

The world has changed a lot since the beginning of this year. Currently the State of Washington is under Stay at Home orders through May and may extend even later. The Corona virus pandemic we're going through imposes health and financial challenges to our families, local communities and our soaring community that are beyond anything we've previously experienced. This is a close-knit community and our first concerns are for the health and wellbeing of our members and their families. We hope you are well and are able to stay safe.

The Seattle Glider Council board is working hard to ensure the viability of the organization and our beloved Ephrata based soaring site through this time of uncertainty. The information below is provided to let everyone know where we stand with respect to upcoming events and our ongoing finances. Our goals are to preserve the health of our members and community, and to position ourselves to maintain as many options as possible for soaring this year and into the future.

Event Status

All events are currently tentative and are subject to us being able to operate in a manner that complies with Washington State regulations and is consistent with providing a safe environment for our members. As we get additional information, we will update the status of these events.

Dust-up	May 23 rd through 25 th	(Pending)
OLC Camp	May 26 th through 30 th	(Pending)
Methow Encampment	June 21 st through 27 th	(Pending)
Region 8 Contest	July 6 th through 11 th	(Pending)

Ephrata Facility

The Ephrata facility is currently in winter storage and will not be opened and reactivated until it is clear we can have a viable, safe soaring operation.

Financial Status

If needed, we are in a reasonable position to weather a season without tow or event income, but we need to conserve our resources as much as possible to preserve future flying opportunities.

For those who have already purchased trailer parking, RV parking and facility use fees for 2020, we will honor refund requests. We are not planning on refunding general membership fees.

Both towplanes have received their annual inspections in anticipation of the season. Those costs have already been expended and are not recoverable. We have negotiated with our insurance carrier to allow both towplanes and the DG-1000 to remain on non-flight status for as long as we need. We can return any of our aircraft to flight status with several days' notice and pay prorated fees for the duration of their flight status.

Summary

This is a tough blow to a sport that all of us love dearly, but there are factors at play that are beyond our control. We're fortunately in a position to weather this financially and to keep soaring options available in the Columbia Basin into the future. Please take care and be safe. We wish you and your loved ones good health and a return to the activities you love when this passes.