

# WEST WIND

## September 2023

### Newsletter of the

# Portland Area Sailplane Society

Vol. 2023 Issue 09 September



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## PASS Club News

**Note: The FAA approved FRIA field is located in St. Paul across from the rodeo stadium. See the detailed map on Page 2 of this newsletter for field details and flying restrictions.**



#### Club Officers & Officials

##### President

Bruce Rose 503-848-2228

##### Vice President

Keith Ragsdale 503-680-2427

##### Treasurer

Tom Culmsee 503-358-8421

##### Secretary

Tom Fowler 503-799-5164

##### Director

Martin Baumer 503-560-0492

##### Director

Ken Eaton 541-206-7344

##### Contest Coordinator

Jim Gibson 503-669-7271

##### Safety Coordinator

Tom Culmsee 503-358-8421

##### Librarian

(Position Open)

##### Web Page Editor

Tom Culmsee 503-358-8421

##### Newsletter Editor

Jim Gibson 503-669-7271

jimgibson6237@gmail.com

##### New Club Website

Passoaring.org

### NEW MEETING LOCATION

### PASS Meeting Notice September 12th:

The club meeting will be on Tuesday the 12th. The meeting location starting last month and for the rest of the year is at a different Round Table Pizza from the one we have met at in the past. Gather about 6:30 and meeting starts at 7:00pm.

**Round Table Pizza**

**16444 Boones Ferry Road**

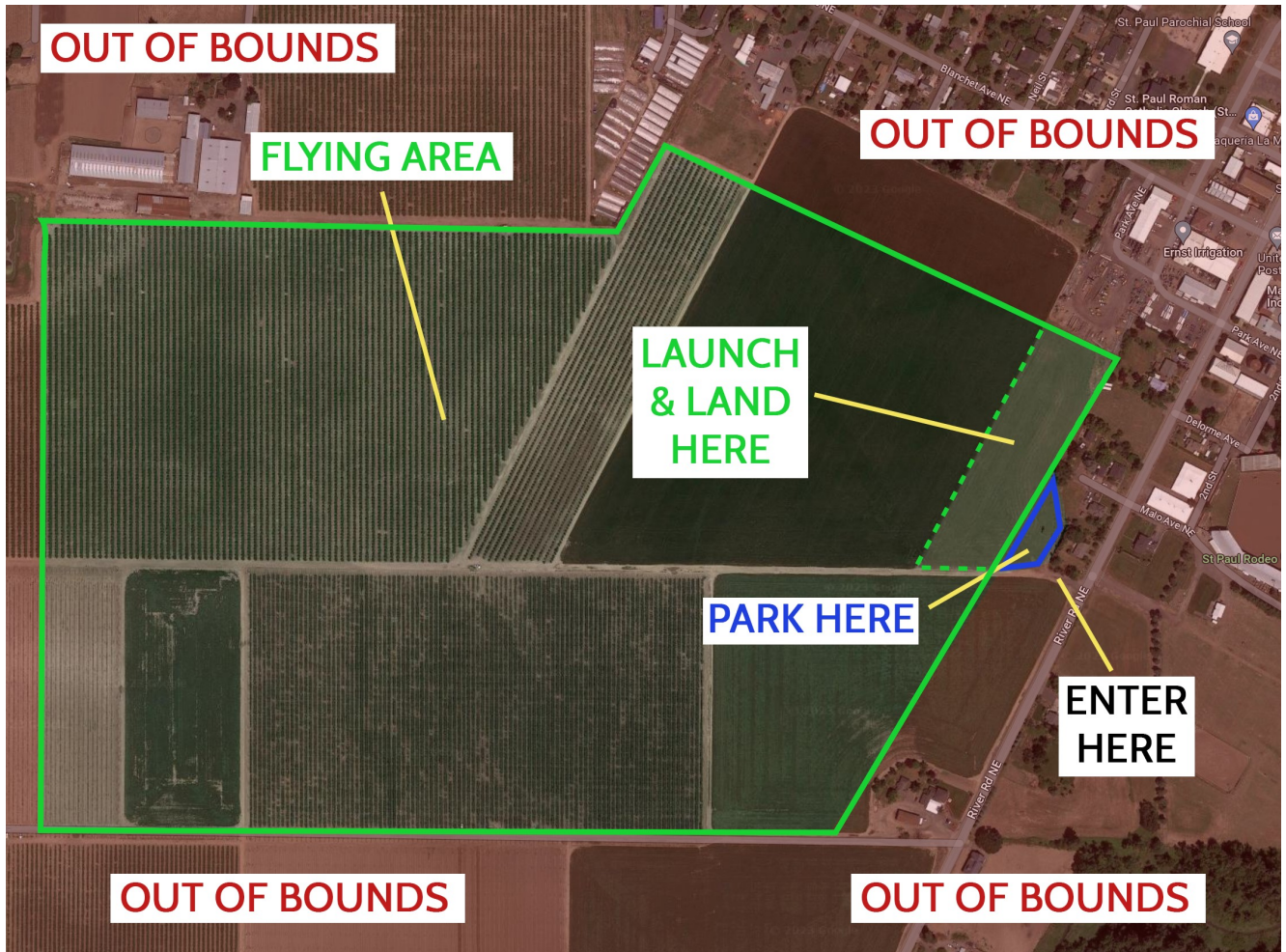
**Lake Oswego, OR 97035**

**503-636-3350**

St. Paul Field



Out of Bounds-Revised 08-01-2023



## PASS August 8 Meeting Notes— Report by Tom Fowler

Meeting called to order by Tom C. At 7:14 at Round Table Pizza on Boones Ferry Road. The new meeting place was given a 'thumbs up' by all who attended.

The guests are Ken H. and he shared some of his experience flying. He would like help with programming his transmitter.

Scott shared about the hand launch contest that had 4 contestants. The CD had 6 rounds and 6 tasks: 1,2,3,4-minute flights ending with 2 flights to total 4-minutes, all up last down launching to start and there was a max 3 minutes for the 2 flights.

Next hand launch is this coming Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Aero tow report: July fun fly was at the Molalla RC fields with not too many thermal. Tom B. Has a monster KA6. Martin B. Was the tow plane pilot. A 3-day event is coming up August 18,19, 20 at Gillette field with a grass landing strip. Normally good thermals occur there. Last Scale Fun Fly for the season is Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> and that falls on a Tuesday.

Jim is getting a classic scale sailplane made by master craftsmen, Fred China. It has a 4.6-meter wingspan.

F3Res 3 weeks ago had the best thermals ever for the 2-meter planes. The contest consisted of 6 rounds with 10-minute tasks. Many maxed out their time. Landing points won the day. The last F3Res contest is September 24th.

The Kevin Martin Memorial contest was great with BIG turnout and great lift. The event was held on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> and we had a nice catered lunch arranged by Tom C. A special part of the celebration of life event was the spreading of Kevin's ashes over the flying field from one of his sailplanes, piloted by Jason Hood. Kevin's daughter was there and was greatly touched by the event.

The ALES contest was last Saturday with overcast conditions which resulted in shorter flight times in the rounds before lunch. After lunch the thermals were better. 6 rounds of 10-minute duration goal and a spot landing. However, there was a catch: No points if you went over the 10-minute window.

There is an upcoming 2-day ALES contest at Carnation site in Seattle, WA this coming weekend. Tom C. Is planning on going along with Mike S. and other serious contenders.

Treasure's report: will be available at the next meeting. We are solvent with. Over \$7,000 in the account.

Tom c. Had some Allen Halleck stuff: Sig riser free and a Fun Cub for \$125 plus and plugin switches for only \$2 each.

Terry had some used dental bits for give away for use in your Dremel Tool.

Our Saint Paul Flying Field layout has changed to meet the FRIA requirements. The website picture has been updated with this new layout.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

## June 17-18 Thermalitis — Report by Tom Culmsee

### Thermalitis Contest a Time Travel Mystery

The 2023 LSF Regionals and PASS Thermalitis contest was indeed held on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> in good conditions. Temperatures were a bit cool, but overall mild with plenty of thermal activity. Unfortunately a nasty weather system was to arrive on Sunday forcing the CD into a controversial decision. The solution - time travel the pilots into Sunday and back again, kind of like the "Philadelphia Experiment" only without guys arms and legs melded in with wings and fuselages. That way we could get the necessary three rounds flown and make a legitimate contest. The delicate temporal adjustments were successful and we managed to get in five rounds for the Saturday flying and then another three for "Sunday". That way all the trophy glasses pre-made and expertly lasered by our own Chris Staats (Thank You!!) didn't need to be tossed in the dumpster of forgotten rained-out contests.

Here were the results . . .

#### SATURDAY

Pilot Name	Class	Total
Jason Hood	RES	4,826
Ken Eaton	RES	5 << yes he did
Tracy Erdman	Expert	4,907
Chris Staats	Expert	4,906
Rex Grace	Expert	4,894
Tom Culmsee	Expert	4,819
Jason Hood	Expert	4,767
Ken Eaton	Expert	4,718
David Portwood	Expert	4,615
Tom Brightbill	Expert	4,601
Richard Van Dijk	Expert	4,585
John Burke	Expert	4,555
Keith Ragsdale	Expert	1,756
LANCE Olson	Comp	4,744
Dewey Maroney	Comp	4,356
Terry Erickson	Comp	2,704
Chris Staats	2-M	4,834
Tom Brightbill	2-M	4,770
Keith Ragsdale	2-M	4,452

#### SUNDAY

Pilot Name	Class	Total
Jason Hood	RES	2,906
Tom Culmsee	Expert	2,973
Tom Brightbill	Expert	2,929
Rex Grace	Expert	2,897
Ken Eaton	Expert	2,888
Jason Hood	Expert	2,790
Tracy Erdman	Expert	2,629
David Portwood	Expert	2,534
Chris Staats	Expert	2,411
John Burke	Expert	1,767
LANCE Olson	Comp	2,918
Dewey Maroney	Comp	2,565
Chris Staats	2-M	2,420
Tom Brightbill	2-M	1,600



## ThermalSearch 2023 .. a Magical Experience

Kevin Martin Tribute and Contest Report

By Tom Culmsee

In what will be long remembered by all that attended, this year's ThermalSearch contest featured a Memorial Tribute to Kevin Martin. Kevin was the primary CD of this event which was first held in 1976 and every year since. Northwest Soaring pilots and PASS members gathered on July 29th and 30th in St Paul to either attend the contest itself or to witness and even participate in a very special memorial program for our recently past friend. Kevin's only daughter Kelley and her husband Nick were also in attendance and added a very emotional element to the day.



Kelley & Ken's eMaxa

Saturday started out with perfect flying conditions and awesome weather. A huge turnout of pilots was on-hand and a testament to Kevin's impact on our model soaring hobby. We flew the traditional format of a 5 and 8 minute International Duration task followed by Kevin's favorite 10 min VariLand the balance of the rounds for both days. Lift started out plentiful and lasted throughout the whole contest.

Just after the noon hour, we paused the contest and conducted the special memorial tribute to Kevin. Everyone was invited to grab whatever plane they wanted and we conducted a mass launch and fly-around the field. At the same time, Jason Hood and Ken Eaton choreographed a special flight that ended with a portion of Kevin's ashes, loaded onto Jason's eAVA, dropping perfectly into a thermal while Ken flew his eMaxa with "Kevin Martin" emblazoned on the bottom of the wings. An awesome memory for everyone.

Afterwards, everyone adjourned to a tasty lunch buffet set-up by the local Harvester Taproom restaurant. Once everybody had their fill of BBQ wings, pulled pork sandwiches and all the fixins, it was onto the rest of the contest day.



Kevin launched into a thermal

Sunday was just more of the same, with perfect conditions for the second contest day. In the end, congratulations to Chris Staats and Ken Eaton for winning RES class (Kevin's class!) on Saturday and Sunday respectively. Jim Frahm and Martin Baumer were the Expert class winners for each day also with John Long beating all his friends in the Competitor class.

Many many thanks to all that helped put on this incredible contest and to all that came out for some portion of the celebration. Particular noteworthy are Chris Staats for field maintenance and awards production, Ken Eaton & Jason Hood for "Kevin's Flight" and Craig Robinson for event photography.

### SATURDAY

Pilot Name	Class	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Chris Staats	RES	973	990	998	998	990	4,949
David Portwood	RES	994	970	993	900	974	4,831
Jason Hood	RES	946	893	968	983	965	4,755
Ken Eaton	RES	963	950	930	985	893	4,721
Terry Erickson	RES	806	783	945	978	977	4,489
Tom Culmsee	RES	948	985	987	993	167	4,080
Jim Gibson	RES	973	618	882	969	367	3,809
John Long	RES	998	800	900	575	139	3,412
Tracy Erdman	RES	635	915	179	945	632	3,306
Jim Frahm	Expert	990	983	980	994	980	4,927
Jim Gibson	Expert	967	938	986	985	982	4,858
John Burke	Expert	917	968	975	991	976	4,827
Ken Eaton	Expert	998	883	988	971	966	4,806
Tom Brightbill	Expert	975	953	988	923	917	4,756
Chris Staats	Expert	994	995	993	779	988	4,749
Martin Baumer	Expert	988	993	985	980	795	4,741
David Portwood	Expert	977	990	979	971	779	4,696
LANCE Olson	Expert	985	740	974	954	992	4,645
Rex Grace	Expert	798	990	944	823	989	4,544
Curtis Headrick	Expert	980	1000	501	611	997	4,089
Tracy Erdman	Expert	740	658	349	989	986	3,722
Jason Hood	Expert	785	406	709	873	910	3,683
Dewey Maroney	Expert	937	888	730	848	259	3,662
Keith Ragsdale	Expert	935	503	855	885	457	3,635
Tim Lynch	Expert	783	893	980	685	0	3,341
Richard Van Dijk	Expert	802	985	874	0	0	2,661
John Long	Comp	925	940	946	958	936	4,705

**SUNDAY**

Pilot Name	Class	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Ken Eaton	RES	998	988	991	990	999	4,966
Jason Hood	RES	1000	960	891	976	997	4,824
Dan Fiedler	RES	971	985	990	900	957	4,803
Chris Staats	RES	966	965	898	975	994	4,798
Terry Erickson	RES	843	733	860	727	419	3,582
Tracy Erdman	RES	936	438	964	163	963	3,464
Martin Baumer	Expert	975	974	985	993	995	4,922
John Burke	Expert	962	978	982	971	998	4,891
Ken Eaton	Expert	950	979	994	963	995	4,881
Shawn Berkheimer	Expert	974	995	997	951	960	4,877
Curtis Headrick	Expert	959	975	996	962	982	4,874
Tom Culmsee	Expert	952	968	966	993	970	4,849
Jim Gibson	Expert	955	938	986	878	974	4,731
Jim Frahm	Expert	993	943	990	981	800	4,707
Jason Hood	Expert	928	995	891	900	985	4,699
Richard Van Dijk	Expert	974	880	970	969	899	4,692
Tracy Erdman	Expert	976	853	948	872	951	4,600
LANCE Olson	Expert	903	975	961	769	951	4,559
Tom Brightbill	Expert	824	920	984	701	938	4,367
Chris Staats	Expert	821	933	997	401	937	4,089
Dewey Maroney	Expert	859	545	884	745	894	3,927
Rex Grace	Expert	919	953	304	283	969	3,428
Tim Lynch	Expert	338	338	0	0	0	



Kevin's Last Award



Kevin's Last Flyby before Mass Launch



Ready for launch



Toast to Kevin



Large Turnout



Remembering Kevin



Kevin's in There!

Look for more pics and videos of the event on [PASSoaring.org](http://PASSoaring.org) soon!

## August 5 ALES Contest — Report by Chris Staats

A very calm, warm, overcast morning greeted us for our August ALES contest. 11 flyers arrived for the pilot's meeting which began promptly at 9:00am. We were able to fly six rounds of three flight groups. In Round 1 flight groups were assigned by random selection, with the remaining rounds assigned in order of the pilot's running contest score. We tried a new format for this contest which for now and in the future will be known as "F5J light". All rounds in F5J light have 10 minutes task times. Flight scores are normalized within each flight group, and both a landing bonus and a launch bonus are added to the normalized flight score for the resulting round score. No landing bonus is awarded if the flight time exceeds the task time. The landing bonus is determined by our normal 50-point spot landing method. The launch bonus is determined by the contestant's launch height in each round, 0 points for a 200-meter launch, 50 points for a 150-meter launch, and 100 points for a 100-meter launch. Due to the air conditions in the first couple of rounds, it was very difficult to reach 10 minutes from a 150-meter launch, however it was possible, and those who took the risk and were successful, quickly rose to the top of the leaderboard. After our lunch break, the skies cleared, and more thermal activity arrived. This brought about a mix of launch strategies, some attempting to make up ground, some being careful to protect their leads. In the end it was a fun and challenging contest format, which you will see again in the future. I hope to see you at the next ALES event on September 10<sup>th</sup>. If you are not flying ALES you are really missing out!

Pilot	Score	Pct
Tom Culmsee	6484	100.00%
Ken Eaton	6481	99.95%
Jim Gibson	6321	97.49%
Lance Olson	6052	93.34%
Bill Keenan	5980	92.23%
Martin Baumer	5942	91.64%
Dave Anderson	5797	89.40%
Chris Staats	5643	87.03%
Terry Erickson	5201	80.21%
Tom Fowler	4880	75.26%
Brian Bennett	4815	74.26%



1st Place  
Tom Culmsee



2nd Place  
Ken Eaton



3rd Place  
Jim Gibson

## August 12 Handlaunch — Report by Craig Robinson



Another perfect day for getting together with great friends and flying HL Gliders!

Forecast called for 80 degrees and 4 mph NW winds to start and 90 degrees with 9 mph wind by 3:00 pm. It did reach the predicted temperature high but the higher wind didn't quite get there. Regardless, the thermals were moving quickly.

Lift was surprisingly weak with very few boomers and high-altitude flights. Sink however, was quite strong if you happened to search the wrong area! I managed to test it several times, just to confirm.

We flew 7 rounds with Task L, ONE Flight, 9:59 minute max added at the end. Group A winner had a 1:02 flight! Group B was won with an 8:32 flight that effectively buried everyone else in the group...

Everyone had some great flights to remember, including some nice low saves. Huge congrats to Scott for his dominant 1<sup>st</sup> place finish! Nice flying Scott!

We increased the entry fee to \$10 with the goal of donating to the US WC team. Although we didn't raise a huge sum, maybe it will get them a meal or some gas in the tank. Best of luck to our great team!

Thanks to all for a memorable day of flying together! Let's do it again in September!

Rank	Name	Ctry	RegnNo	Club	Score	Pcnt	Raw Score	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Rnd6	Rnd7
								Best5 2:00max	1, 2, 3, 4	Best3 3:00max	L1 5max in 7m	Big Ladder	AllUp 3:00*3	1 flight 9:59max
1	FINTEL, Scott	USA			7000.0	100.00	7000.0	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0
2	MOORE, Topher				6335.2	90.50	6335.2	899.3	672.1	1000.0	1000.0	1000.0	969.5	794.3
3	KEENAN, Bill	USA			6146.2	87.80	6146.2	893.6	760.8	924.2	1000.0	964.7	870.8	732.1
4	OLSON, Lance	USA			6120.8	87.44	6120.8	996.7	988.8	808.8	1000.0	952.8	1000.0	373.7
5	ROBINSON, Craig	USA			5971.6	85.31	5971.6	1000.0	1000.0	759.4	1000.0	715.2	497.0	1000.0



## August 18-20 Scale Aerotow— Report Jim Gibson

The August 18-20 aerotow at Gillette Field is now in the books. Fortunately, the 100+ degree weather we were experiencing earlier in the week moderated considerably to more normal summer temps in the 80's - to low 90's. We had 15 pilots fly some or all days with Saturday being the best day of the three. The field is oriented east-west and a pesky north cross wind on Friday cut into our afternoon flying. On Sunday wildfire smoke blew in from the numerous fires in the Pacific NW and tempered the thermal activity, but resulted in very smooth air for flying.

The towing duties were handled mainly by Jim Dotson with his Pawnee and backup provided by Scott Marnoch and Rick Shelby. Thank you, guys!! Jim did a great job of towing and was really able to get some air time on his new Pawnee. A few photos are included bellow which, unfortunately, don't capture the variety of sailplanes that were flown.

I'm unashamedly biased, but Gillette Field is far and away the best aerotow and soaring site we have in the NW. On top of that the field owner is a full-size pilot himself and enjoys having us at the field every year. The owner is installing an irrigation system the length of the 3500+ ft runway to handle the discharge water from his business which will certainly green up the grass runway during the summer months.

Here's a link to a short compilation video put together by Gene Cope:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZPdKar9kkg>

The last aerotow of the year is Tuesday, September 12 at Green Trees Ranch Airport. Hope to see you there!



**PORTLAND AREA SAILPLANE SOCIETY  
2023 SEASON  
SCALE AEROTOW FUN FLY**

**Dates:**

- Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>: Molalla
- Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>: Molalla
- Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>: Molalla
- Fri – Sun, August 18 -- 20: Gillette Field
- **Tuesday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>**: Green Trees Ranch Airport

**Molalla Location:** Molalla Radio Control Association, 32899 S. Molalla Forest Road, Molalla, OR 97038  
(see map below)

**Gillette Field Location:** Grass Strip Located South Side of House at 39344 Jordan Road, Scio OR  
(See map on page 2)

**Green Trees Ranch Airport Location:** 42827 Rodgers Mountain Loop, Scio OR 97374  
(See map on page 3)

**Time:** Registration 9:00am, pilots meeting **9:30am**, fly 'til about 5:00pm

**Fees:** \$10.00 per pilot one day events. \$25.00 per pilot three day event  
AMA or MAAC Membership Required

**Coordinator:** Jim Gibson: e-mail: [jimgibson6237@gmail.com](mailto:jimgibson6237@gmail.com)  
phone: 503-669-7271  
cell: 360-608-5821

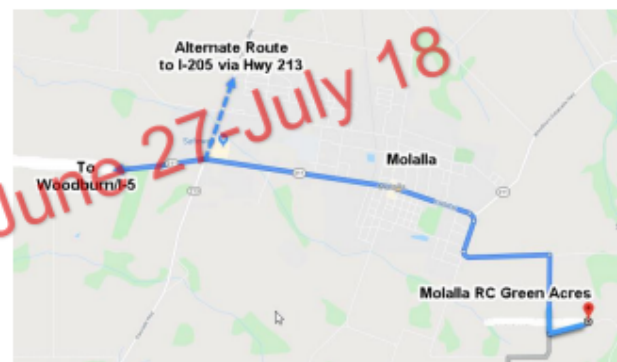
**Details:** Tug available to tow large & small scale sailplanes. **Molalla** flying field is approximated 700 ft. long oriented approximately in the east-west direction.

**Weather Note:** In the event of a forecasted rainout, the coordinator will cancel the event by the Thursday before the event. Coordinator will notify participants via the Scale Sailplane Forum on RC Groups(Thread-2020 Pacific Northwest Aerotow Schedule). The event coordinator may also be contacted for confirmation.

**Molalla Directions:**

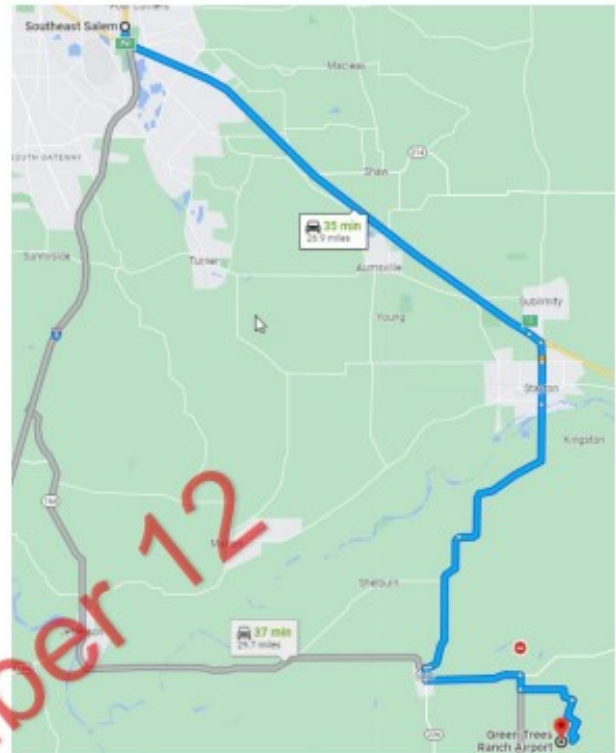
- I-5 Exit 271(Woodburn Silverton)
- East on Hwy 214/211 to Molalla
- Turn right on Mathias Rd
- 0.3 mi turn left on S. Feyrer Park Rd
- 0.7 mi turn right on S. Adams Cemetary Rd
- 0.6 mi turn left on S. Molalla Forest Rd
- 0.2 mi field on the left  
(Google Maps: Molalla RC Green Acres)

**Molalla Field Coordinates:** 45.132709, -122.546333

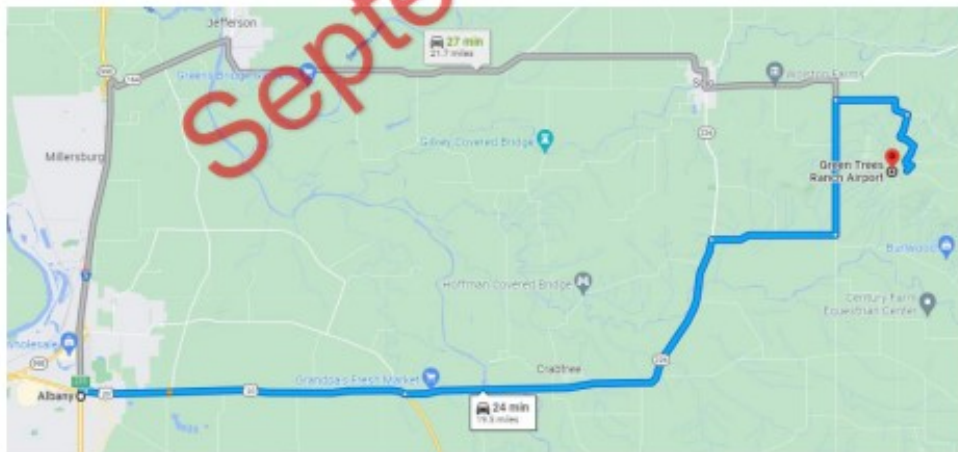


**Green Trees Ranch Airport From the North:**

- ~27 miles from I-5
- I-5 South to Exit 253, turn left onto OR-22E/ Santiam Hwy SE for 11.5 miles
- Take Exit 13. Turn right on Cascade Hwy SE towards Stayton. Continue on N First Ave; turns into S 1st Ave/Stayton Scio Rd all for ~9.4 miles
- In Scio continue on NE 4<sup>th</sup> Ave for ~500ft
- Turn left onto N Main St for ~0.3 miles
- Turn left onto SE 1<sup>st</sup> Ave/OR-226E/Albany-Lyons Hwy for 2.2 miles
- Turn right onto Richardson Gap Rd for 0.3 miles
- Turn left onto Rodgers Mountain Loop for 1.4 miles
- Turn right to stay on Rodgers Mountain Loop for 1.3 miles
- Turn right at the driveway with wood fence at the top of the hill. Address is 42827. Proceed up the driveway and turn right at the first building to your left. Park along the south treeline.



**Green Trees Field Coordinates:**  
44.68321, -122.784706



**Green Trees Ranch Airport From the South:**

- ~20 miles from I-5
- I-5 North to Exit 233, turn left onto OR-20E/ Santiam Hwy SE for 5.4 miles
- Turn left onto OR-226E toward Scio for 6.8 miles
- Turn right onto Montgomery Dr for 2.1 miles
- Turn left onto Richardson Gap Rd for 2.3 miles
- Turn right onto Rodgers Mountain Loop for 1.4 miles
- Turn right to stay on Rodgers Mountain Loop for 1.3 miles
- Turn right at the driveway with wood fence at the top of the hill. Address is 42827. Proceed up the driveway and turn right at the first building to your left. Park along the south treeline.

**Green Trees Field Coordinates:**  
44.68321, -122.784706



# Portland Area Sailplane Society

PASS  
P.O. Box 115  
Molalla, OR 97038

## Upcoming Events:

<b>Sunday, September 10, 2023</b>
<b>ALES Contest – 9:00am</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 12, 2023</b>
<b>Scale Aerotow @ Green Trees Ranch Airport – 9:30am</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 12, 2023</b>
<b>PASS Monthly Meeting @ Round Table Pizza – 7:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday, September 23, 2023</b>
<b>Thermal Deathmatch– 9:00am</b>
<b>Sunday, September 24, 2023</b>
<b>F3RES Contest – 9:30am</b>
<b>Saturday, September 30, 2023</b>
<b>Handlaunch Contest – 10:00am</b>
<b>Tuesday, October 10, 2023</b>
<b>PASS Monthly Meeting @ Round Table Pizza – 7:00pm</b>
<b>Sunday, October 15, 2023</b>
<b>RES Contest – 10:00am [Last Scheduled Contest of the Year!]</b>

**NOTE:** Event calendar subject to change. Changes to the calendar will be sent via email as they become available. Contact Jim Gibson at [jimgibson6237@gmail.com](mailto:jimgibson6237@gmail.com) or the event CD with questions.