



# PASCO

# SOARING

Pacific Soaring Council, Inc.

*A non-profit volunteer organization serving glider pilots in Northern California and Nevada*

## **Support Your Soaring Community!**

Join PASCO and support your Soaring Community in Northern California, Nevada and Hawaii. PASCO is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization.

## **What is PASCO and why should I Join??**

### **Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of PASCO (Pacific Soaring Council) is to initiate, sponsor, promote, and carry out plans, policies, and activities that further the growth and development of the soaring movement in Region 11 of the Soaring Society of America. Activities are targeted at increasing the number of soaring pilots in the region in addition to the development of soaring pilots to promote safety of flight, training in the physiology of flight, cross country and high altitude soaring and the development of competition pilots and contest personnel at the local, regional, national and international level.

### **PASCO History and member contributions**

Since PASCO's founding 40 years ago, a huge amount of pioneering work has been done by PASCO volunteers. In the 1960's, 70's and 80's, PASCO helped to fill the (then) huge gaps in the soaring instruction infrastructure (training beyond license at the clubs and FBO's) of the period, so that pilots would have an extended learning environment. Think Wave Camp, Cross Country camp, Regional Championships, PASCO League, safety & educational seminars, regional communications through WestWind, etc. In a vast region with multiple active soaring sites, PASCO has provided a sense of community for regional soaring pilots since its inception.

Historically speaking, as PASCO initiatives succeeded, some have been adopted and perpetuated by local clubs/sites. The most recent example of this is the race series at Williams and the Hollister League - these local series were started as a result of the popularity of the PASCO League in the 1990's. Likewise, the Thermal and X-C camps originated by PASCO still run every year at Air Sailing and provide several clubs with a way to introduce new pilots to high desert soaring in a safe way. So in addition to events currently sponsored by PASCO, PASCO volunteers have been instrumental in originating many of the activities we now enjoy at sites throughout the region.

### **PASCO and the SSA**

What is PASCO's link to the SSA? We've made a point of including our SSA Region 11 Directors as active members of our PASCO board meetings and we get early reports from the SSA meetings for inclusion in WestWind. Our regional communications structure does provide a 'back-channel' to get concerns to our SSA representatives, thus forums for regional information such as WestWind and the Region 11 Yahoo group are valuable.

The ubiquity of computers and the web, almost non-existent 15 years ago, has changed all aspects of our soaring infrastructure and communications. ALL communications, from the National level (SSA) to the local level (FBO forums) happens instantly and with great ease. How much is direct SSA communication making PASCO's traditional activity redundant? The answer (from experience), is almost not at all, as the SSA is itself an organization of (largely) volunteers which is barely equipped to deal with the same issues PASCO does, albeit at a national level. The SSA is not a 'mother ship' upon which to shift all regional burdens - there are simply insufficient resources at the national level to make this a possibility. In an era of instant communication, PASCO fills a big need as an organization focused on our own regional concerns.

## What plan for the future?

A major issue for PASCO is how it should evolve and adapt to changing conditions in the local and national soaring movement. PASCO volunteers have been improving the regional soaring infrastructure since its inception by addressing perceived regional needs – as these will continue to occur, so will a role for PASCO. The higher goal here is to do what we can to help our regional soaring environment flourish. That is the big over-arching idea. How we add value will change over time as situations evolve.

There are regional issues that directly affect our pilots and FBO's that local sites are not often able, interested or equipped to handle. The most obvious one here is the recent airspace crisis following the glider-jet mid-air near Minden in 2006. Only a unified response from the soaring community could have worked effectively to manage the fallout from this accident – something key PASCO members and leaders were able to do. Without PASCO as group with decades of experience in dealing with region-wide issues, this event could have been a disaster for Sierra and Region 11 soaring.

The PASCO web site ([www.pacificsoaring.org](http://www.pacificsoaring.org)) is of the highest importance for helping drive public awareness of our sport and where to fly in the area, as a repository for a large number of informative articles and presentations from past seminars as well as West Wind archives - with the vast majority of communication and information flow now taking place over the internet, a really viable, attractive, search engine friendly web site is paramount. PASCO now has an updated web site. In addition, we have some plans for pod casting and promotional videos to pull the punters in and make soaring visible to the public and, dare I say it – cool.

Currently, several prominent PASCO members are heavily involved in youth programs and CAP in particular – folks like Bob Semans at Minden, Jim Goetsch, Drew Pearce and Russell Holtz in the past youth program at Hollister Gliding Club, and the NCSA at Byron, who recently have 3 new teenage members. Youth programs are a very strategic activity, as many will leave the sport to build their lives and careers and return later – deep seeds are sown here.

**For truly urgent issues, PASCO provides an organizational umbrella under which its members can rally to provide the strength of a unified voice. This is the most important thing anyone needs to understand about PASCO – it is a cooperative community of regional soaring pilots aimed at promoting and protecting our interests, retaining existing pilots and working as a group to achieve these goals.**

**An organization such as PASCO is only as good as its member-volunteers, and this is why we invite you to join us – we need you!**

Thank you for your consideration - Peter Deane, PASCO President 2008.

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Annual Dues of \$25 pay for the publication of WestWind (our regional newsletter) and help us sponsor activities in Northern California and Nevada designed for soaring pilots at all levels of skill and experience. Make your check out to PASCO, and send with your contact information to: Ty White, 41600 Marigold Drive, Fremont, CA 94539

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Email \_\_\_\_\_