

## LETTER OF AGREEMENT

EFFECTIVE: May 22, 2009

SUBJECT: Pre-Assigned Transponder Code Usage

**1. PURPOSE.** This letter of agreement (LOA) defines responsibilities and procedures involving the use of pre-assigned transponder codes by the Skyline Soaring Club, Inc (SSC), based at the Front Royal – Warren County Airport (FRR).

**2. SCOPE.** The provisions of this LOA apply to SSC gliders and tow aircraft operating from FRR and other local sites, as well as to participants in SSC sponsored events.

### **3. AUTHORIZATION.**

a. Transponder code 1230 is authorized for use in transponder-equipped gliders.

b. Transponder code 0130 is authorized for use by tow aircraft when involved in glider towing operations. Code 0130 is only authorized in PCT airspace, within 40 nm of FRR, excluding Class B airspace. PCT airspace is depicted in Attachment 1, Airspace.

c. Transponder codes 0130 and 1230 are authorized for use by multiple aircraft at the same time.

d. The authorization to use codes 0130 and 1230 is not transferable to any individual, association, or organization.

### **4. RESPONSIBILITIES.**

a. SSC will educate its members regarding this LOA.

b. This LOA does not abrogate or waive any Federal Aviation Regulations (FARs) applicable to SSC operations.

c. PCT is **not** responsible for providing separation between gliders and tow planes operating in PCT's airspace, or between gliders and other operations receiving air traffic services.

d. PCT shall coordinate the provisions of this LOA with other FAA facilities whose radar and automation equipment may detect the use of codes 1230 and 0130.

*NOTE: Depending on weather conditions, SSC gliders may range 200 nm south, 50 nm west, and 100 nm north of FRR, usually along mountain ridges.*

## 5. PROCEDURES.

a. Prior to conducting significant glider operations, SSC shall notify the PCT Operations Manager In Charge (540-349-7541) of planned operations. Such notification should be made approximately 30 to 60 minutes prior to the commencement of operations, and include the anticipated start and stop times for operations, as well as the approximate number of participants.

b. All glider flights shall be conducted according to visual flight rules (VFR) in visual meteorological conditions (VMC), and clear of the Washington Tri-Area Class B airspace, the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area Special Flight Rules Area and Flight Restricted Zone (DC SFRA and DC FRZ), and other security/restricted/prohibited airspace.

c. Transponder-equipped tow aircraft are authorized to squawk 0130 when involved in glider towing operations in accordance with paragraph 3.b.

d. Transponder-equipped gliders are authorized to squawk 1230 during flight operations.

*NOTE: Glider transponders are battery operated, so pilots strive to conserve battery power. PCT recommends the use of transponders when battery life is not an issue.*

*NOTE: Pilot vigilance is urged at all times. The use of altitude encoding transponders contributes to safety, but cannot "ensure" separation.*

e. To enhance traffic awareness, the monitoring of appropriate frequencies (unicom and ATC) is encouraged. Pilots may contact PCT to convey glider traffic information.

f. Notification of the end of glider operations may be made on frequency or via phone (540-349-7541).



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Potomac TRACON



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## ATTACHMENT 1 Airspace

The following depicts the PCT boundary in the vicinity of FRR:

