

Uvalde 2012 WGC Status Report, February 2012

Preparations for the 2012 Uvalde World Gliding Championships are well underway. Team Leaders are in place for all of the key operational contest functions:

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| Championships Director (CD) | Ken Sorenson |
| Deputy Director | John Good |
| Championships Manager | Linda Murray |
| Deputy Manager | Kerry King |
| Deputy Manager | Dianne Black-Nixon |
| Task Setter | John Good |
| Chief Scorer | Leo Buckley |
| Launch & Ground Operations Chief | David Coggins |
| Towing Operations Chief | David Larson |
| Chief Meteorologist | Dan Gudgel |
| Assistant Meteorologist | Walt Rogers |
| Webmaster & IT | Andrew Dignan |
| Scrutineering (technical inspection) | Sam Zimmerman |
| Weighing | John Murray |

Each of the Team Leaders has recruited many of the additional volunteers needed for their teams.

We conducted the US Open Class Nationals and 15m/18m PreWorlds at Uvalde this past August. All the Team Leaders and many of the additional volunteers were present. The contest had 51 entrants total in the three classes, went extremely well, and we gained valuable experience.

Our FAI chief steward, Dick Bradley, was present for most of the contest. He prepared a report and evaluation after the contest and I have worked to address his comments and suggestions. Dick and I have developed a strong working relationship and we are in frequent contact. He has been a valuable FAI resource and advisor.

We have prepared the “Local Procedures” document which governs many aspects of the operation of the competition. This document was developed with Dick’s assistance to ensure compliance with FAI rules and procedures. The Local Procedures document was posted to our WGC website in mid-January, and a Rev 1 version was posted in late January.

Mark Huffstutler, contest manager for the 1991 Uvalde WGC, has developed a document titled “Pilot and Aircraft Requirements” to help guide contestants through the maze of FAA regulations regarding foreign pilots and aircraft operations in the US. Mark is working with the local FAA authorities on this. The document is posted on our WGC website and continues to be updated as more information becomes available.

There are 110 entrants so far. Approximately 20 gliders are capable of self-launching. We are planning to have 14 tow planes.

The City of Uvalde has been diligent in its preparations for the contest. A large grass glider assembly and trailer parking area has been prepared, together with a paved access road. The grass area still needs some further improvement, but was remarkably well along in development during the PreWorlds given the severe drought that Texas suffered this past year.

We developed a good working relationship with the local military airspace coordinators to better “deconflict” glider and military operations during the PreWorlds and expect to extend this arrangement to the 2012 WGC contest.

We have worked with the local FAA office and they were very helpful in obtaining additional VHF radio channels for use during the contest. We had some issues with FAA ramp checks during contest operations at the PreWorlds, but work is underway to integrate the FAA into the scrutineering process so that their presence during the 2012 competition will be less disruptive.

The control points and SUA files which will be used for the 2012 competition are in the process of being updated and will be posted as soon as possible. We are updating information regarding the landability of the many private airstrips in the contest area. The official 2012 control points will be generally similar to the 2011 PreWorlds versions which are available via a link on the WGC website.

The weather team is working diligently and has received a firm commitment from Radiometrics, for a microwave profiler complete with his support for set-up.

We are finalizing arrangements for a glider tracking program for the contest. We will be using a product called Way.Aero. This product was used at the German Nationals and the last Junior World Event with good success.

As is typical of a volunteer organization managing an event of this magnitude, we have had some challenges regarding our organization and communications. To address these challenges we formed the Uvalde WGC Advisory Board early last summer. This Board consists of Al Tyler (chairman, and SSA chairman), Dianne Black-Nixon (SSA vice-chairman), Sam Zimmerman, Mark Huffstutler, and myself. The purpose of the Advisory Board is to provide organizational structure and advice to the contest management team, to facilitate accountability, and to provide assistance and expertise as necessary. The addition of Mark Huffstutler to our management team has been extremely helpful given his expertise from the 1991 Uvalde WGC and his continued presence in Uvalde and at the airport. The Advisory Board is meeting by teleconference monthly.

The core operational Uvalde WGC Management Team, developed to prepare for the Championships, consists of Linda Murray, as Championships Manager, Kerry Huffstutler King (co-manager with Mark at Uvalde in 1991) and Dianne Black-Nixon, as Assistant Championships Managers, and myself as Championships Director. During the contest-preparation phase, Linda has overall responsibility for organizing the contest and for management of the nationwide collection of volunteers which comprise “Team SSA”; Kerry is responsible for the local Uvalde volunteers and businesses that comprise “Team Uvalde”; and I am responsible for management of flight operations and the sporting aspects of the event. Dianne, who is also a member of the Advisory Board, has been recently added to the operational

management team to assist with outside communications and volunteer coordination. This management team is now meeting by teleconference weekly.

Functionality of our website was a little slower getting started than we had hoped, but is now coming along well. The website provides a means of disseminating important documents and news, and provides contact information for the contest management and team leaders.

Team Uvalde continues to find housing for teams and volunteers and has done a splendid job of finding local Uvalde businesses to host the social events that are part of the WGC. These events include the Pre-Competition party, the Opening Parade, a major mid-contest-rest-day event, and the Closing Ceremony, as well as a few others during the contest.

Currently we are working on the Team Huts, sponsorships, web enhancements, and accepting the preliminary entries.

Al Tyler has put in place a team to develop sponsorship and publicity for the WGC event. This team is to coordinate with the overall SSA effort for increasing the visibility of soaring in the USA. It is our hope that this exciting event will also help bring new members to the sport of soaring and to the SSA.

Respectfully,

Ken Sorenson
2012 Uvalde WGC Championships Director
21 February 2012