August 25, 2015

To: SSA Board of Directors
From: Sailplane Tracking Committee

The Sailplane Tracking Committee is committed to continually improving the functionality and entertainment value of the tracking application so generously provided by Pedja Bogdanovich and GlidePort Aero.

For 2015 we have had great success with the SSA Tracking Map found on the SSA homepage. Feedback from users has been very positive, especially among spouses and crew members. More and more we hear stories of tracking maps being displayed in club houses and on the grounds of contests.

The Contest Tracking Map has undergone many behind the scene changes and improvements this year. However, we still get inquiries into why trackers are not showing up. It boils down to database omissions, errors and incompatibilities. What seems so simple actually takes on great complexities when you consider we have three types of trackers, two separate sources of database entries and numerous users manipulating those devices and database entries. Hopefully the bugs will become less and less over time.

For 2016 Pedja is rewriting the code to make it more universal across browsers and mobile devices. We should see an improvement in stability among browsers and added features on the mobile devices. The 3D pane has been very unstable. This is due to Google Earth updates which cause bugs with us. As a fix Pedja is testing a terrain provider that will reduce our dependence on Google Earth. The beta version is working although with some visual changes.

Windows 10 has been unveiled and is a vast improvement over previous Windows versions. The supplied browser in Windows 10 is more like the "other" browsers and will be compatible with our Tracker. There are just a few tweaks to make it fully functional. This will eliminate one of our points of user frustration.

There has been considerable discussion among our committee about a way we can depict relative energy states among competitors. We desire a way to show "energy states" or "split times". The thought is that every sporting event from NASCAR to Olympic Competition show some type of real time comparison among entrants. We should also develop a way for viewers to compare what is happening on the race course. Not an actual official score but a tit for tat comparison of where we are as the day unfolds.

Additional good news is that Pedja has hired a programmer to assist him with his endeavors. The additional man power should accelerate the progress to our Tracking Maps.

Here's To A Great 2016 Season In Tracking,

Lane Bush – Chairman, SSA Sailplane Tracking Committee