



13 March 2015

Dear Competitor,

The first day of the Pan American Gliding Championships is not far away, and we have some important news for you.

As you probably know, the Chilhowee Soaring Association has been working hard for at least two years to prepare for this groundbreaking event. Part of that preparation included some actual groundbreaking: the regrading and reseeding of the runway at the gliderport last fall.

You may also be aware that the Eastern USA suffered an unusually cold and snowy winter this year. The result has been that the new grass has not yet taken hold, and the runway will still be too fragile to use on the first competition day.

This possibility was anticipated from the beginning of our planning for the event.

With the approval of IGC, we have moved the contest operations to **McMinn County Airport** (KMMI) in the town of Athens, 12 miles north of Chilhowee Gliderport. It is a much larger airport, with a 6000 foot paved runway with grass on both sides. We have the full cooperation of the airport authority (McMinn County) who have agreed to close the airport for our gridding and launching, and have provided permissions for all the necessary access, trailer parking, etc.

The airport operator has provided us the necessary office space, and we have rented a Briefing room across the street. We have also arranged for tents for pilots and team captains. Hangar space has been designated for scrutineering.

The competition Organisation will still be based at the Chilhowee Gliderport, where many of us will be staying. The opening and closing ceremonies, and the social events, will take place there, as originally planned. Perhaps we will be able to have a ceremonial glider launch at the closing ceremony!

Your plan for accommodations should not be affected. The primary hotel is still the Red Roof Inn in Etowah, halfway between the two airports.

The Task Area, Control Point database, and airspace file are unaffected. The Start and Finish points for McMinn exist already in your turnpoint file, and the Finish geometry (3km ring) is not affected.

The Organisers are in the process of producing new operations diagrams to replace the ones in the Local Procedures document. Since none of the other procedures have changed, we will publish the new diagrams as an Annex to the currently published Local Procedures.

We will keep you informed of any further news about this change, and we will have a comprehensive procedural briefing for team captains on the compulsory training day (April 4).

The Organising Team is looking forward to welcoming you to this exciting new Continental Championships!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Shepper". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Director