

SSA Region 9 Report

Frank Whiteley, 970-330-2050

frank.whiteley@coloradosoaring.org

Arizona

Prescott Soaring experienced a winch launch glider accident resulting in a fatality. The chapter is recovering and up and running again.

Arizona Soaring Association web site doesn't indicate much activity in their perennial racing series. Apparently activity has fallen flat as northern based pilots don't want to travel south and southern pilots don't want to travel north to pay more for tows and poorer conditions. Given the size of Phoenix, not too many pilots from there.

El Tiro is still negotiating their BLM lease renewal. Tucson Soaring has added new members and hoping to grow the cross country group. Appears to be interest in renewing the spring wave camp at Sierra Vista in the spring.

Colorado

Grand Mesa Soaring Association has gone dormant. Winch and two-seater may be for sale from private owner.

Steamboat Springs Soaring Association bent their two-seater in a hard landing.

Colorado Soaring Association may be incurring much higher property taxes on glider port, perhaps as much as 300%. Winch updates including some bolt on horsepower waiting to be tested.

USAFA has had some issues claiming badges from Nevada flights. Working through this, but the NV record keeper has reportedly been difficult to work with. Badge and records committee is aware of the issue. A Discus B was badly damaged in an outlanding in Nevada. Working on a replacement. Will be attending glider aerobatics nationals and other contests. USAFA Association of Graduates is no longer permitted to purchase aircraft as they did for the current fleet of competitive Discus B's and Duos.

New Mexico

Unfortunate fatal accident with visiting pilot at Moriarty XC/OLC camp. Likely there were medical and fatigue factors. The camp was well received by the pilots, but voluntary commitment was lacking. Next camp, if and when scheduled, likely to be 9-day, rather than two week event.

Utah

Nephi OLC/XC camp was very well attended and successful. One pilot assisting on a retrieve was seriously injured when hit by a flying trailer during an extreme wind event. He is enduring a long

recovery from his head and leg injuries. After the bones heal, his leg will require multiple re-attachment surgeries.

Logan Mountain Flying Camp was well attended and successful. One pilot was injured in the mountains, striking the terrain after flying into a narrowing canyon. This resulted in a fair amount of online media coverage and mis-information in his home state of Ohio. It happened very early into his first flight into the hills.

Wyoming

Big Horn Soaring Club has disbanded and sold their equipment.