

## **HIGH FLIGHTS SOARING CLUB - Marginal Weather Alert Status / 20170925**

During marginal weather conditions, our scheduled duty crew-members (Chief, Line, Tow, Instructor/Duty Pilot) generally make excellent calls about the club's flying status. However, there are days that frustrate even the best operational go/no-go calls. At times in the past, cancellation announcements have been followed by good flying weather. At other times, crewmembers have shown up at the airfield and faithfully waited in unpleasant conditions for prospective soaring business that never materialized.

The following guidance prescribes a weather "alert status" that duty crews may invoke on days not warranting an outright cancellation.

For example, the forecast for Saturday calls for high winds and low clouds. But conditions early on Saturday morning look flyable, though the winds and ceiling are slowly worsening. Instead of cancelling operations, the ground chief consults with the other crewmembers and then notifies all club members that the duty crew is on alert status until noon (pick a time appropriate for the day and expected conditions).

During the alert period, no one has to show up at the field UNLESS a soaring customer confirms that he/she will need an aerotow during the period. In this case, the duty crew will show in time to enable this flight. For this customer, a reduced crew might suffice. For example, the Chief may excuse his Line assistant from showing up if there's no need for both to be at the field.

### Specific guidelines:

- After coordinating with each other, the ground chief, tow pilot, or inst./duty pilot may declare an alert status until a specific time and notify all club members.
- The alert status may be declared on the day before the duty day, if conditions justify it.
- Duty members must respond expeditiously to support any flying during the alert period.
- Club members wishing to fly must confirm their intention with a duty member ASAP.
- If flying occurs during the alert period and the weather remains flyable, the duty crew may extend operations.
- If no flying occurs during the alert period, that period defaults to a cancellation of operations for the day.
- If weather conditions deteriorate, a cancellation call would override any alert status.

This guidance should not interfere with crews' exercise of safety or good judgment in any way. It's meant to increase club members' soaring opportunities and decrease unnecessary down-time by offering a flexible option on marginal or rapidly-changing weather days.