

PSSA Newsletter

November, 2004

Upcoming Events:

Well, the flying is behind us for this year but there's still a lot going on and plenty planned for the coming months until we resume flight operations in March.

Work has already begun on runway improvements at Bergseth and that's just the beginning of activities there. As recently announced, **Sunday, Nov. 21st** will be the day we disassemble our L-13 and 2-33 for their winter maintenance. Plan to attend and learn or brush up on this important procedure.

Another important date is **Saturday, Dec. 4th**. We need to attend to the growth of problem vegetation at the west end of the field, so all "bushwhackers" are asked to be ready to do battle on that date. A beautiful day has been ordered for the occasion. Put it on your calendar.

Recent Events:

Several convivial gatherings of the Table Top Soaring have been held at the Mint in Enumclaw. The attendance at the last two sessions has grown steadily over the first session and some lofty heights indeed have been reached (due to all the hot air generated, or was that the beer?). Until March comes around it's the next best thing we have to soothe those soaring urges and it's good fun too. Check it out.

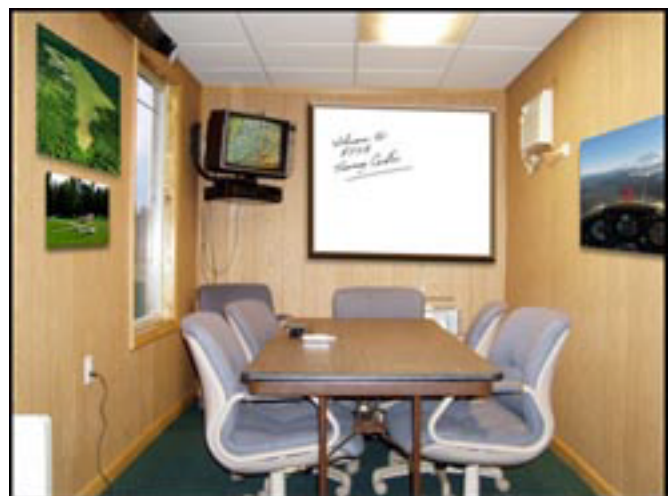
Did you miss the last day of flying at Bergseth? Shame on you. There was a record number of tows that day and the weatherman really came through. There was lift galore with five private ships up for multiple hour flight durations. That new runway for even more frequent launches would have been nice.

We're also hoping you caught one of the presentations of the new plan to revitalize the club for the seasons to come. The plan was well received by all who were there and many constructive comments were channeled to the board. We all owe a big vote of thanks to Tim Heneghan who put the juice in the plan and its presentation. Without his inspiration and energy and the help of J.C. Hauchcorne and Curt Chenoweth, we wouldn't have a vision of what our club can have to offer in the future. For those who were not able to fit one of the recent general meetings in, we are sending out a special letter to explain just what the plan entails and ask for your support of it. Others are already on board.

As a spectacular show of good faith in this vision, new member Curt Bryan has taken the road grader by the horns and ripped us a new runway. Now that's action! I guess that's just the kind of spirit we are looking for to put the new plan into motion. As previously reported, another new member, Glenn Chouinard, kind of set this tone, along with Jim Conley and Walt Bergseth, in seeing to it that we have a spanking new flight training center at the field. It looks like it's up to the rest of us to follow suit and do what we each can, individually or as part of a team. We hope you will buy (literally) into the plan and lend us a hand.



Did you feel the earth move?



So, where's the wet bar?

Reports From Members (and friends):

From Jim Conley

Jim reports that **Curt Bryan** and **Kim Sears** have earned their glider ratings as of Thursday, Nov. 11. Congratulations to both!

From Grant Smith

Instructor Grant Smith has advised us that there is an excellent flying and learning opportunity available to us over the winter months. Pacific Aerosports at Arlington, WA, has a Grob 109 Motorglider which they are interested in making available for general flying or for instruction toward a motor glider endorsement. It would apparently be necessary for a small group to show interest in this type of new adventure and as Grant points out, the best time to do such a thing would be in January. Just something to keep in mind to keep those juices flowing while waiting for spring to arrive. Grant will keep a list of interested pilots so that they may be contacted easily when the weather looks favorable. You may call Grant at any time at 425-271-7464 or contact him at grantsmith@usa.com. Pacific Aerosport can be reached at 360-474-9394.

From Fred Hermanspann

Member Steve Hill figures large in this report on the results of this year's Willy Burhen Cup :

Willy Burhen Cup 2004

Earlier this year we lost Willy Burhen, a good pilot and a good friend in a tragic accident. As we – a number of pilots that shared his love of flying on this side of the mountains – were still trying to cope with this loss the idea was borne to honor his memory with an annual competition for the best soaring flight in Western Washington. It would be a fitting tribute to Willy and his indomitable spirit and we think he would approve.

Thus the Willy Burhen Cup was started. It is a rather informal competition for the best flights starting in Western Washington based on handicapped distance with adjustments for flight declarations and return to the start point. All this is designed to use a friendly competition to revive the somewhat neglected and challenging XC soaring in Western Washington. The cutoff for each year's flights is mid October and we can now summarize this year's results.

As it turned out, it was a one-sided contest between Steve Hill in the South and a group of pilots flying out of Arlington. Despite valiant efforts nobody could come close to challenging Steve whose winning flight was not only twice as much as anybody else's but also included a double crossing of the Cascades! No wonder that there were grumblings about handicap factors for having a self-launching glider, living on an airfield or having unlimited flying opportunities... But more than anything else it demonstrated the potential for XC soaring on the scenic side of the mountains and it will serve as a yardstick for future flights. Congratulations Steve!

So here is a list of this year's results, with only the best flight of each pilot being listed:

Steve Hill	6-19-2004	DG-400/17	223.2 mi	226.0 pts
Brad Hill	6-18-2004	Apis-13	109.8mi	130.6pts
Fred Hermanspann	5-9-2004	L-13	77.2mi	129.5pts

+Winfried Feifel				
Winfried Feifel	5-13-2004	L-13	73.5mi	123.4pts
+Fred Hermanspann				
Ron Clark	5-13-2004	LS-1	95.0mi	103.5pts
Lynn Weller	5-9-2004	DG-1000	85.9mi	76.8pts

While this year's contest suffered from low participation as we all recovered from 2 bad accidents, it was a nice beginning. Not surprisingly the best flights were all made in May and June. And as a reminder – the handicapping assures that even low performance sailplanes like the L-13 have a chance. So let's hear it for Steve and plan ahead for a great season in 2005!

For Sale:

Former member Terry Crippen has advised us that he has a couple of items for sale:

- one parachute with fresh factory inspection and repack including nice carrying case - \$400 obo.
- one ICOM ic-A21 hand held nav-com radio for \$200 obo.

Terry can be reached at 425-413-1675 (home) or 206-227-0911 (cell) or terrycrippen@comcast.net

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).