



## SOAR SPOTS

### Newsletter of the Pasadena Soaring Society

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December 2002

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#### Quick Monthly PSS Schedule -

December 16th - PSS Monthly Meeting

#### President's Message - by Richard Burns

Paddles! Clear! Jolt/Zap. Again! Jolt/zap. We have a pulse! The Pasadena Soaring Society lives to fly another day! Yes, your club is alive and kicking. The series of events that led to the City inadvertently canceling the remainder of our contest dates for the second half of 2002 has injured our club, but we will recover. As with any medical problem, the attitude of the patient (each one of us) is paramount in that recovery. Now is the time for you to decide. Are you going to sit back and do nothing or are you going to take an active part in keeping your club alive!

There will be a Club meeting on Monday, December 16th, 2002 at 7:00pm at the Kaiser building, room 7L.

The Board has voted to give free membership for 2003 to any club member who attends this meeting who paid their 2002 dues.

We will be holding elections for Club officers for 2003. I've been President for five years straight. It's time for me to step aside and let someone with fresh ideas take this organization in a new direction. I know that the decision to accept the Presidency (or any position on the Board) involves a level of commitment that many of you haven't been willing to accept in the past. If this club is to survive, this must change. Who ever steps forward and accepts the position must be able to depend on all of us to help make the year a successful and productive one. Your attendance at the December meeting is the first step in demonstrating your willingness to commit to the Pasadena Soaring Society's future. If you would like to serve on the Board, and don't feel comfortable nominating yourself for the position, please call any of us on the current Board and we will be happy to nominate you at the meeting. My fondest wish would be to actually have more than one person step forward for each position and actually have an election! I've been president five times and never won an election!

As stated later in this letter, we have had a measure of success in securing contest dates for 2003 thanks to the efforts of Dave Farless who agreed to tackle this monumental problem. The ordeal was compounded by the City turning over the scheduling of park activities from Parks

and Recreation to a different department that scrambled to meet the challenge of over fifty organizations (us included) vying for time and space. Thanks Dave.

Dave Farless, Frank Leppla, and I (for a short time anyway) attended a meeting of all the organizations wishing to use the City's athletic facilities. I was encouraged by the level of organization that new permitting department had achieved in such a short amount of time. I feel they may well be able to give us a level of service that will ensure our scheduled contest dates are not routinely taken away from us, as has been so often the case in the past. I'm sure that they will keep scheduling conflicts to a minimum or eliminated altogether.

See you at the Club meeting!

### **PSS 2003 Contest Schedule Status** by Dave Farless

Your lame duck Board has been negotiating with City of Pasadena officials for contest dates for next year. We are negotiating with a whole new set of officials because the scheduling for all city sports facilities has moved out of the Parks Department and into the "Human Services, Recreation, and Neighborhoods Department" (let's call it HSRND). We have not been able to acquire any more dates for 2002 because this department is concentrating on scheduling for the first 6 months of 2003 and has no time to spend on re-working 2002 (after "accidentally" deleting all of our remaining 2002 dates). We have met with the HSRND manager for scheduling, Albert Gomez, and have attended a City meeting called by Gomez to review the results of his office's first attempt at a schedule for the first 6 months of 2003. Invited to this meeting were 52 persons, representing 43 organizations who are trying to schedule City sports facilities!

The meeting on the evening of November 20 was actually chaired by Kevin McCarthy who is the chairman of the Pasadena Sports Council. He is not a City employee, and it's not clear if this council is an official City organ, but he was definitely "in charge." By the way, we have had to educate Albert Gomez about PSS, but Kevin McCarthy seemed to be quite aware of PSS and what we do. At this meeting, McCarthy emphasized again and again the importance placed on youth in the City sports activities. This may be of significance to us because the City is also requiring all organizations to provide a "roster" of participants in scheduled events. The roster does not have to have full names and addresses, but must have the age and zip code for each person. McCarthy said that the purpose is solely to give the city a look at whom they are serving. So any of you members with children and/or young friends, think about signing them up as members!! We'll give you a special "new member" rate!!!

The schedule of dates we were able to obtain for the first half of next year is as follows:

## Pasadena Soaring Society Contest Schedule Request: Winter

Facilit	Event	Date	Day	Event Times				
				Arrival Time	Event Begin	Event End	Departure Time	Total Hours
*	Monthly Club Contest	February 16, 2003	Sunday	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:30 PM	5.5
*	Monthly Club Contest	March 16, 2003	Sunday	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:30 PM	5.5
+	Rose Bowl Soaring Festival	April 19, 2003	Sunday	6:00 AM	8:30 AM	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	11.5
+	Rose Bowl Soaring Festival	April 20, 2003	Saturday	6:00 AM	8:30 AM	4:00 PM	5:30 PM	11.5
*	Monthly Club Contest	May 18, 2003	Sunday	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	1:00 PM	1:30 PM	5.5
+	So. Cal. Regional Contest	June 22, 2003	Sunday	7:00 AM	8:30 AM	3:30 PM	5:00 PM	10.0

- \* Half-Day Event, Area H, Fields 1,2,3,5,6,8,9 (All except for fields 4 and 7)
- + All-Day Event, Area H, All Fields

The maintenance people from the Parks Department were also at this meeting. They said that Area H will be closed for maintenance until February 1, 2003, beginning in January after the Rose Bowl people have picked up and left. They said that they do not plan any "major" items during this period. We can hope that this means they will actually open the field on February 1. They also noted that fields 1, 4, 7, and 8 (the western half of Area H) will be out of service from May 26 to July 18 for some major rework. We should be able to live with that. Since there will be no people on those fields, we can squeeze into the other half.

Our primary competition for Area H seems to be Villa-Parke Youth Soccer and Villa-Parke Adult Soccer. These are Pasadena sports organizations. In a discussion with Albert Gomez after the meeting, he introduced us to the representative of these organizations, Kenny James, and said that he (Mr. James) made way it possible for us to get these dates. Apparently, his organizations would normally have scheduled these dates, but stepped aside at the request of Gomez to allow us some dates. Of course we thanked him!

Gomez commented at the meeting that the City has not settled on a fee structure for the use of sports facilities and so it is likely that no fees will be applied during this 6-month period. It was not clear at the meeting if he was talking about "general fees" or about some special fees for maintenance and/or facility improvement. We have not been able to get a clarification on this as yet. So.... we don't know yet if we can afford to continue using Area H.

And, speaking of money, the Board has suggested that for the first 6 months of the year, we should not collect fees for contest participation. We will advertise this widely and hope that this will increase participation. If any of these senior City officials drops by at one of our contests and sees 8 old men using 7 city sports fields, it could well spell the end of our honeymoon with the City.

Come to the PSS Monthly Meeting on December 16th at 7:00PM. We need you.