

SSA Badge Flying 2025



Spring 2023

Flight information - Julia Karasinski

📅 - 24.04.2023

Type of glider: **Discus 2b**,

Airfield: Philadelphia PA 1 (US / 2)

📺 SeeYou 🌐 KML 📍 IGC ✎ edit flight 🖨 Print



OLC-Plus ▾

Flight details

| | Classic | FAI | Distance |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Points for the flight | 212.94 | 191.58 | 3.82 |
| scoring distance | 206.92 km | 13.75 km | 63.14 km |
| Speed | 60.16 km/h | 25.46 km/h | 28.88 km/h |
| Duration | 03:26:23 | 00:32:24 | 02:11:10 |
| Scoring class | standard | | |
| Scoring start | 16:29:51 | | |



Julia Karasinski

MSL: 1539 m Vario: 1.2 m/s Vg: 100.6 km/h AGL: 1373 m Time: 16:39:03



Julia Karasinski

- PGC Member
- Flying gliders since 14 years old
- Silver Altitude & Distance
- XC Team Member
- Contest Pilot
- Dispatcher at Air Mods Flight Academy



Soaring Society of America (SSA)

- **“Umbrella” organization for soaring in the U.S.**
 - Formed in 1932, to foster and promote all phases of soaring, both nationally and internationally
- Provides representation to Federal Agencies
- Member Resources
 - Club, Member, Sailplane Locator Services
- Soaring Safety Foundation
 - Training/Safety Programs
- Sailplane Racing
 - Sanctioning Body for Regional, National, OLC Contests
- Soaring Achievements
 - Badge Achievements, State/US Records (World Records are under FAI)



SSA Badge Flying



- **Badge flying originated in Germany in the early days of gliding to provide a standard measure of a student's progress**
- Today, Badge flying continues to be a means of rewarding progress and recognizing achievements towards cross country goals
- Two Programs:
 - The A, B, C, and Bronze badges for pilots in training and aspiring cross-country pilots
 - The FAI Badges for cross-country accomplishments
- These programs create a training path for glider pilots to become confident cross-country pilots

A Badge

- **Pre-Solo Preparation and First Solo**
- Demonstrates Sailplane Knowledge
- Holds FAA Student Pilot Certificate
- Pre-Solo Flight Training
- 1st Solo!



B Badge

- Soaring ability by a solo flight of at least 30 minutes duration after release from a 2,000 foot-tow
 - Add 1½ minutes per 100-foot tow altitude above 2,000 feet
- B Badge recipients are able to act as Official Observers for the FAI Badge Program



C Badge



- **Pre-Cross-Country Phase**
- Dual Soaring Practice, including instruction in techniques for thermals, ridge, and wave
- Has Knowledge of cross-country procedures, sailplane assembly (+disassembly), and X-Country hazards
- Demonstrates soaring ability by Solo Flight of at least 60 minutes duration after release from 2,000 Foot Tow
 - (add 1½ minutes per 100 foot of tow above 2,000 feet).
- With an SSA Instructor, Demonstrate the Following:
 - Simulated Off-Field Landing from the approach without reference to altimeter
 - Accuracy Landing from approach, touch down and coming to a complete stop within an area no greater than 500 feet in length

Bronze Badge



- **Cross-Country Readiness**

- Complete the ABC training program
- Log at least 15 solo hours in gliders with 30 solo flights and at least 10 flights in a single-place glider (if possible)
- Log at least 2 solo flights, each having duration of 2 hours or more
- Preformat least 3 solo spot landings in a glider witnessed by an SSAI
- Log dual time in gliders with 2 spot landings without reference to the altimeter to simulate off-field landings
- Pass a Closed Book Written Examination Covering Cross-Country techniques and knowledge. The minimum passing score is an 80% and is administered only by an SSAI

SSA Instructor Program

- SSA Instructors can issue A, B, C, and Bronze Badges
- SSA Instructors (SSAI) are FAA Certificated Instructor who have met additional experience requirements and act as representatives of SSA in the field to promote safety, safe flying practices, and administer the ABC badge training program
- SSAI can also award Wing Runner Pins
- SSAI must renew their credentials every five years

Finding an SSAI

- The SSA maintains an online database of SSA Instructors throughout the country
- **Remind your instructors to renew every 5 years!**

Current SSA Instructors by State:

Pennsylvania ▾

| Name | City |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Daniel Sazhin | Aldan |
| Richard Healy | Allentown |
| Phil Klauder | Ambler |
| Chris Holliday | Ardmore |
| Catherine Williams | Fairfield |
| Gerry Wild | Lehighton |
| Thomas Peterson | Newtown |
| Jack Goritski | Perkasie |
| Alfred Bennett | Pittsburgh |
| David Hart | Pittsburgh |
| Barry Muhlenberg | Pottstown |
| Mark Maughmer | University Park |
| Charles Norman | Wynnewood |
| Mikolaj Karasinski | Yardley |

Training Badges Award Process

- Work with your instructor to document your efforts towards each badge
- Identify an SSAI to complete your paperwork to issue each badge
- An SSAI can validate training activity by other instructor except where noted for the C and Bronze Badge
- The SSAI will complete the badge application and issue you a badge or patch, on the spot

FAI Badges

- **The Fédération Aéronautique Internationale has established badges for soaring achievement which are recognized globally**
- The SSA administers the FAI badge program in the U.S.
- Applicants for awards must submit documentation to the SSA, which will review and award badges
- Achieving badges is a great introduction to the sport of soaring and a great way to build confidence as a soaring pilot
- Some of the goals are truly exceptional accomplishments

FAI Silver Badge



- **The FAI Silver Badge involves 3 required elements:**
 - Silver Altitude is a 1,000 meter (3,281 foot) altitude gain above an in-flight low point
 - Silver Duration is a 5-hour flight time after tow release
 - Silver Distance is a straight distance flight from a start at release to finish fix located at least 50 km (31.07 miles) from release and at least 50 km from the fix recorded at the beginning of the take-off roll

Silver Distance Flight

Scoringregion ▾
Period ▾
OLC-Scoring ▾
BHC-Scoring ▾
Claim Flight
Competitor ▾
Rules
Tutorial
FlightFinder
jkaras ▾

Flight information - Julia Karasinski

🕒 - 20.08.2022

Type of glider: Discus 2b,

Airfield: Philadelphia PA 1 (US / 2)

SeeYou
KML
IGC
edit flight
Print

📱
🐦

OLC-Plus ▾

Flight details

| | Classic | FAI | Distance |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Points for the flight | 183.11 | 139.29 | 26.59 |
| scoring distance | 150.44 km | 95.73 km | 62.01 km |
| Speed | 64.65 km/h | 41.33 km/h | 62.36 km/h |
| Duration | 02:19:37 | 02:18:58 | 00:59:40 |
| Scoring class | standard | | |
| Scoring start | 18:26:01 | | |

Julia Karasinski

MSL: 465 m Vario: 4.4 m/s Vg: km/h AGL: 270 m Time: 18:22:55

OLC Map | Leaflet, © Mapzen, © OpenStreetMap contributors, © openAIP

Silver Altitude



FAI Gold Badge

- **The FAI Gold Badge involves 2 required elements:**
 - Gold Altitude is a 3,000 (9,843) altitude gain above an in-flight low point
 - Gold Distance is a 300-km (186.42 mile) cross country flight



FAI Diamond Badge

- **The FAI Diamond Badge involves 3 required elements:**
 - Diamond Altitude is a 5,000 meter (16,404 foot) altitude gain above an in flight low point
 - Diamond Goal is a 300 km (186.42 mile) cross country flight using a pre-declared Out and Return or Triangle course
 - Diamond Distance is 500 km (310.7 mile) cross country



FAI Diplome Flights

- Diplomes are awarded for long distance cross country flights
- FAI Diploma flights begin with a minimum distance of 750 km and increase in 250 km increments.
- A Diploma is awarded once only for the incremental distance immediately less than the distance flown.



Other Badge Achievements



- **Kolstad Century Awards**

- Awarded to pilots under the age of 25 that have completed distance flights 100 km Century I), 200 km Century II), 300 km Century III), 500 km Century V), 1000 km Century X)

- **World Distance Awards**

- **Symons Wave Memorial - Lennie Pins for Sierra Wave flights over 25,000 feet**

- One Lennie: 25,000 to 35,000
- Two Lennie: 35,000 to 40,000
- Three Lennie: Above 40,000

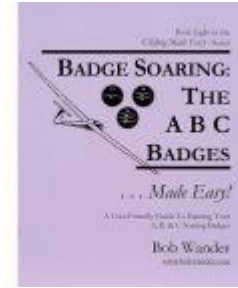
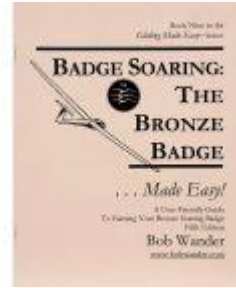


Badge Applications & Awards

- **The SSA administers badge applications and awards in the U.S.**
 - Application forms and requirements are available on the SSA website
 - Some award applications must be submitted within certain timeframes
 - Confirm your equipment meets recording requirements
 - Consult an experienced badge flyer for tips and tricks..you must get the paperwork right!

Resources

- SSA Website - www.ssa.org/badges
- SSA Instructors
- Bob Wander's Soaring Made Easy Series
- Cross Country Pilots
- Federation Aeronautique Internationale
 - www.fai.org



Questions?

