

# Proposed LSF Tailless Program

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A rather exciting letter from Bob Champine showed up in our post office box in late December. Bob, to fill in some background, has been involved in aeromodeling for decades. Recently he contributed airfoils for use in the Princeton wind tunnel tests conducted by Michael Selig, John Donovan and David Fraser. Bob is the only person to have completed the League of Silent Flight program twice.

Bob's letter focused on a LSF (League of Silent Flight) program proposal which provides tasks and achievement levels for pilots of tailless RC sailplanes. This proposal is still in its formative stages, and so feedback is requested. The proposal in its final form is to be presented to the LSF for acceptance as a program separate from the one already in existence.

We would like to draw your attention to a couple of major points:

First, there are no contest points or contest requirements in this program. The main idea is to foster interest in tailless planforms as viable RC soaring machines and attract "grass roots" sport flyers in a task environment rather than in a competitive one. The idea is to accomplish goals rather than "to win." The tasks would, for the first time, make it possible for independent souls in remote areas to document their skills without having to find a tailless sailplane contest where none is ever likely to occur. The tasks of the program are themselves formidable and will reasonably challenge the abilities of anyone who attempts them.

Second, all tasks noted in any horizontal row must be completed before the designated level award is given. This is in contrast to the LSF program now in place, where there are some task choices available. Additionally, in this tailless program, a more difficult task in another row may be recorded before a lesser one, but the lesser task must be completed on a separate flight.

## LSF PROPOSED TASKS FOR FLYING WING ENTHUSIASTS

- Tasks are to be performed with flying wings, that is models having no horizontal surfaces other than the wings itself.
- Witnesses must be 15 years of age, unrelated to the flyer, and a member of a national aero club (i.e., in the United States, the AMA, LSF, or SFA).

## On the 'Wing... the book, Volume 2

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- Task accomplishments will be recorded on a task form by the flyer and the witness(es). A copy of this form will be filed with the LSF when each succeeding level is completed. However, any task at any level may be logged before the flyer completes lower levels of the Task Chart.
- No two tasks in vertical column under different colors on the Task Chart may be accomplished on the same day. However, other tasks in horizontal rows on the Task Chart may be completed and accomplished within a single flight. For example, a thermal duration, X-C, and landing task could be accomplished on the same flight for the Red or White level.

LEVEL	THERMAL DURATION	SLOPE	LANDINGS	X-C	ALTITUDE GAIN
RED	5 mins. 2x flat land	30 mins. mountains	within 3m 5x	1 km G&R flat land	N/A
WHITE	15 mins. 2x flat land	1 hour mountains	within 1.5m 10x	2 km G&R flat land	N/A
BLUE	30 mins. 2x flat land	2 hours mountains		3 km G&R flat land	700' 2x
SILVER	1 hour 2x flat land	4 hours mountains		4 km G&R flat land	1000' 2x
GOLD	2 hours 2x flat land	8 hours mountains		5 km G&R flat land	1500' 2x

2x = task to be accomplished twice

5x = task to be accomplished five times

10x = task to be accomplished ten times

G&R = Goal and Return: Course of required length is to be determined before flight. Takeoff may be at any point along the course, but landing will be within 600 meters of takeoff point and will not shorten the course.