

## LETTER OF AGREEMENT

EFFECTIVE: July 31, 2008

SUBJECT: Pyramid and Minden Glider Area Operations

- 1. PURPOSE:** To establish an area and procedures for glider operations within positive controlled airspace under the joint jurisdiction of Oakland Center and Reno TRACON. The areas will be known as the "Pyramid Glider East and West Areas" and the "Minden Glider East, Central and West Areas."
- 2. CANCELLATION:** The following Oakland Center and Pacific Soaring Council letters of agreement are canceled: Pyramid Glider Area Operations, dated April 7, 2003, and Minden Glider Area Operations, dated April 7, 2003.
- 3. AUTHORIZATION:** Under the authority of 14 CFR 91.135(d) Oakland Center and Reno TRACON authorize the Pacific Soaring Council (PASCO) to deviate from the requirements of FAR 91.135(a) and (b) when operating in the area specified in paragraph 4 and in accordance with the conditions specified in paragraphs 5 and 6 of this agreement. Operational requests for altitudes above FL280 require a waiver from the FAA Administrator as directed by 14 CFR 91.706. Therefore, altitude requests above FL280 shall not be approved unless a Certificate of Waiver (FAA Form 7711-1) has been obtained by the user.
- 4. SCOPE:** The procedures outlined in this letter apply to flights conducted at FL180 and above within the area described below and referred to as the "Pyramid Glider Area" and the "Minden Glider Area" and as defined in Attachment 1, Airspace Definitions, and depicted in Attachment 2, Airspace Graphics.
- 5. RESPONSIBILITIES:**

  - a. Except for deviations specified in paragraph 3 of this letter, pilots will comply with applicable Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs).
  - b. Pilots are authorized to operate in the glider area above FL180 only during those time periods approved by Oakland Center and Reno TRACON for use of this area.
  - c. Neither Oakland Center nor Reno TRACON is responsible for separation between or amongst gliders operating within the assigned area or areas.
  - d. Pilots must be sufficiently familiar with local terrain features so that flight(s) will be contained within the glider area by visual reference to the ground; accordingly night operations are not authorized.
  - e. Pilots will not fly in designated glider areas within Class A airspace less than 1,000 feet vertically and one mile horizontally from a cloud formation.
  - f. Pilots will not fly in designated glider areas within Class A airspace when flight visibility is less than 5 miles. Weather conditions will be such that visual reference to the ground can be maintained at all times.

g. The authorization specified in paragraph 3 of this agreement will extend to the Pacific Soaring Council and to all other persons who, by their execution of this agreement, do agree to abide by the terms and conditions thereof.

h. Pilots will obtain advance non-control airport/terminal area and meteorological information from the Reno ATIS prior to Pyramid or Minden Glider Area ingress/egress.

i. Gliders must activate their transponders prior to contacting Reno TRACON. Gliders shall squawk beacon code 0440 and altitude to facilitate radar identification.

j. Pilots operating in Reno TRACON Class E airspace below the Pyramid and Minden Glider Areas shall contact Reno TRACON prior to entering the overlying Pyramid or Minden Glider Areas.

k. Pilots exiting the Pyramid or Minden Glider Areas into underlying Reno TRACON Class E airspace shall contact Reno TRACON prior to descending below FL180.

l. If a glider is unable to remain in the designated glider area due to developing weather conditions at or above FL180, the pilot of that aircraft must contact Oakland Center on frequency 128.800 *immediately*.

**NOTE:** *Air safety demands strict adherence to approved times, altitudes, and airspace boundaries.*

## 6. PROCEDURES:

a. When high-altitude soaring conditions prevail, the Wave Window Operations Manager (WWOM) or other persons authorized under paragraph 5g will notify the Reno TRACON frontline manager (FLM)/controller-in-charge (CIC) at (775) 348-8840 that a request for glider airspace will be made to Oakland Center. The WWOM shall call the Oakland Center East Area FLM/CIC at (510) 745-3442 for request/approval.

b. The PASCO WWOM or other persons authorized under paragraph 5g will provide, to the maximum extent practicable, the following information to the Oakland Center East Area FLM/CIC when the paragraph 6a request is made:

(1) Call sign;

(2) Requested designated glider area;

(3) Time period; and

(4) A contact number for the WWOM in the event the operation must be amended or terminated.

c. The Oakland Center East Area FLM/CIC shall coordinate the call sign, equipment suffix, altitudes and release of Pyramid or Minden Glider Area(s) airspace from the Reno TRACON FLM/CIC, as well as the time for the return of the airspace.

d. When the requested area is not available, the Oakland Center East Area FLM/CIC may suggest alternate times and/or altitudes.


e. Oakland Center approval for use of the glider area will specify time periods and flight levels and will be coordinated on a daily basis.

f. If for any reason glider operations are suspended for any significant period of time, or if the operation terminates earlier than the coordinated end time, the person requesting airspace under paragraph 6a must release the airspace back to the Oakland Center East Area FLM/CIC by telephone notification.

g. The Oakland Center East Area FLM/CIC must inform the Reno TRACON FLM/CIC of the time of release of airspace or of any changes to coordination requirements specified in this agreement.

7. **ATTACHMENTS:**

- a. Attachment 1. Airspace Definitions.
- b. Attachment 2. Airspace Graphics.



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Air Traffic Manager  
Oakland ARTCC

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Donald Brooks  
Acting Air Traffic Manager  
Reno ATCT/TRACON

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L. Rolf Peterson  
FAA Airspace Liaison  
Pacific Soaring Council

### ATTACHMENT 1. AIRSPACE DEFINITIONS

#### 1. Pyramid Glider Area.

a. **Pyramid East.** The Class A airspace bounded by the following:

	Latitude/Longitude									
Point	1	40	07	00	N	-	119	27	00	W
	2	39	49	00	N	-	119	22	00	W
	3	39	45	00	N	-	119	28	00	W
	4	39	41	00	N	-	119	44	00	W
	8	39	46	12	N	-	119	41	06	W
	7	40	08	38	N	-	119	41	00	W

Thence back to Point 1.

b. **Pyramid West.** The Class A airspace bounded by the following:

	Latitude/Longitude									
Point	4	39	41	00	N	-	119	44	00	W
	5	40	02	00	N	-	120	00	00	W
	6	40	10	00	N	-	119	53	00	W
	7	40	08	38	N	-	119	41	00	W
	8	39	46	12	N	-	119	41	06	W

Thence back to Point 4.

#### 2. Minden Glider Area.

a. **Minden West.** The Class A airspace bounded by the following:

	Latitude/Longitude									
Point	7	39	04	00	N	-	119	41	00	W
	4	38	42	00	N	-	119	38	00	W
	5	38	42	00	N	-	119	57	00	W
	6	39	04	00	N	-	119	57	00	W

Thence back to Point 7.

b. **Minden Central.** The Class A airspace bounded by the following:

	Latitude/Longitude									
Point	8	39	04	00	N	-	119	29	00	W
	3	38	42	00	N	-	119	26	00	W
	4	38	42	00	N	-	119	38	00	W
	7	39	04	00	N	-	119	41	00	W

Thence back to Point 8.

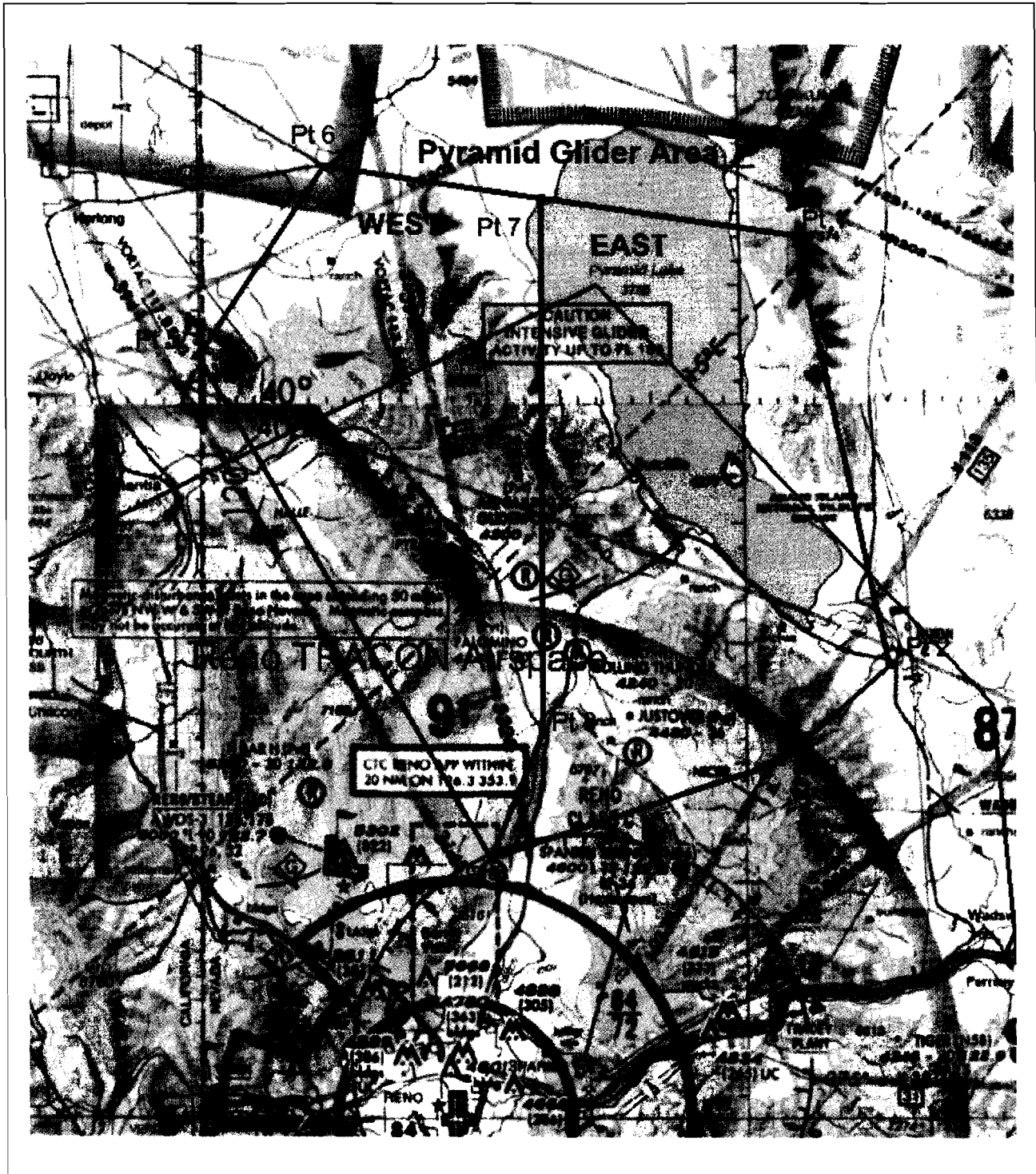
c. **Minden East.** The Class A airspace bounded by the following:

	Latitude/Longitude								
Point	1	39	04	00	N	119	10	00	W
	2	38	42	00	N	119	08	00	W
	3	38	42	00	N	119	26	00	W
	8	39	04	00	N	119	29	00	W

Thence back to Point 1.

### ATTACHMENT 2. AIRSPACE GRAPHICS

#### 1. Pyramid Glider Area Graphic.



2. Minden Glider Area Graphic.

