

SSA Region 10 Report
February 2018

Interesting year in the central US for soaring. Paths of drought and almost excessive moisture with rather sharp edges. I have had little contact outside of local area due to family commitments.

Arkansas. Still searching for a Governor. People seem to duck and run from office, and many seem to have "done that before" and are not so interested in doing it again. No further updates.

Louisiana. No updates, but small group.

Kansas. Wichita Soaring is working fleet upgrades.

Last Summer, there was talk of a MET Tower within the airport boundary of the old NAS Hutchinson (part of which is now Sunflower Gliderport), and within half a mile and along side the runway for Sunflower Gliderport. The proposal was denied its permit by the County Zoning Committee. However, there is apparently planning for installation of a large windmill farm as close as 5-7 miles to the southeast of Sunflower Gliderport, extending to the south and east.

The planned memorial service for Bill Seed was delayed until Spring of 2018. Final date is not yet set.

Kansas Soaring Association has submitted a bid for a Region 10 Contest to be held in 2018, and is likely to submit a bid for the Club Class Nationals for 2019.

Missouri, Western. Midwestern Soaring Association is in winter "hibernation".

Nebraska. No update.

Oklahoma. Both Oklahoma Soaring Association and Tulsa Skyhawks are still going, but both seem to have smaller club issues, such as "no towpilot for the weekend". Lots of activity on Facebook from the Oklahoma Soaring Association. Talk of more ridge and wave flying at Talahina.

Texas. Hamilton club is going and growing. SCOH to host a regionals, at the end of June. 15 Meter and Open Nationals at Uvalde.

General:

1. As pilots age, we all need to be watching them carefully. We want them to be able to fly as long as they safely can, but the end of "safely" can happen rather abruptly. I know of at least one pilot in my area that has said "this will be my last year of flying." Let's all keep an eye on everyone that flies, and help keep them safe. Young and old alike.

2. Wichita is lucky to have a Glider DPE. He is in good physical condition and very active. He is also in his mid 70s. Tony Condon has started the process to become a DPE. He is working with our current DPE, Charles Pate.