

PSSA Newsletter

December, 2004

Upcoming Events:

Here's hoping your holiday season is in full swing and all is well with you and yours. Your PSSA Board of Directors sends best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and invites you to join with us and the new board at the annual **Winter Party and general meeting to be held at Tim Heneghan's home in Issaquah on Saturday evening, January 29th, 2005**. Particulars on time and directions will follow in the new year.

This will be a wonderful chance to see fellow club members in a relaxed social setting, to swap tales of adventure and daring-do, and to partake of good eats (pot luck) and a beverage of your choice. It is also our chance to meet as a full membership and discuss matters of importance to the future of our club. Your present board has undertaken a bold plan to pump new vitality into the club which has already spawned visible improvements but which still demands our attention to insure that that momentum carries forward. So, we feel it is vital that as many members as possible make the effort to be present to contribute to the dialog and decision making. Those who have worked so hard to bring us to the point we are at today need to see a new level of commitment from each and every member. To ring an old bell, our club is what we make of it. We can make it something to be really proud of, something which serves each of us better and furthers the wonderful sport of soaring in general at the same time. Come one, and come all.

As those who were able to attend the fine presentations by Tim and J.C. are aware, we have already begun to lay the foundation for a newer and stronger PSSA. The showing of support for this plan has been heartening and we are proud to announce that a little over \$18,000 has been pledged to date to put the plan into effect.

Not only have individual pledge amounts been received, but also individual preferences as to how those funds should be used. Because preference tallies came out pretty much even for the three plan objectives, the board has resolved to pursue the hanger option to the extent that present funds allow. This decision was helped along by an offer from J.C. Hauchecorne to lease us his Pheobus single seater for member use. Thus, we can fulfill two of our three objectives. Beyond that point, we will be looking at how we might be eventually able to further pursue a club single seater. As it now stands, we already have a part of the master plan in place due to the actions of one of our more spirited members who carved out a new runway for us before we could say "whoa big fella!". What yet needs discussion and resolution is how and to what extent we implement the remaining two thirds. That is where you come in. Your presence on Jan. 29 will insure that we have the right solution for all members.

Recent Events:

Saturday, December 4, Bergseth Field on a cold and damp day. The faithful gathered.



Load 'em up, move 'em out!



Vegetation beware!



What's a party without eats?



He's wasting good VO here, gang.

Hey, these "work parties" can be fun!

Speaking of participation, we can't go further without giving praise where praise is due. The spirit of cooperation shown by all who came out on our "work day" Saturday, Dec. 4th, was exemplary. What a group! You could hear the grunting, lifting, hacking and wheezing all the way down the hill in Enumclaw. Thanks to all who turned out to help Mark McIntyre get the two gliders disassembled, loaded and transported to Thun Field. And thanks to the yeoman crew who assisted Tim (of Wounded Knee fame), Joe (of Salz's Tree Removal Service), Curt (of Bryan's Bushwhacking and Hill Climbing Club), and Wayne (of The Bonney Lake Drum and Machete Corps) who made waste of all growth higher than 10 inches at the west end of the runway. What a great bonfire that and the old mower shed made. (Added to, of course, by Steve Hill, ace tractor pilot). A perfect blaze to roast Glenn's frozen weenies on, if you had flame retardant clothing on, that is. All in all, a great result. Thanks to all who made it happen.

Membership:

We have no new members to announce this month, but this would be a good time to address that subject.

It has been the focus of the present board to look for any way we can encourage the growth of our membership. Let's face it. The future health of our club depends on it. Without a solid financial base our club will founder. It's dues paying, regular flying members that will make that happen. Due to the aggressive efforts of instructor Jim Conley and some of our newest members, notably Glenn Chouinard, we have seen the emergence of a new training facility and have been seeing some bright new faces in our midst. These new pilots have shown a great deal of enthusiasm and willingness to work toward moving our club ahead. It's more people like these that our club needs to attract.

To that end, the board has accepted the help of Kim Sears to lead the way to improving our exposure in the public eye. He is working on ways we can better present ourselves to the aviation community as well as the general public. We will continue to put our signs out on the neighboring roads when we hold an operation, to be sure. However, we do need to go well beyond that to reach a broader public which surely contains many who would want the opportunity to fly with us but don't know who we are, where we are, or how to get involved. Here again is a chance for each of us to contribute our ideas and participate in the effort. Our plan to hold a special operation at Thun Field was part of this thinking and, even though plagued with problems getting off the ground, is still the type of thing we should all be willing to join in on to help our club grow.

Reports From Members:

Tim Heneghan reports that he has received word from Softie Parachutes at Arlington that they would be interested in holding a seminar for us in chute use. The board agreed that this could and should be part of the training we offer our members. He will have more information for us later, but contact him if this interests you.

Mark McIntyre, PSSA Maintenance Officer, has reported to the board with a list of maintenance tasks to be addressed before our gliders can resume service on March 1st. It is his plan to schedule this work over the months of January and February, with a month to be given to each aircraft. He will be assigning work to members just as if they were field managers. These "managers" would then be responsible for recruiting other members to complete their tasks by a scheduled time. Of course, if at any time you see the opportunity to volunteer to pitch in at any point, by all means, go for it. Otherwise, Mark will be publishing his schedule by e-mail and on the website. Check for this at the beginning of the new year.

Robert Rackl reports having received the following announcement via Mark Nyberg of Evergreen Soaring which should interest many of our members.

Puget Sound Soaring Pilots,

Below you will find the announcement for the Cross Country Soaring Safety Seminar planned for February 5, 2005. The current plan is to hold the CFI Refresher Clinic in even years and a different type of clinic (on a subject chosen by popular demand) in odd years, so the CFIG Refresher Clinic will be offered again in 2006.

Last year we were reminded of the importance of safety. It's easy to pay lip service to the importance of safety training and never do anything about it, but here's your chance to do something about it. The upcoming Cross Country Soaring Safety seminar is your opportunity to learn more cross-country flying and become a safer pilot.

We have also seen a renewed interest in cross-country soaring lately, so the logical theme for the 2005 seminar became "Cross-Country Safety."

The main speaker is Bob Wander. Bob is already well known in the Puget Sound area as both an informative and entertaining speaker. For those of you who have enjoyed any of the twelve books Bob has produced on soaring, this is a chance for you to meet the author.

In addition, Ron Bellamy will be assisting Bob by presenting the Hazardous Thought Patterns section of the seminar.

Agenda

- * Flight Safety: Analysis of Accident Trends
- * Pilot Decision Making & Risk Management
- * Hazardous Thought Patterns
- * Collision Avoidance and Flying in Gaggles
- * Takeoff procedures
- * Traffic Pattern, Landings and Emergency Procedures
- * Landing Out - the Final Four Minutes
- * Cross Country Planning, Extending Your Skills, Mentoring

The cost is \$30 payable in advance. All revenues in excess of actual expenses will go to the Civil Air Patrol Glider Program. Please make your check out to the SGC Soaring Foundation and send it to ßSGC Soaring Foundation

The room size at the Museum of Flight limits the number of attendees, so please reserve your place soon by sending me a check payable to the SGC Foundation. At \$30, this 7-hour seminar taught by Bob Wander and Ron Bellamy is the best deal you will ever find for recurrent glider training!

Reservations are required. Please contact Mark Nyberg at 425/641-4785 or E-mail: <<mailto:mark@fishernyberg.com>> mark@fishernyberg.com.

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N.B. People, if you haven't attended a Bob Wander presentation before you will find this a great experience as well as very informative. And, this fits in well with PSSA's interest in getting out and away more. Plan on it.

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).