

Soaring NV Checkout Requirements

SoaringNV operates modern, high-performance sailplanes out of the Minden-Tahoe Airport, in the middle of some of the most outstanding and challenging soaring conditions in the world. In order to safely fly in this environment many licensed pilots who have not flown in these conditions require some extra training, especially if they are low-time or not current.

For the safety of our customers and our equipment, SoaringNV has certain requirements that must be met before a pilot is allowed to receive tows, rent a glider, fly in wave, enter the “wave window”, or fly cross-country in a SoaringNV glider.

If you plan on visiting from out of town, let us know in advance and we will make sure you receive the appropriate checkout materials so that you may review them before you arrive.

U.S. Certificate based on a foreign License

If you have, or are applying for, a U.S. Pilot’s Certificate based on a foreign license, keep in mind that you are required to meet the FAA’s English Language Skills Standards required by 14 CFR Part 61 as outlined in AC No: 60-28. If you do not meet these requirements, you will not be able to complete the Flight Review that is required before you can exercise the privileges of your U.S. certificate.

Standard Operating Procedures

Before the first flight of each calendar year, each pilot is required to review and sign a statement that they have reviewed, understand, and will abide by the SoaringNV Standard Operating Procedures as outline in our Operations Memo.

Area Checkout

To receive a tow from SoaringNV all pilots must receive an area checkout from a SoaringNV instructor. This is to insure that all glider pilots are aware of the policies, procedures, traffic, and unique weather conditions associated with this soaring site. While not required, it is highly recommended that pilots visiting the Minden-Tahoe airport for the first time with their own gliders take an orientation flight with a SoaringNV instructor.

Glider Checkout (Required for each glider type)

Before renting a SoaringNV glider, you must provide proof of renter’s insurance, and receive a checkout from a SoaringNV instructor in the specific glider you wish to rent. Before the checkout, you should become familiar with the flight manual for the glider in which you will be checking out, and perform weight and balance calculations. The flight manuals and weight and balance information are available on our website. The checkout flight(s) will consist of maneuvers from the FAA Practical Test Guide, and must be performed to Practical Test standards. For single-seat gliders, checkout flights will be taken in a two-place glider of similar performance and flight handling characteristics. If it has been more than 6 months

since you rented a SoaringNV glider, you may be required to repeat the glider checkout.

Wave Checkout

Flying in conditions conducive to the formation of mountain wave present extra challenges to a glider pilot. Before flying SoaringNV equipment in wave, you must receive a Wave Checkout from a SoaringNV instructor, consisting of both ground and flight training. It is recommended that pilots flying their own gliders also get a Wave Checkout if they are not familiar, or have not flown in wave conditions.

Wave Window Checkout

Through a Letter of Agreement between the Oakland Air Route Traffic Control Center, the Northern California Terminal Radar Approach Control, and the Pacific Soaring Council, SoaringNV is fortunate to have three “wave windows” which can be activated when wave conditions allow flights above 18,000’. It is vital that all gliders flying in the wave windows strictly follow the procedures defined in this Letter of Agreement.

Therefore, before flying in the wave window, pilots must successfully complete a Wave Window Checkout with a SoaringNV instructor, consisting of ground training and a written test.

Cross-Country Checkout

The Minden area provides access to some of the best cross-country soaring conditions in the world. At SoaringNV we are happy to rent out our gliders so that pilots can fly cross-country for fun or to achieve their FAI badges. However, due to the increased risk associated with this type of flying, we require a higher level of experience, skill, knowledge, judgment, and preparation from pilots who plan to fly our gliders cross-country.

To be eligible to fly a SoaringNV glider out of glide distance of the Minden-Tahoe airport, you must meet the SSA Bronze Badge, and FAI Silver Duration Badge requirements, and complete a Cross-Country Checkout with a SoaringNV instructor. When flying cross-country, you must always stay within a conservative glide distance of an airport.