

## Instructions for the New Member Application

1. Fill out the form as completely as possible

Please note the item "Emergency Contact Info". This should be a name and phone number, or any other way to contact someone in case the unthinkable happens and you are unable to provide information

2. READ the fine print.

3. Sign all three places -- Medical Statement, Certification, and Waiver.

NOTE: Youth members (under age 18), sign as indicated. A parent or legal guardian must ALSO sign all three places.

4. Initial and sign at the bottom of page 2 of this sheet to acknowledge that you have read and agree.

5. Tear off and keep the last page titled "Welcome to the Greater Houston Soaring Association".

6. Pay the FULL initial fee with your application. If you fly the same day you join, you must also pay for the day's flights, at member rates.

7. Please let us know how you found us:

Family/Friend: \_\_\_ Gift Cert: \_\_\_ Internet surfing: \_\_\_ Just passing by: \_\_\_

Saw glider overhead: \_\_\_ Social media: \_\_\_ Sign by the gate: \_\_\_

Lighted sign by the highway: \_\_\_ Houston Convention/Visitors Bureau: \_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Special notes

Only "Non-Rated Member" and "Transition Pilot" members receive flight training manuals. "Family" members receive only a log book. NO OTHER categories receive manuals or logbooks.

If you pay for an introductory flight and then join on the same weekend, your account will be adjusted to account for the reduced member flight rates.

Your initial fee includes the first month of GHSA dues and the first year of SSA dues.

Monthly dues are billed on the last day of the month and apply to the following month. Flight charges are for the month just ended.

You can expect to receive a monthly statement, either as an email attachment or via the US Mail, in the first week of each month unless you have a zero balance. If you do not receive your statement, please contact the Treasurer.

If you decide to leave GHSA, please let the Treasurer know. You need not give a reason if you don't want to, but ignoring your statements and simply stopping paying your dues creates ill will and extra workload for all concerned.

Continued, next page

Billing information

Checks, either personal or through your bank's "bill pay" application, are preferred, payable to Greater Houston Soaring Association, or simply "GHSA". Our billing address is at the top of your statement.

If you wish to use a credit card AFTER your initial new-membership payment, we will add a 4% fee to cover our bank fees. If the dispatcher who accepts your card fails to add the fee, it will be added to your account by the Treasurer.

A note concerning your financial obligations:

We hope the following is never necessary, but unfortunately it is for the occasional member.

Like any business or household, GHSA cannot operate without cash flow -- meaning regular payment of members' accounts. If you are unable to meet your obligations, it is YOUR responsibility to contact the Treasurer or any other Board member. We are always open to working out a plan with you.

In the absence of an agreement, you will be barred from scheduling any lesson, flying any club ship, or receiving a tow by any GHSA tow plane until you pay your balance in full if either of the following applies:

1. If any regular monthly statement indicates a balance in excess of \$800  
-- or --
2. Three month-end billing cycles pass without payment.

Additionally, if six billing cycles pass without payment, your membership may be canceled, and to reinstate, you will be required to pay the full balance of your most recent statement PLUS an additional new-member fee for your category of membership.

This is important. Yes, I understand. Initials \_\_\_\_\_

And finally: GHSA is not a flight school or a fixed-base glider rental operation. We are a non-profit organization and have no paid employees -- all members volunteer their time. If we want to fly, someone must volunteer to run operations. If you want to fly, someone has to volunteer. If you are unwilling or unable to contribute in some manner - as ground safety crew, tow pilot, dispatcher, or whatever, this likely is not the organization for you.

This is also important. Yes, I understand. Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Please print your name and initial to acknowledge ALL of the foregoing.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

# Greater Houston Soaring Association, Inc.

A non-profit Texas Corporation

## New Membership Application

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Ph. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Ph. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Ph. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your monthly statements and our newsletters will be sent as pdf attachments to your e-mail address. If you do not have access to email, please indicate so and our Treasurer will contact you.** \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of the Soaring Society of America? No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ If yes, membership No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Do you currently have, or have you ever held, an FAA Pilot Certificate? No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_

If yes, Rating: \_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Issued: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Flight Experience: Ratings: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Glider Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

### This application is made with full knowledge of the following:

1. The initiation fee is **non-refundable**.
2. Each member is required to donate his/her time at least one day each month toward club operations.
3. Applicant understands that flight, and associated activities can possibly result in property damage, injury, and even death.
4. All flights will be done in accordance with current Federal Aviation Regulations.
5. Members are governed by the Bylaws of the Association and such rules and regulations as set forth by the Board of Directors.
6. All members of the Association are also required to be members of the Soaring Society of America.
7. The Association is self-insured for all aircraft (except Tow Planes) owned or leased by the Association; however, the applicant is responsible for the first \$1000 of any damage he/she causes. Personal medical insurance is **not** provided for the applicant.
8. Applicant agrees that neither the Association, its Officers, nor its members are responsible for the injury of any person through that person's negligence.
9. The **FULL** initiation fee must accompany this application.

Medical Statement **Note** -- A parent or legal guardian must sign for youth members who are minors.  
I certify that I have no known physical defect which makes me unable to pilot a glider.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the information provided on this application is correct and that I have read and understand the above.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please Do Not Write Below This Line

Dispatcher, please fill in and verify applicant's information below.

Picture ID type: (Texas Drivers License) \_\_\_\_\_ ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Issued: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Date of last BFR: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Date of last medical: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Membership Type: (see reverse) A B C D T Initiation Fee Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dispatcher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised Sept 2018

## New Membership Check List

### Non-rated Member

- Glider Flying Handbook
- Glider Pilot Logbook
- GHSA Bylaws (online)
- Welcome Sheet
- Standard Operating Procedures (online)
- Aircraft Operating Manuals (in file)

### Transition Pilot

- Transition to Gliders
- Glider Flying Handbook
- Glider Pilot Logbook
- GHSA Bylaws (online)
- Welcome Sheet
- Standard Operating Procedures (online)
- Aircraft Operating Manuals (in file)

### Family Member (No manuals)

- Glider Pilot Logbook
- Welcome Sheet
- Standard Operating Procedures (online)
- Aircraft Operating Manuals

### Visiting Member (6 mo.) (Must be a rated Glider pilot)

- GHSA Bylaws (online)
- Welcome Sheet
- Aircraft Operating Manuals
- Standard Operating Procedures (online)

### Tow Pilot Only NO Books or manuals

- GHSA Bylaws (online)
- Welcome Sheet
- Aircraft Operating Manuals (Tow planes)
- Standard Operating Procedures (online)

## Membership Types and Fees

(GHSA reserves the right to change membership rates at any time)

| Membership Type  | Initiation Fee | Monthly Dues |
|--|----------------|--------------|
| <b>A</b> – Regular Adult Membership<br>Available to unrated persons or already-rated glider or power pilot.  | \$300          | \$50         |
| <b>B</b> – Student Membership<br>Available to anyone of any age currently enrolled <u>full time</u> in school at any level.  | \$130          | \$25         |
| <b>C</b> – Family Member (requires one Regular Adult membership)<br>Initial fee \$53 for <u>each</u> additional family member, plus \$10 monthly dues<br>Family member(s) must live in the same household as the Regular Adult Member. | \$ 53          | \$10         |
| <b>D</b> – Visiting Member (Rated Glider Pilot/6 month limit)  | \$ 0           | \$75         |
| <b>T</b> – Tow pilot only No glider flying except as required by the FAR's   | \$180          | \$50         |

Membership Type and associated fees may change upon review of your application by the Board of Directors of GHSA. In that case, you will be contacted.

## Greater Houston Soaring Association, Inc.

As a member of, and as a condition for continued membership in the Greater Huston Soaring Association, Inc., a non-profit Texas corporation ("GHSA"), or as a Guest or Passenger, I have agreed, and hereby agree, to be bound and abide by all applicable rules and regulations of GHSA.

I, the undersigned, confirm that I understand that participation in gliding and soaring activities, both in the air and on the ground is or may be hazardous and may result in accident, injury or death. I HEREBY VOLUNTARILY ACCEPT SUCH HAZARD and result both on behalf of every person, including minor children whom I may bring on the property of GHSA, or carry or permit to be carried in a GHSA aircraft.

### LEGAL WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration of admission to or continued membership in GHSA, and the benefits of such membership, and/or permission to fly in or use GHSA property, equipment or services, which consideration I agree is sufficient to induce me to sign this Agreement. FOR MYSELF, MY SPOUSE, AND ON BEHALF OF MY MINOR CHILDREN THAT I MAY BRING ON OR PERMIT TO BE BROUGHT ON OR COME ON TO THE PROPERTY OF GHSA, AND MY AND THEIR RESPECTIVE EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS, I GIVE UP AND FOREVER WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS OF ANY NATURE WHICH I OR THEY MAY HAVE NOW OR WHICH MAY ARISE IN THE FUTURE AGAINST GHSA AND/OR ITS MEMBERS, ARISING OUT OF OR IN ANY WAY, WHETHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH OR RELATED TO ACTIVITIY OR USE OF GHSA PROPERTY, EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES, EVEN THOUGH THE LOSS, DAMAGE, INJURY, ILLNESS, OR DEATH MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED OR BROUGHT ABOUT WHOLLY OR IN PARTY BY:

1. THE SOLE, CONCURRENT, ACTIVE, PASSIVE, PRIMARY, OR SECONDARY NEGLIGENCE OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE OF GHSA, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION THE GHSA AND/OR ITS MEMBERS, DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, GROUND OPERATION PERSONNEL, OR PILOTS (INCLUDING TOW PILOTS, INTRODUCTORY PILOTS, STUDENT PILOTS, AND FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS) OR GHSA'S CONTRACTORS.
2. THE STRICT LIABILITY, STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY, BREACHES OF EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, AND/OR ANY OTHER LEGAL FAULT OF GHSA, ITS MEMBERS, DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, GROUND OPERATIONS PERSONNEL, PILOTS (INCLUDING TOW PILOTS, INTRODUCTORY PILOTS, STUDENT PILOTS, AND FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS) OR GHSA'S CONTRACTORS.
3. ANY DEFECT OF ANY PROPERTY OR EQUIPMENT OF GHSA, AND INCLUDING ANY DEFECTS PRE-EXISTING THE DATE OF THIS AGREEMENT.
4. OFFICERS, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, GROUND OPERATIONS PERSONNEL, PILOTS (INCLUDING TOW PILOTS, INTRODUCTORY PILOTS, STUDENT PILOTS, AND FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS) OR GHSA'S CONTRACTORS.

FOR THE SAME CONSIDERATION I AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS GHSA, ITS MEMBERS, DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, GROUND OPERATIONS PERSONNEL, PILOTS (INCLUDING TOW PILOTS, INTRODUCTORY PILOTS, STUDENT PILOTS, AND FLIGHT INSTRUCTORS) OR GHSA'S CONTRACTORS, FROM ANY PERSONAL INJURY, ILLNESS OR DEATH CLAIMS BROUGHT BY MYSELF, MY SPOUSE OR ON BEHALF OF MY MINOR CHILD(REN) ARISING OUT OF OR IN ANY WAY, WHETHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, CONNECTED WITH OR RELATED TO GHSA FLYING ACTIVITIES OR USE OF GHSA PROPERTY, EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES, EVEN THOUGH THE LOSS, DAMAGE, INJURY, ILLNESS OR DEATH MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED OR BROUGHT ABOUT WHOLLY OR IN PART BY PARTIES AND/OR CAUSES SET FORTH IN SUBPARAGRAPHS 1., 2., AND 3., ABOVE.

I AGREE THAT THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS SHALL GOVERN THIS AGREEMENT.  
I CONFIRM THAT I HAVE READ AND I UNDERSTOOD THE WHOLE OF THIS AGREEMENT.

WITNESS MY HAND this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness (A GHSA member)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name and Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name and Address

Revised June 2015 **Note:** A parent or legal guardian must sign for youth members who are minors.

Welcome to the **Greater Houston Soaring Association!** We are glad you joined us!

Just a few items that you might find helpful:

**Your Monthly Volunteer Duty** – it's easy to sign up on our online schedule

The way to do it is:

Go to our website: [www.houstonsoaring.org](http://www.houstonsoaring.org)

Click on "**Members**"

Enter password and click on the arrow to the right (Please ask the dispatcher for the current password.)

**Edit the spreadsheet appropriately and responsibly**

You have from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of a month to choose a duty date in the following month. For example, from August 1-15 select and schedule a day in September; from September 1-15 select and schedule a day in October; from October 1-15 select and schedule a day in November.

If an open day does not fit in your schedule, then it is your responsibility to **exchange** a day with someone on the schedule. It is important that you **NEVER CHANGE OR EXCHANGE A NAME ON THE SCHEDULE WITHOUT TALKING TO THAT PERSON FIRST.**

You can also volunteer as far ahead as you want. You are not restricted to the month being scheduled.

When you arrive at the gliderport for your Duty Day, report to the dispatcher. Be sure to sign in on the Weekend Volunteer Sign-in Sheet so that your name is entered in the drawing for a free tow at the Monthly General Membership Meeting.

Thanks to those who come out and work on their scheduled Duty Day! It is because of all of our member/volunteers that our operations continue to run smoothly.

### **Monthly General Membership Meeting**

Our Monthly General Membership Meeting is held in the Aviation Center on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month, usually at 9:00 a.m., but times may vary. A monthly email will confirm the time. We discuss issues, hear the current state of our financials, have an educational presentation, draw for the "volunteer" free tows, and hangar fly, and if the weather is flyable, go outside and actually fly.

### **Monthly Statement and Newsletter**

Your monthly statement will be emailed to you. If you do not have email access, please contact the Treasurer. Your balance due may be mailed to the Treasurer by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month or you may leave it with the dispatcher at the gliderport. Billing address is at the top of your statement. We accept cash, checks, MasterCard and Visa (plus 4% for cards).

### **Scheduling Your Flights**

We start scheduling for the weekend on the Monday prior to that Saturday and/or Sunday. Just call the number listed on our online schedule (979-398-5827). For a lesson, you will be scheduled for 1-1 ½ hours with the instructor (CFI). Monthly ground school is free. Cost for flights is only for the tow plus glider rental. Licensed pilots may schedule a club ship in the same manner.

One of the benefits of membership is that you may bring your family and friends and their flight is at your member rates (rather than introductory rates). Just call the scheduling number listed on our online schedule (979-398-5827).

On the day of the flight, be sure that all visitors (including family and friends) complete the Introductory Membership form (same as intros) before flying. This is required by our insurance carrier. The forms are in the notebook with the dispatcher.

### **Donations**

GHSA is a nonprofit organization (501.c.3). We accept donations and your donation is tax-deductible! Just ask our Treasurer for a receipt. Feel free to call or email our Treasurer (Ken) with any questions that arise, 713-906-3342, [ken@houstonsoaring.org](mailto:ken@houstonsoaring.org).