

Message From The Prez 1.0

January, 2009

Welcome to a new year and a new soaring season. Once again we had a great turnout at the annual PSSA winter party hosted by Judith & Wayne Ginther at the fabulous Ginther Estate & Country Club. The food was fabulous and we managed to avoid a long drawn out membership meeting limiting the "official business" to a short review of the past years accomplishments along with a few quips about what we need to accomplish in 2009. We also announced the 2009 board of directors' election results. The new board subsequently held their first meeting at Krane's Corner on January 10th and agreed to fill the board positions as follows:

President	Stefan Perrin
VP	Curt Chenoweth
Secretary pro tem	Dave Kremers
Treasurer	Kim Sears
Maintenance	Kenji Ominato
Operations	Ronnie Rogers
Training	Dan Creech

We followed the board meeting with the pre-annual maintenance event and performed cursory inspections of the Blanik and Schweitzer to identify any needed repairs that can be accomplished while undergoing the annual inspections. We did find several items that will need to be repaired, some of which are not related to airworthiness and that we can accomplish ourselves. We have ordered a new vario for the 2-33 to replace the intermittent one currently installed and we also plan to replace all the Push-to-Talk switches with more robust ones that should last for several years rather than a few months. The glider annuals are scheduled for January 26th for the 2-33, followed by the Blanik as soon as it is completed. The PW-5 has been annualized at Arlington and will be returned to Bergseth after the Aviation Trade Show (see below).

The Super Cub is still safely tucked away in Curt Bryan's hanger for now and will be ferried to Puyallup in February for the annual inspection. Alas, all good things eventually come to an end and so it is with storing the Cub in Curt's hanger. Curt has been more than generous to PSSA in this regard and has donated countless hours toward maintaining the Cub and storing it securely for several years. Undoubtedly, this has saved PSSA several thousand dollars during that time by protecting the airplane from the elements along with the TLC & maintenance Curt has provided, including the repair and recovering of the wing and ferrying the Cub to various repair facilities each year so that our operations were not disrupted. Curt has now chosen to reclaim his space to address his own needs and we certainly understand and support him.

With our cozy storage arrangement ending soon, the new board will need to find a new storage location and devise a long term solution that best suits the club and protects our most valuable asset. Ideally we would like to store the cub at Bergseth under a protective cover but this will take time to formalize so we are searching for an interim solution that will keep the Cub out of the weather. One location that may have space is Enumclaw airport, which we are working on at this time. It is not the most ideal place but it does offer protection from the elements and that certainly beats leaving the Cub parked in the open during our wet and windy spring weather.

Looking toward the start of our soaring season on March 1st, we are making every effort to have the equipment ready to fly. We plan to assemble the ships prior to the first day of flying so that we can extract the maximum benefit from the still limited daylight. We will also need to have a pre-season field work party to clean any debris from the field, fill pot holes and get everything ready so that on our first day of flying we can dedicate the majority of the time to getting everyone back into the air.

Speaking of the first day of flying, your PSSA board strongly encourages everyone to participate in the Soaring Safety Foundations (SSF) [*First Flight*](#) program. This is where you commit to taking your first flight of the season with an instructor and meeting that commitment. The board is committed to this program and we hope that all members will also participate. If you follow through, you can send your information and pictures to the SSF to be published. Please go to the following link for further information: <http://www.soaringsafety.org/ssf-06/first-flight.html>.

Also on the upcoming agenda are both the [Washington Aviation Association and Trade Show](#) (February. 21 – 22) and [Museum of Flight Soaring Expo](#) (March 21 – 22). As always, we will be soliciting volunteers to host the PSSA booth along with setup and tear down tasks. I will be coordinating the trade show event and Dave Kremers will be our point man for the Soaring Expo. We plan to display the PW-5 at the trade show and possibly the Expo, but as of this time we are unsure of space availability at the Museum.

Stefan H. Perrin
PSSA President