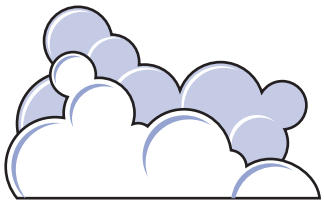
THE SILVER BADGE

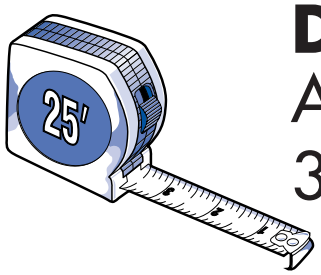
It's as Easy as 1,2,3

1. 

Altitude:
An easy gain of 3,281 feet after release from tow.

2. 

Duration:
A 5 hour flight with no other objective.

3. 

Distance
A short, straight-line flight of only 31.1 miles.

And the best part — you can do all three in one flight, or one task at a time!

The Silver Badge  The N stands for the USA. Gulls represent the three tasks of the badge.

FOR EACH TASK:
You will need: An Official Observer, and a barograph or flight recorder*.

Who is an Official Observer? An Official Observer is a member of the SSA, holds at least an SSA B Badge, and has a working knowledge of the FAI Sporting Code as it pertains to Gliders.

Release from tow at or below the maximum altitude permitted for the task (see each task, below)... *Notch the barograph* with the loss of a couple hundred feet, *or mark the release from tow with a tight turn when using a flight recorder.* Then complete the task objective (described below).

After the flight, you and your Official Observer will fill out the SSA Silver Badge Application form. Send the form and the barogram* to the SSA, and you ll soon receive a letter of congratulations!

1 ALTITUDE: *It's Easy!*

The Objective: Gain at least 3,281 feet after release from tow.

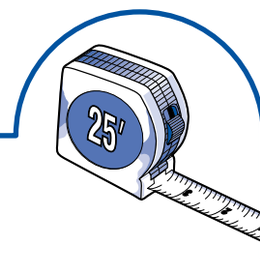
Release from tow *at any height and location* that will allow you to find lift. Notch the barograph or mark the release on a flight recorder (as described above). Establish a low point; then climb at least 3,281 feet.

2 DURATION: *The long sit!*

The Objective: A flight at least 5 hours after release from tow.

*(The Duration task is unique, in that: Neither the barograph or flight recorder are required if your Official Observer can certify the exact times of takeoff, release from tow, and landing; AND that the entire flight was under continuous personal observation.)

Take a tow *no higher than 1,000 meters (3,281 feet) above the takeoff elevation. Notch the barograph* with the loss of a couple hundred feet, *or mark the release from tow with a tight turn when using a flight recorder.* Stay aloft for at least 5 hours after you release from tow.



3 DISTANCE: *Can be Simple!*

The Objective: Make a cross-country flight of at least 50 km (31.1 miles)

The simple way to complete this task is to make a straight flight from release to landing. (See back of the SSA Silver Badge Application form for details on more complex Silver Distance flights using turn points, which will require declarations and turn point documentation.) *The altitude to which you may tow to begin this flight is limited by the 1% Rule. You must release from tow no higher than 1% of the distance flown, added to the elevation of the finish point. For example:*

3,880 MAX. TOW HEIGHT (ft. msl)

.01 x DISTANCE (ft)=1,640

31.1 mi X 5,280 ft ------ *2,240 FINISH POINT ELEV. (ft. msl)*

If you mean to fly no farther than 50 km (31.1 mi.), you release from tow no higher than...(31.1 mi. X 5,280 ft. X 0.01 =) 1,640 feet above the elevation of the finish point. (You ll find an easy-to-use aid to calculating the 1% rule on the back of the SSA Silver Distance Application Form.)

SSA SILVER BADGE APPLICATION FORM

Submit this application within 6 months of the flight to The Soaring Society of America, P.O. Box 2100, Hobbs, NM 88241-2100

BADGE LEG(S) CLAIMED: _____

Date of flight _____ Aero Club to Notify: _____ U.S. or _____ Other

FILL THIS OUT FOR ALL

APPLICANT SSA Membership No. _____ or Non-Member Processing Fee $20 _____

Name of Pilot Applicant _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I hereby apply for this award: *(Signature of Pilot)* _____

Barograph/GPS Type & No. _____ Sampling Rate/Rotation Rate: _____

Calibration Date: _____ Range (ft.): _____

Sailplane Used _____ Registration No. _____

Take-off Airport _____ City _____ State _____

Elevation of Airport _____ ft. MSL Altitude of Release/Engine off _____ MSL

ALTITUDE High Point _____ ft. MSL

Low Point _____ ft. MSL = Altitude Gain _____ ft.

DURATION Landing time _____

Release/Engine-off time _____ Elapsed time _____

FOR DURATION ONLY, CONTINUOUS SURVEILLANCE? _____ Yes _____ No

DISTANCE

Landing place: _____ Elevation of landing place: _____ ft. MSL

Coordinates: Lat. _____ Long. _____

TOWPILOT: (Signature of towpilot not required when flight recorder is used for documentation)

I certify that the release from tow was made at: _____

Lat: _____ Long _____ Distance/Direction from Airport _____

Signature of Towpilot _____ Printed name of Towpilot _____

FOR ALL

OFFICIAL OBSERVER

I certify that I supervised the above-described flight and that it complies with Section 3 of the FAI Sporting Code. I further certify that I observed the pilot and sailplane at the place/date noted above. (Fill in landing witness certificates on the back of this form if landing is witnessed by others than the Official Observer).

_____

(Signature of SSA Official Observer) SSA Membership No. (Print Official Observer's Name)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Baro ____ Cal ____ GPS____ Apprvd Dist _____ Other _____

Hold/Date Approval Date By Letter sent Denial Date By Reason

LANDING WITNESSES (If other than the Official Observer for the flight)

I certify that I observed the pilot and sailplane.

At (place) _____

On (date) _____

Signature _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I certify that I observed the pilot and sailplane.

At (place) _____

On (date) _____

Signature _____

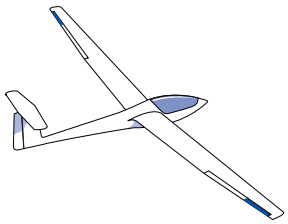
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

THE 1% RULE

The 1% Rule applies only to the FAI Silver Badge (tow release heights are calculated differently for FAI Gold and Diamond Badge tasks). ***For the Silver Distance task, you must release from tow no higher than 1% of the distance flown, added to the elevation of the finish point.*** If you mean to complete the Silver Distance task with a flight of no more than 50 km (31.1 mi.), you must release from tow no higher than (31.1 mi. X 5,280 ft. X 0.01 =) 1,640 ft. above the elevation of the finish point.

You may find it necessary in some locations to either begin with a higher tow, or fly a greater distance to complete the Silver Distance task. Higher tows mean that you *must* fly greater distances. Flying greater distances mean that you *may* take higher tows. Do the math before your flight to determine exactly how high you may tow or how far you must fly. Here s how it works:



_____ DISTANCE (miles)

X 5,280 (feet / mile)

= _____ DISTANCE (feet)

X 0.01 (1%)

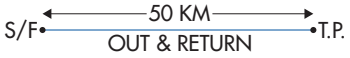
= _____ TOW HEIGHT (ABOVE FINISH ELEVATION)

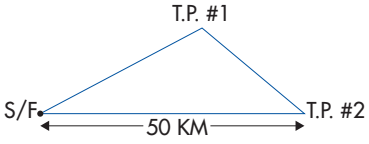
\+ _____ ELEVATION (ft. msl) OF THE FINISH POINT

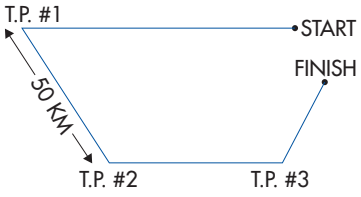
= _____ **MAX. TOW HEIGHT (ft. msl)**

COMPLEX DISTANCE COURSES

You may find it either easier or more convenient in some cases, to complete the Silver Distance task as one leg of a longer *predeclared course*. In this case:







a. The course may be comprised of as many as 3 turnpoints, and must be declared either electronically, or on the appropriate form prior to takeoff.

b. The Silver Distance leg must be at least 50 km (31.1 miles) in length.

c. Turnpoints must be documented per FAI Sporting Code requirements using either a flight recorder or photographic means.

d. The 1% rule (see above) ***is applied not to the Silver Distance leg; rather, to the entire distance flown.***

DISTANCE USING TURNPOINTS

Start: _____ Lat: _____ Long: _____

Turnpoint: _____ Lat: _____ Long: _____

Turnpoint: _____ Lat: _____ Long: _____

Turnpoint: _____ Lat: _____ Long: _____

Finish: _____ Lat: _____ Long: _____