

THE RELEASE

APRIL 2025

The Monthly Newsletter of the Philadelphia Glider Council

IN THIS ISSUE:

- President's Message
- Spring Field Checks
- Parachutes
- Call to Action
- New Members
- Editor's Note
- Upcoming Events

Member Checklist

Members must complete prior to their first flight of the year:

- Pay Annual Dues
- Update Pilot Data Forms
- Attend Ops & Safety Briefing
- Complete Initial Kiting Lesson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome Back!

I am excited to welcome everyone back to the field for another excellent season of soaring! The early days of spring are always full of anticipation as we wait for the field to dry and the grass to grow. Any day now, the field will be abuzz with the sounds of radio calls, tow planes, green things, and the chatter of happy pilots!

This year represents my third season around club, my second as a member, and my first as president of PGC. In such a short time, I have fallen in love with all of the things that our club offers and represents. My hope is that all of our members, old and new, find the same joy in the sport that brings us together. If you are new to PGC, I encourage you to get involved on and off the field! Our club is only as great as our members make it!

With our anticipated Krauss Hangar Replacement this season, please help us work together to continue smooth operations and safety on the ground. Look out for announcements and communications for changes.

See you on the field! - Chris Lee



SPRING FIELD CHECKS / Phil Klauder

Spring is here, and we are anxious to get back up in the air. This is also the time of year that Tom Knauff use to call “The Silly Season”, because we are rusty, and prone to make silly mistakes. The best way to avoid that is to take your first flight of the year with a friendly PGC instructor in the rear seat.

If you are a licensed glider pilot, you need to take an “annual” check ride with a PGC instructor. When do you need it?

1. Log onto our web site and look at your status for “PGC Glider Annual Checkout” date. You will see the date when it expires. But wait, there is more...
2. Take a look at your log book. Are you FAA current to carry passengers? In other words, have you performed three glider takeoffs and landings in the last 90 days? If not, you are not PGC current, so you need your “PGC Glider Annual Checkout”. We have flown several times this winter, but not many of us are “3 flight current”.

So what is an “annual?” It is not a test. It is just a chance to brush off the dust with someone in the back seat for comfort.

So how do you do to prepare for your “annual?” You should spend some time thinking about flying, and thinking about the gliders you fly.

You should look over the flight manuals for the gliders you fly. Just to make sure you have done that, we would like you to fill out a quiz for each of the PGC gliders you have been checked out in. If you own your own glider, we’d like you to fill out a quiz for that glider too. Bring your completed quizzes to your check ride, and your instructor will review them with you.

Where do you find the flight manuals? Just log onto the PGC web site and select the pull down menus: **“Members Menu / Library / Document Library / Aircraft / Manuals”** If you get a message saying that there are no items in the library, please hit the refresh button. Then open

the documents available via links below. Are you a rear seat pilot? Would you like to kill two birds with one stone? You can take your “annual” check ride from the rear seat. Please open the Rear Seat Checkout form link at the end of the article to review the requirements.

We have one more requirement. The Soaring Society of America, along with the Civil Air Patrol, has created an on-line wing runner’s course, and we would like all PGC members to take that course once a year. We know that some of our members are not very comfortable running wings, and we think this will be very helpful. Of course, this is a generic course, and we have some special practices at PGC, so we have written up a PGC supplement to the course that you can print out and refer to while you are taking the online course. Please click on the link to the supplement at the bottom of the article.

So, log onto the SSA web site and go to the Safety & Training page and click on the Wing Runners Course. Start with the Ground Handling section. You will be asked to enter your name - This is not registering you for anything, just recording how your name should appear on your graduation certificate. Please take the course, while referring to the PGC supplement Please take the SSA exam at the end of the course, and print out your certificate. Yes, I know, some of the questions are poorly worded (especially the one about another aircraft on final). Don’t worry about it. The certificate is pass/fail. Please bring your certificate with you to show your instructor when you take your “annual.”

PGC has been promoting the FAA WINGS program this year, If you attended the winter ground school, you earned the three knowledge credits you need to satisfy the requirements for an FAA “Biennial” flight review. If not, you can sign up for the WINGS program, and earn the knowledge credits by other ways. For instance, the SSA Wing Runners course gives you one knowledge credit.



SPRING FIELD CHECKS - Continued

Now you just need three flight credits, one from each topic. If you only fly gliders, the flight tasks are limited (click the course to access the link):

Topic 1

- [Flight Activity A070405-25: G-Takeoffs, Launches, Landings, Slips](#)
- [Flight Activity A070405-134: G-Takeoffs, Launches, Landings, Slips](#)
- [Flight Activity A070405-135: G-Takeoffs, Launches, Landings, Downwind Landings](#)
- [Flight Activity SSF-A-Badge: G-SSA A-Badge \(earn an A Badge\)](#)

Topic 2

- [Flight Activity A070405-26: G-Slow Flight, Stall, Soaring, Steep Turns \(PGC Annual Checkride\)](#)
- [Flight Activity SSF-B-Badge: G-SSA B-Badge \(earn an B Badge\)](#)

Topic 3

- [Flight Activity A100125-32: G-Air Work](#)
- [Flight Activity A100125-31: G-Ground and Takeoff Tasks](#)
- [Flight Activity SSF-C-Badge: G-SSA C-Badge \(earn a C Badge\)](#)
- [Flight Activity SSF- Bronze Badge-Flight: G- Bronze Badge Flight Activities \(earn a Bronze Badge\)](#)

The good news is that the PGC Annual Check Ride satisfies the requirements of Flight Activity A070405-26. So, once you have flown your Annual Check Ride, get on the FAA WINGS web site and request credits for Flight Activity A070405-26 from the instructor you flew with.

So, please read through your glider manuals, fill out the glider quizzes, take the on-line wing runner course, and print out your certificate. Then just come out to the field and take your "annual" with your favorite instructor.

LINKS:

[Annual Checkride Form](#)

[Grob 103 Quiz](#)

[Grob 102 Quiz](#)

[Duo Discus Quiz](#)

[Discus B Quiz](#)

[Private Glider Quiz](#)

[Rear Seat Checkout Form](#)

[SSA Wing Runners Course](#)

[PGC Wing Runners Course Supplement](#)

PARACHUTES / Charles Norman

At the Spring Membership Meeting, we were fortunate to be joined by Chris Howard of [Prime Rigging](#). Chris is a Master Parachute Rigger, an accomplished skydiver, as well as the local distributor for [Strong \(Paradigm\)](#), and [Para-Pernalia \(Softie\)](#) Parachutes. Chris provided a club with a fantastic overview of important things to know about emergency chutes and their operation. He also stressed the advantages of adding a static line to an emergency chute. Chris has generously offered a 10% discount on installation of a static line to your existing chute or \$500 off the purchase of a new chute. Chris can be reached at info@prime-rigging.com or (267) 429-5365.



CALL TO ACTION / Wolfgang Thamm

As you know, the Bucks County Health Department is requesting PGC to become compliant with their rules regarding Campers. If PGC wants to maintain the ability to have campers, we need 3-4 members to assess the actual work required, the potential risks, and cost involved and then present an action plan to the board. Please contact Wolfgang Thamm wthamm@outlook.com, if you are willing to take this on. If we can't form this committee, then we will have to remove campers from PGC until we come into compliance.

NEW MEMBERS

At the spring membership meeting, the club voted to make **Thomas Murray, Andrew Robinson** and **Michael Neary** permanent members. Welcome to the club!

EDITOR'S NOTE / Charles Norman

Welcome to The Release. We are reintroducing our club newsletter. I hope this will assist us in staying connected as a club and be a useful forum to share information, stories, and achievements. Importantly, we need your contributions! Please reach out with comments, additions, and suggestions at ruddervatoraviation@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 15
PGC
Operations and
Safety Briefing
7:00pm
(Via Zoom)

May 18 to 24
Region 2
Contest
Mifflin, PA

May 19 to 30
SSA Cross
Country Camp
Caesar Creek,
OH

June 6 to 15
Region 2 North
Contest
Wurtsboro, NY

June 14 and 15
Freedom
Wings
PGC

About

The Philadelphia Glider Council (PGC) is a private 501 (c) 3 non profit membership-based flight school composed of men, women and families who are dedicated to the joy and adventure of soaring flight. PGC is an affiliate member of the Soaring Society of America.



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