



SOAR SPOTS

Newsletter of the Pasadena Soaring Society

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September 1999

Quick Monthly PSS Schedule -

September 19th - Monthly Contest and Picnic

September 20th - PSS Monthly Meeting

President's Message by Richard Burns

It is with a heavy heart that I regret to inform you of the passing away of fellow club member George Torricelli. George was an original club member when PSS was formed in 1968. He remained an active member through the mid 1980's when his soaring days were cut short by failing eye sight. He continued to keep up on club activities through the newsletter and by occasionally dropping by the field to say "Hi". Those of us who knew George will long cherish memories of him flying side by side with his good friend, Toni Stark. The two were inseparable. George was an accomplished HAM Radio (W6OK) operator with numerous awards for the tremendous amount of contacts he had made all over the world. While attending his memorial service, I learned from his family that George had but one unfinished goal. He wanted to live to see the new millennium. George was 92.

Seasons change. The cycle starts anew. It is my pleasure to welcome into our club three new members; Anthony Brooks, his brother Barry, and Peter Illsley. Come on out and meet them at the annual club picnic on September 19th. John Rodgers and Frank Leppla will be smoking the Tri-Tips and the club will also be supplying the sodas. The rest is potluck and being coordinated by Patti Leppla (818) 790-1297. It's always a good time. Family and friends are welcome. If we are real lucky, maybe Elfie Stark will bring some of her German potato salad! Oh yeah, I almost forgot, there will be a contest also. The flying starts at 9:00 AM. Picnic and fun-flying follows at approximately Noon.

Get well wishes go out to George Kostopoulos who is still recovering from recent surgery. George has taken care of the club equipment for quite a few years. He has stored the majority of it at his house and brought it out to the field every Friday and every contest. I, along with Dave Schweninger and Toni Stark will now be taking up the slack. We each have a winch, retriever, and batteries. Between us, we will see that equipment is on the field by 3:30 PM on Fridays and 8:30AM on contest days.

Mark your calendars! It's the return of the PSS Swap Meet. It will be held on October 18th at our club meeting (usual place and time). It's a chance to clean out our closets and give someone else a chance to clutter up theirs. We haven't had a swap meet for a few years so there should be plenty of deals for old and new members alike. So dust off those old sailplanes, kits, radios, and servos and come to the October meeting (and don't forget your checkbook!)

October 31st is the, "Great Pumpkin Contest". It's our clubs turn to host the SC2. We need all able bodied club members to show up to help run this event. This will be a fun contest complete with, "special prizes", suited for the event. Trick or Treat!

Congratulations to Daryl Perkins for winning the recent, "Masters of soaring", contest. He nearly flew a perfect contest to take the top honors. He truly is, "The Sultan of Soaring".

Those of you who were entered in the fall soaring festival at Visalia should have received your acceptance letter by now. We should have a strong team again this year, especially if John Rodgers has successfully rid his plane of the poltergeists that have been haunting him. Lets hope the seance worked! We will be short one team member though. Keith Kendrick has decided (once again) to fly for C.V.R.C. (Central Valley Retirement Club). Some guys never learn.

A final note on field safety. Make sure you have the frequency pin, or in the absence of a frequency control board, have a clear understanding as to who controls the frequency before you turn on your transmitter. A club member who is normally the most cautious person out there regarding frequency control had an unfortunate mishap and shot down an expensive molded sailplane. It can happen to anyone of us. Until next time, fly often, fly safe!

September Contest Plans by Mike Ratner

This time we are going to try out the format for our SC2 contest. This was the SC2 contest I was going to run in October, the GREAT PUMPKIN CONTEST and just discovered, I'm not going to be in town. Richard Burns will run the SC2 Contest and because we all know he's a little slow, I'm going to show him what to do in October. So the contest is as follows:

Round 1: 6 minute precision duration scored 950/50 with a runway landing.

Round 2 and 3 will be a add-em-up: Two rounds to make 18 minutes

No round over 10 minutes. Scored 950/50 with the same runway landing

Now, just to be mean, we're going to throw in one more round that you won't find in any SC2 contest or perhaps any contest anywhere.

Round 4: 2 minute BLIND. Your timer cannot read off your times. He can just time you.

You will have to keep time in your head. Scored 950/50, like the other rounds.

After all that you can eat your fill at the annual picnic. Enjoy.

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 and enjoy your company..

September 19th with a Picnic

October 17th

October 31st (SCSC) PSS will host the Great Pumpkin Contest.

November 21st

December 19th

1999 (SC)² Contest Schedule -

September 26 th	Covina	Silent Wings Soaring Society
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October 31 st	Pasadena	Pasadena Soaring Society
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PSS Meetings -

Our regular monthly meetings are 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. Ride the elevator to the seventh floor and go east. An interesting time awaits you.....

TOSS Bent Wing Contest Report by Dave Farless

On Sunday, August 8, the Thousand Oaks Soaring Society (TOSS) held a really enjoyable RC soaring contest. They called it a “bent wing” contest. Others call it a nostalgia contest. In either case, it was limited to polyhedral, built-up construction (no foam), 3-function (no-flaps, no ailerons), sailplanes. About 40 enthusiasts showed up to fly, ranging in age from 15 years to “who cares”. Planes also varied in age from a brand new Oly II to my Sagitta, which is older than the younger flyers at this contest. I suspect that there may have been even older planes or components at this meet. At least two ships lost their tail feathers on launch, likely because of very old Monokote®, and/or very old glue joints. (I recently re-covered my Sagitta for the second time in its long life when it began returning from flights with new tears in the wing covering.)

What a fun contest! (Did I say that already?) The weather at Redwood School in Thousand Oaks was perfect, as the predicted late-morning wind never appeared. The contest was won by Mike Reagan, flying a borrowed Gemini-derivative; a graphic demonstration that it’s still pilot skill and knowledge that wins contests, not super-ship designs. I suspect that Mike has not flown a polyhedral ship in a contest for many years, but there he is, on top again.

As far as I could tell, I was the only PSS member there. Fortunately I ran into Dave Butkovich who was the only SWSA member there. We timed for each other and Dave was actually “in-the-running” for a trophy until we made a mental error on the long 8-min flight. Dave had managed over 7 minutes and was struggling to try to make 8, blowing the landing in the process. The landing, an easy in-or-out 12.5 ft circle, was worth about 45 points while his struggles gained maybe 10 seconds of flight time at 1 point per second. Dave ended up in 7th place and trophies were given to 6th place! I don’t think Dave minded very much though. We both had an excellent time with good flights and no damage to anything but the ego.

This was only the second time I had flown anywhere but the Bowl for two years. I had forgotten how difficult and exciting it is to fly at a strange field for the first time. And this is a very interesting field with lots to think about and many options to try. I did well in finding lift, though I did not make time on the eight-minute flight, but I blew all four landings, just because my normal cues were not there.

By the way, the trophies were the best I have seen since our old dear buddy Ben Matsumoto used to do them for PSS. I would like to publicly thank TOSS for sponsoring this great contest and for making it fun by keeping the rules simple and the competition relaxed. They had 3 winches going with single batteries under constant trickle charge. And there were no complaints about winch power! There was plenty for everyone and yet folks with gentler planes from gentler times could launch safely without fear of destruction. The CD used open flight order in all rounds and allowed unlimited, pilot-declared pop-offs, and we still were finished by a little after noon. Of course the through-put may have been helped by the constant threat of wind later in the day which caused at least some of us to rush to fly early in each round, just in case.

The moral of this story is that if you are not flying in the new nostalgia contest craze you’re missing some great soaring fun.

(Hmm... “new nostalgia.” I think I have created a new oxymoron.)

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

Other Soaring Clubs at - <http://www.rcsoaring.com>

SCSC Website is at - <http://www.sc-2.org>

AUGUST 15, 1999 - PSS MONTHLY CONTEST

OPEN CLASS RESULTS

Place	Name	Event	Club	RND1	RND2	RND3	TOTAL	NORMALIZED	TROPHY
1	RICHARD BURNS	MASTER	PSS	1000.0	1000.0	977.3	2977.3	1000.0	1st Master
2	TONI STARK	MASTER	PSS	994.6	981.8	997.3	2973.7	998.8	2nd Master
3	GREG NIKOLA	MASTER	SCSA	990.0	974.6	980.9	2945.5	989.3	3rd Master
4	EBER GRAHAM	MASTER	SWSA	967.3	958.2	944.6	2870.2	964.0	
5	JIMMY WILLIAMS	MASTER	SWSA	976.4	977.3	822.1	2775.8	932.3	
6	HANK SCHORZ	MASTER	PSS	987.3	980.0	711.4	2678.7	899.7	
7	DAN WERNER	MASTER	SCSA	962.8	837.6	833.0	2633.3	884.5	
8	MIKE RATNER	EXPERT	PSS	903.3	977.3	742.7	2623.3	881.1	1st Expert
9	JOE NAVE	MASTER	PSS	541.7	987.3	991.8	2520.8	846.7	
10	PHILLIP HALLFORD	MASTER	PSS	997.3	990.0	484.1	2471.4	830.1	
11	TOM FINCH	MASTER	SWSA	952.8	460.1	977.3	2390.1	802.8	
12	ANTHONY BROOKS	NOVICE	PSS	438.3	392.9	987.3	1818.5	610.8	1st Novice
13	ALEXANDER EREMenko	NOVICE	PSS	525.4	715.9	555.3	1796.7	603.5	
14	AMBER DEGREVE	NOVICE	PSS	928.3	394.7	370.2	1693.2	568.7	
15	PATRICK DEGREVE	SPORTSMAN	PSS	402.9	409.3	729.6	1541.7	517.8	1st Sportsman
16	BOB LITSEY	MASTER	SWSA	747.7	416.5	318.5	1482.7	498.0	

2-METER RESULTS

Place	Name	Club	RND1	RND2	RND3	TOTAL	NORMALIZED	Trophy
1	RICHARD BURNS	PSS	982.3	974.6	527.2	2484.1	1000.0	1st
2	ALEXANDER EREMenko	PSS	963.7	980.0	332.1	2275.8	916.2	
3	PATRICK DEGREVE	PSS	274.9	892.9	898.3	2066.2	831.8	
4	AMBER DEGREVE	PSS	283.1	460.1	168.8	911.9	367.1	
5	JOE NAVE	PSS	868.4	0.0	0.0	868.4	349.6	
6	PETER ILLSLEY		245.0	245.0	0.0	490.0	197.3	

**DO NOT FORGET THE CONTEST, PICNIC AND FUN-FLY ON SEPTEMBER 19TH
Call Patti Leppla (818) 790-1297 for Potluck information. Thanks.**

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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