

SEATTLE AIR ROUTE TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER, SEATTLE  
GLIDER COUNCIL AND COLUMBIA BASIN SOARING ASSOCIATION

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

EFFECTIVE:

SUBJECT: GLIDER OPERATIONS WITHIN CLASS A AIRSPACE

1. **PURPOSE.** This Letter of Agreement establishes areas and procedures for glider operations within Class A Airspace under jurisdiction of the Seattle Air Route Traffic Control Center.
2. **DISTRIBUTION.** Appropriate Seattle Center personnel, Seattle Glider Council, Columbia Basin Soaring Association and the Northwest Mountain Region Air Traffic Division.
3. **CANCELLATION.** Seattle ARTCC, Seattle Glider Council and Columbia Basin Soaring Association Letter of Agreement, same subject, dated March 31, 1994.
4. **SCOPE.** The areas and procedures specified herein are for the conduct of VFR operations in Class A Airspace by members of the Seattle Glider Council and the Columbia Basin Soaring Association.
5. **RESPONSIBILITIES.**
  - a. Upon request by members of the Seattle Glider Council and the Columbia Basin Soaring Association, Seattle ARTCC authorizes deviation from FAR 91-135 in specified areas (see attached charts) under the provisions of this Letter of Agreement. Seattle ARTCC shall retain the authority to withdraw the provisions of this agreement at any time.
  - b. The Seattle Glider Council and the Columbia Basin Soaring Association shall assure that all pilots utilizing these procedures are familiar with and comply with this Letter of Agreement.
  - c. Authorization may be delegated by the Seattle Glider Council and/or the Columbia Basin Soaring Association to pilots not under their jurisdiction, provided a signed statement is obtained from each such pilot stating they accept and will comply with all conditions of this Letter of Agreement.
  - d. Flight shall be conducted in accordance with the basic VFR distance from clouds and flight visibility minimums specified in FAR 91.155.
  - e. Visual reference to the ground shall be maintained at all times. Gliders shall remain within the lateral boundaries of the assigned airspace (coordinates are depicted on attached charts).
6. **COORDINATION.**
  - a. The Seattle Glider Council shall provide Seattle ARTCC with a current list of phone numbers, to include; Council Board of Directors, as well as a contact number for each flight. This information shall be updated each January.
  - b. The requested time parameters for usage shall be coordinated with the Seattle Center Military Operations Specialist (MOS) at 253-351-3523 at least one hour prior to entry. (Weekly schedules may be coordinated.)

Area #3 is subdivided into Parts A and B. The actual usage of Part B will be authorized by the sector controller and is contingent upon the status of R6714B. Prior to operating within an established glider area, the pilot who initially requests entry into the area shall obtain approval from the appropriate Seattle Center sector and provide the following information:

- (1) Glider identification.
- (2) Air/ground communications and transponder capabilities, if any.
- (3) The pilot or his designee shall remain on frequency unless otherwise coordinated.
- (4) Estimated entry time and duration of flight within the glider area.
- (5) Altitudes requested in the area.

**Note:** Appropriate frequencies are listed on the attached charts.

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- c. When it is known that an area will not be used for at least 30 minutes, the Seattle Glider Council shall coordinate the return of this airspace to Seattle ARTCC, and coordinate a new release time.
- d. Pilots may extend time periods and altitudes (through coordination with the Seattle Center by radio or telephone) prior to the expiration time. Airborne request to utilize the glider areas may be approved at the discretion of the sector controller after coordination with other affected sectors and the MOS. Pilots are encouraged to schedule usage of the areas as per paragraph 5b to the maximum extent possible.

## 7. **PROCEDURES.**

- a. Pilots shall report entry/exit of glider operating areas to Seattle ARTCC, either via telephone or via radio to the affected sector, relay through Flight Service Station, or relay through another pilot to Seattle ARTCC.
- b. All flight in established glider areas shall be terminated before expiration of the approved time limit. Seattle Center shall be notified as soon as possible if the glider area is vacated prior to the approved time limit.
- c. More than one glider may be authorized to operate simultaneously in an established glider area. All pilots shall be aware of and agree to simultaneous use of the area and conform to FAR 91.111.
- d. When the requested area is not available, Seattle Center shall suggest alternate time periods and flight levels.
- e. Seattle Center shall apply 5 NM lateral and appropriate IFR vertical separation from the specific glider areas when in use.

## 8. **ATTACHMENTS:** 1 and 2

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Air Traffic Manager, Seattle ARTCC

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President, Seattle Glider Council

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President, Columbia Basin Soaring Association