

Cross Country Training and Development Committee Report for SSA Board of Directors Meeting, Winter 2018

Good afternoon SSA board! Since the last meeting, I have been appointed as Chair of the Cross Country Training and Development Committee (CCTDC). I am a 41 year old commercial glider pilot who has been flying gliders since I was 14 years old. I am a Commercial glider pilot, SEL Instrument, and A&P Mechanic, and currently reside just north of Denver, Colorado. My other two appointed committee members are my East Coast representative, Mr. Andrew Brayer who is a 31 year old CFG from Elmira, NY who won the Sports Class nationals last year and races actively in his ASW-20. The West Coast representative, Mr. Garret Willat, who is 36 years old and won multiple National contests, is a CFG, and runs Warner Springs Gliderport. Both of these guys have credentials far beyond what I have mentioned, and I feel a good portion of the soaring community is already aware of these credentials.

Since taking over the committee, I have started a couple different programs, both in various stages of development. The first of these, which will be a webinar series hosted by David Lessnick, who is an enthusiastic member out of LVVSA. JP Stewart and I have combined forces in order provide guidance to him in his endeavor to get a webinar series up and running. My goal is to eventually have David running these on his own since his goal is to encompass everything from first flights of the year to advanced racing skills. JP and I are primarily helping him to get set up, and get him the contacts he needs to host these webinars successfully. I will continue to be heavily involved in the development and production of these webinars for quite some time, however I will slowly give David more and more authority over "His baby". For the topics, imagine a video of Garrets weekly articles with hands on experience and the ability to see "Hands on" and to ask questions live. You can expect the first webinar to commence May 1st. Below is a link to the "Roll out" promo for this series.
[Roll Out Promo](#)

As a group, our second program is a bit less developed, but I have an outline of what the three of us would like to accomplish. This will, within the next year become the main thrust of our project, and our team. I am putting together a brief power point, and speaking outline of this which we will present at various clubs. For this program, one of us would show up on a weekend to the smaller clubs around the country as SSA representatives after contacting club leadership. We will speak to as big of a cross section of the membership as possible, beginning with an outline of

personal and equipment preparation. Following this, a hands on "Expert" look at the clubs equipment will be conducted and suggestions will be made in a live, fluid environment. Next, discussion of cross country will happen, along with emphasis on setting up local turn points, and knowing one never has to travel too far from the home airport in order to get a feel for what is possible with the current gliders within a club. The OLC will be explained, and a hands on tutorial as to its use will be presented. Personalized help either on site, or remotely will be available to help refine this list of turn points. One of the committee members will always be available to answer questions, and, if requested on future days can check weather, and hand out small tasks within the area. I am envisioning this as a full-spectrum support kind of operations similar to each small club having their own personal Tony Smoulder.

In addition to this, I am going to start a series in the achievements section of Soaring magazine detailing peoples first cross country experience, how many miles they flew, and which clubs successfully started up an active cross country program. I eventually envision awards being given out by the SSA for smaller clubs who are just starting a program as well as the already present awards for the "Goliaths" like Moriarty Soaring, SCOH, etc.

This committee firmly believes in cross country being the key to the future of soaring. It not only helps the SSA retain members, but the excitement generated can help is gain members as well. This committee is firmly committed to helping to build the future of soaring in the United States. We are always open to suggestions, and wish the SSA board a prosperous year ahead.

Mitch Hudson

Erie, Colorado

February 16, 2018