

PSSA Newsletter

October, 2004

Upcoming Events:

This is that time of year when things start to cycle down weather wise, offering fewer and fewer days to fly. We hope you have been one of those who has made the best of the few times we've had to fly recently.

This year, for the first time in club history the board has decided that we need to curtail our wintertime operations in order to do two important things: save money and give some much needed time to the maintenance of our aircraft. Therefore, as you have been previously been advised, **operations for the year at Bergseth will cease after October 31st.** This doesn't mean, however, that we will be inactive for the intervening period until the March 1st date when we resume regular flight operations. As noted, we will use that time to take care of any and all maintenance related chores that need attention. We haven't had the luxury of that opportunity in the past and have been often plagued with downtime when we should be flying during the season

Your board has been making inquiries into what facilities might offer us hanger space to accommodate this activity but haven't yet been able to firm up an arrangement. If any members are aware of such an opportunity to secure space over the winter months, please contact Robert Rackl with your input. This will be of paramount importance in being ready for a successful flying season next spring. Also look for further announcements as to the location and timing of our maintenance tasks so you can find time to join in the effort.

On another very important note, as you are again well aware, the PSSA board has been working hard to come up with a working plan to put our club on a more solid footing. In addition to the optional strategies outlined and presented to you by president Robert Rackl, the board formed a special committee to study the finances of the club and to come up with a comprehensive proposal which might give a new and more optimistic direction to our club. That committee has indeed come up with a plan which the board has reviewed and has found to have great promise. The board has given its blessing to the plan and has prepared it for presentation to the membership for your review and approval. In order to accomplish this, two dates have been set aside when members will have the chance to hear the plan. Those dates are **Saturday evening, November 6 and Saturday evening November 13 at 5:00pm at Kent Fire Department, 24611 116th Ave. SE, Kent** (From Kent-Kangley Highway (516), turn north onto 116th Avenue SE and pass through two intersections (stop light/stop sign). Station is on left side (approximately 1 mile from Kent Kangley. See you all there.)

It is hoped that two opportunities to hear the plan will give all members at least one time to attend the presentation but it would be best if all could make it to the first session to obviate the second. The board will be present at each session ready to answer all questions, but an individual member need only attend one session. We strongly encourage a high level of participation in this process as the very existence of our fine club could hang in the balance. **BE THERE OR BE EQUILATERALLY RECTANGULAR.**

Recent Events:

As mentioned, things have been slow but not uneventful. Thanks to Tim Heneghan, Robert Rackl and Glen Chouinard among others, the fence painting has been completed. And thanks to Jim Conley and his troops, including Walt Bergseth (new student?), the training classroom is in place and largely completed. A total of \$800 out of the projected \$1000 has been collected but that's been spent, so contact Jim to see what amount you could donate to finish things up. This has been a very welcome addition to our club's assets and will serve all new students well in the future.

Membership:

Let's not forget to say hello to new member, **Curt Bryant** when we have the next chance. Curt is one of our "Big Bird" brethren who is completing his transition to gliders. It seems those airliners don't circle so well in the thermals.

Reports From Members:

Thanks to our “most active new member”, Glenn Chouinard, we have some fine pictures of some recent doings at Bergseth.



Robert & Tim do their thing.



Our new training center.

It just shows what a little PARTICIPATION can do.



Walt and Ev get some well deserved appreciation for 25 yrs. support of PSSA.



And the training goes on!

Operations:

An important note to all field managers and students:

A new policy regarding the charges for all instructional flights has been instituted by the PSSA board of directors. An additional fee of \$5.00 per flight with a maximum of \$10.00 per day will be levied to build up a fund to further provide all instructional facilities and supplies. This will begin with March, 2005.

Training & Safety:

A short message from T&S Officer, J.C. Hauchecorne follows::

Yes, October 31 is the last day of the 2004 soaring season. There are just a few more days left for flying, perhaps one last weekend. And, in honor of our 2004 season we have a big event planned for next Sunday, the 31st - The **NEW Annual Fall Festival of Gliding**. Come on out to Bergseth airfield one last time. Hopefully the weather will be good enough to do one last flight, but if not, there's plenty more to be done, namely packing up our gliders for the winter maintenance season. Again, if you are aware of a hangar, a warehouse, or any place where we can work on our gliders over the winter and get them ready for the 2005 season, let us know.

The other event coming up is our monthly **table soaring** event at the "The Mint" at 1608 Cole Street, Enumclaw, Tel: (206) 825-8361. On our last gathering, we had free pizza and beer. I am not sure if that will happen again this month, but you never know. Anyway, the event is planned for Thursday November 28, at 7:00pm. Just a quick recap of what the table soaring evening is all about. We are trying to revitalize a club atmosphere where soaring enthusiasts, new and old, seasoned or novice can get together and share information and stories. Yes, I will try to have a topic for each evening, and this month topic is: "Tim's landing at the Enumclaw Airport".

J.C.

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)

