

Hang Glider Competition Local NOTAC

Attention Students and Instructors:

In September 2014, three traffic conflicts were reported in the Stanfield Stack with hang gliders during a 3 day period. In response to the safety reports filed with the Safety Office, an investigation determined the hang gliders were originating from an annual competition taking place at the Francisco Grande Resort. This year, Santa Cruz Flats Race is in its 10th year, and 50 gliders are planning to populate the skies each day during this event. Please note the following information:

When:

September 10 through the 17th 2016, from 1200 local time to 1700 daily.

Where:

Hang gliders depart from the Francisco Grande Resort in Casa Grande, AZ (approx. Stanfield 084 radial at 3.2 DME). Hang gliders will be towed to approx. 4,000 ft by 5 tow planes over an hour or two. Until all hang gliders are launched, they will orbit within 3 nm of the resort. Once all aircraft are up, the hang gliders will proceed on routes to the south, east, and west up to 75 nm away from point of launch.

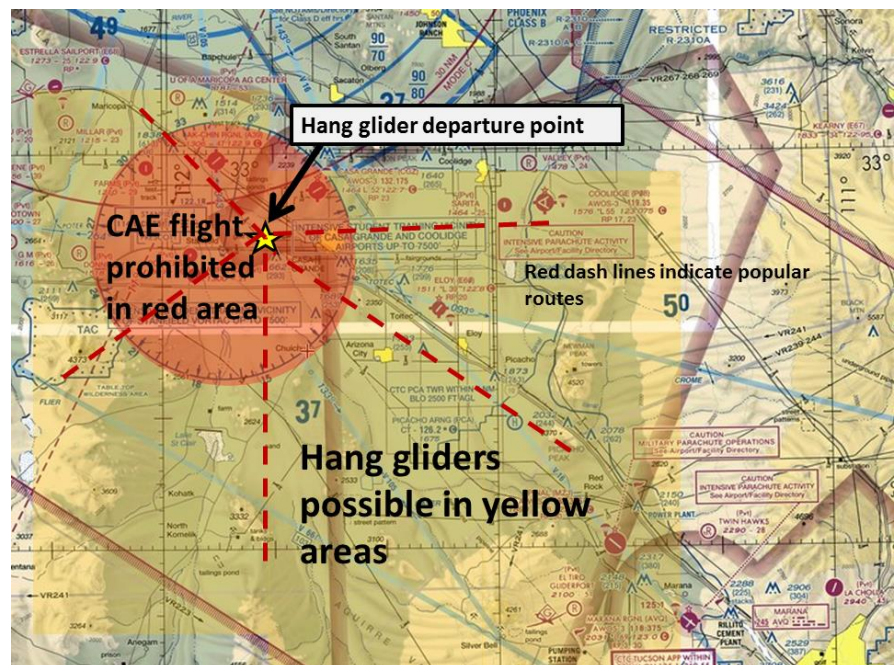
What will they be doing?

Hang Gliders are participating in a United States Hang Gliding and Parasailing Association sanctioned competition to achieve recognition for longest distance traveled, highest altitude achieved, and most time in the air, etc.

How this affects our training:

Hang gliders will not be monitoring radio frequencies, nor will they be equipped with transponders. The risk imposed is too great to our operations, and therefore:

All CAE OAA aircraft will be prohibited from operating within 10nm of the Stanfield VOR from 1200 to 1700 local time daily, September 10th through September 17th, 2015 from surface up to 12,000 feet. Aircraft proceeding on cross country routes near Picacho, Tucson, and Maricopa must use extreme caution for hang glider activity at altitudes up to 12,000 ft. Company aircraft are requested to have all lights on to assist with visual recognition.



Fly Safely,
Brent Crow
Safety Officer – CAE OAA Phoenix