

## **SSA Region 9 Report, 29 January 2016**

Frank Whiteley, 970-330-2050

[frank.whiteley@coloradoaring.org](mailto:frank.whiteley@coloradoaring.org)

### **Arizona**

AZ Soaring, Inc. Informative website has great aerobatic ride video. Facebook posting are infrequent and not particularly customer oriented. Ground, sky shots, and inflight pictures posted every few weeks. Will have convention booth.

Arizona Soaring Association. After a steady decline in their racing series since 2009, ASA is working to pump life back into this series by holding four weekends of 9 racing days. The races will handicapped Grand Prix format, with an OLC fallback option. Venue will be at Pleasant Valley Airport, AZ. They have scheduled a glider annual and parachute repack days. Web site has improved over last year. Small Facebook public group with infrequent postings.

Northwest SkySports. Web site appears fine. Daily Facebook postings of customer experience pictures and videos. Accompanying narratives are rather sparse.

Prescott Soaring Society's website is out of date and stale. No Facebook presence. Operational stand down for a period following a fatal accident from a winch launch.

Sky King Soaring. Motorglider based touring, training, ferrying, and brokerage in Payson, AZ. No Facebook presence. Reports keeping busy as he wants.

Tucson Soaring is holding an OLC/Badge Camp May 20-30. Large segments of web site are stale. Active Facebook Pubic Group page.

### **Colorado**

Black Forest Soaring Society. 501(c)(3) determination was received in late 2014. Web site is current but largely unchanged in design over several years. Some concern over CFI-G's but DPE in membership also. No Facebook presence. Asked to update their SSA contacts, as different from website.

Colorado Soaring Association. Currently surveying members about growth. Web site robust and current. New Facebook presence. New Year's Day breakfast and winching went well. Youth member Lee Slinger received one of the SSA's Bultman Youth Flight Scholarships for 2015.

Glider Bob. Glider rides in Telluride. Consultant, sales, and training for Stemme Motorgliders. Current and informative web site. Facebook Friend Site presence. Glider Bob Saunders ran for mayor of Telluride in 2015. Leader of the three candidates after the first round, he did not have enough votes to avoid a second round tally. He was bested by Sean Murphy, a gallery owner, in the second round.

Grand Mesa Soaring Association has gone dormant, despite appearance of web site. Yahoo group has gone silent. See Western Slope Soaring, Inc.

High Flights Soaring Club. Newer, redesigned web site and active on Facebook since October 2015.

Mile High Gliding. Website framework unchanged since 2002, though updated in 2012 and again in 2015 with current staff and offerings. Facebook posts are infrequent. Turnkey ride and training operation which is on the market for an asking price in the range of \$450K. Not very happy with LivingSocial experience last year so did not use them for gift certificate sales this year. DPE on staff.

Soaring Society of Boulder. Largest chapter in Colorado. Web site appears to be current. No Facebook presence.

Steamboat Springs Soaring Association. Lapsed briefly as chapter late 2015. No Facebook presence. Web site is getting stale.

USAFA registered disappointment that no regional contests planned for Region 9 or Region 10. Mark Matticola was advised that a Junior contest was being planned for TSA. I suggested Region 7 contest was well within their normal radius of operations. Suggested that an OLC/XC was likely for Moriarty, though no sanction application seen to date.

Western Slope Soaring, Inc. is a recent development arising from the collapse of Grand Mesa Soaring Assn. It will operate as a club at Crawford, CO, as does Crawford Soaring. Neither has web site nor Facebook presence. Crawford Soaring, Inc, is an SSA Business Member.

## **New Mexico**

Albuquerque Soaring Club. Both website and Facebook page are two or more years out of date. Web site discussion forum is somewhat active.

Hobbs Soaring Society. No web or Facebook presence. CFI-G needed.

Sundance Aviation. Website appears current. Facebook presence is using a personal profile rather than organization and is not actively maintained.

White Sands Soaring Association. Active Yahoo discussion group. Wordpress based web site that needs more member posts.

## **Utah**

Active Yahoo group for Utah soaring pilots.

Elk Mountain Soaring. Website domain has expired and is being replaced. No Facebook presence. Membership composed of Utah Soaring Association members. No Facebook presence.

Leading Edge Aviation in Logan, UT, offers glider training.

Parowan. Auxiliary-powered Sailplane Association Camp scheduled.

Utah Soaring Association. Held some winch training camps at Nephi to get instructors and others qualified. Currently dealing with winch drum replacement. Successful OLC/XC camp. Hosting national competition summer of 2016. Currently running winter soaring seminar series. Current, informative website. No Facebook presence.

### **Wyoming**

Nothing to report. At least a couple if Pipistrel Sinus are operating around the Laramie area. One visited Owl Canyon Gliderport in Colorado during New Year's Day winch operations.