



SOAR SPOTS

Newsletter of the Pasadena Soaring Society

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May 1999

Quick Monthly PSS Schedule -

May 16th - First monthly May Contest

May 17th - Monthly Meeting

May 30th - Second monthly May Contest

President's Message by Richard Burns

Well our President will do anything to get out of writing an article for this fine Newsletter. Even having knee surgery which was only going to last 45 minutes and ended up taking several hours. Between his screaming, his pain and spending lots of time taking his medication, who knows? He did a great job at our Two-Day contest and sends his greetings.

1st Vice-President's Report by Mike Ratner

We really want to thank one and all who participated in any way, as contestants and workers, in our Eighteenth Annual Two-Day Soaring Festival. Our thanks to the Southern California Road Runners for the great food service and outstanding help in the landing areas. And also to the City of Pasadena for letting us use the park for this important event.

May 16th Contest - The first of our May contests will be co-CD'd by Keith Kindrick and John Rodgers. By the way this is getting to be quite a team. They are going to try some new techniques with the winch setup. Come on out and see what they are up to. It may be that they have found a secret formula to solve our winch line breakage problems. Sure hope so!

There will be four rounds. Round one will be a 3-minute, followed by three 7-minute flights. The landings will use our old 25 foot long tapes. For the most of us after that 2-day contest, we have seen enough of the runway style landings. All flights will be scored 900/100.

May 30th Contest - We also have another contest scheduled for the end of May. This will be the good old 3, 5, and 7 minute format. Seems that we have not flown this type of contest in over eight months so I thought I would drag it out and see if anybody remembered it..

NOTE**** All contests will start at 9:00AM sharp, and will be over by 12:00 noon. The winch will then be open for at least two hours for fun or sport flying. I'd very much like to see some old members that do not like contests to come on out and get some flight times. We also hope that by next month, the new (again?) club trainer will be ready. Then you can bring out some friends and get them interested in this hobby. We need some new members.

Parting note about our Two-day Contest. I want to take this opportunity to thank all, and I mean everyone, that worked so hard to put on a great contest. I want to specially thank my son Dan and Frank Leppla who made the scoring a whole lot easier on me. The final and official scores are posted on the PSS website. Check them out.

May Meeting - by Karlton Spindle

I have invited Airtronics to come to the May 17th meeting and demonstrate the NEW 6000 radio system. Please bring some friends to this meeting if you can. It ought to be really interesting to see what Airtronics has developed and recently begun selling.

2nd Vice-President's Report by Karlton Spindle

The PSS Soaring Festival / Trade show had some really neat new stuff. Looks like the designers are going after more speed 400 stuff then, "traditional soaring products". Trick R/C showed the electric Zagi and Bowmans Hobbies Scooter were very well received! Who was that on the sticks of the MINI IMAC plane - could it have been none other than John Roe? CSD showed up with all the "go go go blink and you missed them" planes LOVE them speed 400s!

The Teddy did well but not in the rotor over the school. Embarrassing to get the radio handed back when the pilot (who we will not name - David Farless) tells you he does not have it. By the time you get the sticks its too late and I HAD to take the BIG WALK OF SHAME to pick up the splattered mess on the hill. But not to worry the Teddy was ready for more spills and thrills in under 10 minutes. My ego has yet to be repaired. You guys are brutal!

Sunday saw a few less vendors and Paul Trist showed up even later than he did on Saturday I guess now that he is a full scale guy he has to make time for the little people. Mike Lee was doing AMA numbers. I hope I did not forget any one if I did please let me know so I can fall on my sword.

Sirius Chargers was there and so was R/C direct with the Berg receivers. Now on to some more fun <insert evil grin here> The Whyte Wings thermal team showed up in force so many WW planes were in the air John Rodgers decided to take one out (mid-air), unfortunately it was mine. I guess since he built it, he can break it and repair it whenever he wants to.

Hand Launch mania was going on all over the field! The Feather, Maple Leaf and a host of others looked really great launching in mass! It was fun.....

The View from the Gate - by David Farless

The 18th Annual Rose Bowl Soaring Festival....! 842 successful launches. What to say. Statistically, we had 842 successful launches (i.e., 842 scored flights). I estimate we had at least 50 pop-offs for re-launches, and a minimum of 100 fouled launch attempts (broken lines or other equipment failures). One thousand launch attempts, more or less!

The Launch Assurity Crew was in the field continuously, repairing broken line, untangling fouled lines, even welding broken winch parts. Thanks to John Rodgers, Keith Kendrick, George K., Greg Norsworthy, David Schweninger, and Gary Winberg for their maximum effort which kept us going in the face of imminent disaster.

I stood at the gate to the launch area for most of the two days, making sure contestants were really ready to launch, and directing them to the active working winches. So, I had the opportunity to talk with all of the contestants...sometimes for quite a while!

What a great community! I was amazed by the patience and, yes, the humanity of these folks. With all of the line breaks, I was anticipating a hard two days of fielding complaints, but I heard nary a one! Oh, sure there was the occasional ironic aside, and a few jibs poorly disguised as humor, but no direct confrontations or accusations. In fact, on Sunday at least 4 people made it a point to complement PSS for a fun contest!

Congratulations and thanks to Richard Burns for putting it all together and making it work and for postponing knee surgery so as not to leave us all in the lurch.

PSS Meetings -

Our regular monthly meetings are normally held on the third Monday of each month in the Kaiser Permanente Offices at 393 East Walnut, Pasadena, CA. Starting time is 7:30PM. We hold these meetings in Conference Room 7L which is on the seventh floor at the east end of the building. The parking lot is entered off of Los Robles Avenue on the west side just north of Walnut Avenue. Push the button and tell the guard where you are going and he will let you in. You will then have to park and find your way to the front door and sign in with the guard. Ride the elevator to the seventh floor and go east.

1999 (SC)² Contest Schedule -

23 May	San Diego	Torrey Pine Gulls
27 June	Thousand Oaks	Thousand Oaks Soaring Society
29 August	Costa Mesa	Harbor Soaring Society
26 September	Covina	Silent Wings Soaring Society
31 October	Pasadena	Pasadena Soaring Society

For Sale - Hitec Focus 4 Radio. Complete, never used, still in original box. \$95.00
Call Dave Schweninger (818) 352-3654 evenings, (818) 957-4050 days.

Lost Planes - Two planes were lost during our contest. One belonging (I believe) to Art Markiewicz flew off heading towards Pomona. And another belonging to Mike Lee was left at the field by mistake. So, if you find either one of them please let us know so we can return them to the respective owners. There is a large reward being offered.

Other PSS Contest Dates for 1999 - Plan ahead

Below is a list of club contests scheduled for the rest of the year. You could come out and fly these contests. We would love to see you there.

- May 16
- May 30
- June 27
- July No Contest Dates available
- Aug 15
- Sept 19
- Oct 17
- Oct 31 (SCSC) PSS will host the Great Pumpkin Contest.
- Nov 21
- Dec 19

PSS Website is at - <http://www.netmeister.net/~thelep/pss>

Scores from our contest are posted there and several other places.

Pasadena Soaring Society P.O. Box 745 Pasadena, CA 91102	The Pasadena Soaring Society wants to hear from you. Your ideas, comments, criticism, and suggestions are important. Please phone, email, mail or contact one of the officers.
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