129.NET)