

Region 7 has been in hibernation since late fall but Spring will be here in a few weeks and operations will resume. The year end flight ops numbers for 2015 show a more or less stable picture for the clubs and commercial operators in the Region. The Chicagoland Glider Council hosts monthly meetings with speakers over the winter months and continues to provide training scholarships to 2-3 youth members each spring.

Contest Manager Leon Zueg is making final preparations for the Region 7 contest May 15-21 being held in Albert Lea Minnesota. In late March (19th), I will be attending the Minnesota Association of Soaring Clubs spring banquet. It is always fun to reconnect with my soaring friends from the northwest part of the region. At this event, they typically have an interesting speaker and they hand out awards for the previous season's record and notable flights including OLC results.

Ken Sorenson and I met with the EAA leaders in Oshkosh last week to begin working on how we can coordinate our efforts as a result of the signing of the SSA/EAA MOU. I will have more on this topic at the Board meeting. Planning for the SSA display at Air Venture 2016 is well underway with an experienced group of volunteers already in place and working on the details that make this work.

Geoff