2026 Minden Soaring Club Soaring Statistics

End-of-the-Season Party

19 September 2026

Outline

- General WeGlide Statistics from Website
- OLC Rankings
  - US
  - Worldwide
- WeGlide Rankings
  - US
  - Worldwide
- Total Distance Ranks

MSC Annual WeGlide Statistics (MSC Flying at Minden)

Statistic	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Number of flights	487	426	365	179	239
Active Pilots on WeGlide	39	34	26	16	15
Total flight hours	2,141	1,969	1,554	837	1,145
Average hours per flight	4.4	4.6	4.3	4.7	4.8
Total distance (km)	226,112	222,932	177,250	91,601	132,978
Average distance (km)	464	523	486	512	556
Average speed (km/h)	105	116	118	109	119
Best distance (km)	2,885	2,615	3,144	3,058	2,581
Best speed (km/h)	229	265	231	246	239
Flights > 100 mph	26	24	27	11	19
Flights > 200 km/h	9	10	9	2	3
Flights > 750 km	81	89	54	26	53
Flights > 1000 km	50	47	19	19	31
Flights > 2000 km	2	1	1	3	1

MSC Annual WeGlide Statistics (MSC Flying Anywhere)

Statistic	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Number of flights	686	706	591	383	414
Active Pilots on WeGlide	44	41	28	19	17
Total flight hours	3,093	3,252	2,606	1,821	1,907
Average hours per flight	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.8	4.6
Total distance (km)	328,250	362,752	290,941	199,415	220,971
Average distance (km)	478	514	492	521	534
Average speed (km/h)	106	115	116	112	119
Best distance (km)	2,885	2,615	3,144	3,058	2,581
Best speed (km/h)	229	265	278	246	239
Flights > 100 mph	30	30	33	16	30
Flights > 200 km/h	9	10	11	2	3
Flights > 750 km	125	137	97	67	95
Flights > 1000 km	65	75	42	49	60
Flights > 2000 km	2	1	1	3	1

Flights

Pilot	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Jim Payne	40	38	45	3	20
Nicolas Bennet	34	36	36	34	31
David Moruzzi	31	—	—	—	—
Nicholas J Thomas	30	7	18	23	45
David Gnemi	25	—	—	—	—
Brad Jackson	25	33	17	7	31
Gordon Boettger	24	32	22	21	—
Charles Griffin	21	23	29	19	33
S Valentin	21	19	17	9	—
Alan Coombs	20	20	1	—	—
Steven Wertheimer	20	12	3	—	—
Keith Essex	18	21	14	4	15
Bertrand Lecocq	14	22	—	1	—
Eric Rensel	13	—	—	—	—
James G Lee	12	13	17	12	14
Jeffrey Bilyeu	11	16	—	—	—
Jim Dingess	11	1	2	—	—
Robert Trumbly	11	28	23	17	—
Thomas Greenhill	9	11	18	2	—
Uwe Kleinhempel	9	8	—	—	1
Mike Shatto	9	5	—	—	—
David Greenhill	8	7	4	—	—
Richard Richmond	8	6	17	—	—

Ave Distance

Pilot	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Keith Essex	1,091	1,002	625	878	1,018
Uwe Kleinhempel	910	889	—	—	862
Thomas Greenhill	888	782	505	781	—
James G Lee	812	947	788	944	966
Gordon Boettger	806	727	860	1,112	—
David Greenhill	731	734	621	—	—
Nicolas Bennet	682	737	662	539	694
Jim Dingess	614	298	607	—	—
Brad Jackson	585	523	427	518	574
Jim Payne	537	579	547	441	821
Steve Sliwa	473	393	384	—	—
Nicholas J Thomas	461	457	408	364	397
Luke Watters	459	—	—	—	—
Nathan Whelchel	440	253	—	—	—
Robert Trumbly	433	427	438	320	—
Sam Whiteside	403	—	—	—	—
Charles Griffin	386	401	338	329	390
Hannariina Laukkanen	361	—	176	—	—
Alan Coombs	358	388	235	—	—
Richard Pieters	353	—	—	—	384
Steven Wertheimer	350	503	507	—	—

Best Distance

Pilot	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Gordon Boettger	2,885	2,615	3,144	3,058	—
Jim Payne	1,511	1,159	1,054	594	2,581
James G Lee	1,345	1,429	1,236	1,829	1,459
Keith Essex	1,337	1,268	1,047	1,051	1,906
Thomas Greenhill	1,202	1,315	1,026	822	—
David Greenhill	1,125	1,170	908	—	—
Nicolas Bennet	1,114	1,156	1,025	797	1,042
Jim Dingess	1,076	298	637	—	—
Uwe Kleinhempel	1,038	1,071	—	—	862
Steve Sliwa	955	619	435	—	—
Brad Jackson	837	905	686	580	1,021
Steven Wertheimer	825	750	607	—	—
Nathan Whelchel	702	333	—	—	—
Nicholas J Thomas	676	695	696	683	812
Charles Griffin	655	695	669	554	675
Robert Trumbly	619	802	855	638	—
David Moruzzi	603	—	—	—	—
Peter Satitpunwaycha	569	429	—	—	—
Hannariina Laukkanen	552	—	181	—	—
Sam Whiteside	538	—	—	—	—
CR Gillespie	526	—	—	—	—

Average Speed

Pilot	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Keith Essex	134.9	139.7	123.6	131.8	136.4
Gordon Boettger	128.2	130.8	134.9	136.3	—
Thomas Greenhill	127.8	136.5	103.3	117.3	—
Nicolas Bennet	123.1	120.9	123.1	108.4	120.1
James G Lee	122.8	135.2	139.9	133.6	144.8
David Greenhill	121.3	122.6	113.0	—	—
Brad Jackson	114.9	107.6	108.0	96.0	113.3
Uwe Kleinhempel	111.3	115.2	—	—	109.0
Sam Whiteside	109.6	—	—	—	—
Luke Watters	107.2	—	—	—	—
Jim Payne	106.8	121.9	116.4	102.1	122.6
Jim Dingess	106.3	109.7	126.3	—	—
Tom Phillips	104.9	—	—	—	—
Barry Danieli	102.8	76.1	106.3	79.4	85.8
Charles Griffin	102.7	107.4	97.1	92.0	103.6
Steve Sliwa	99.3	88.3	107.3	—	—
Robert Trumbly	96.3	98.9	100.4	86.8	—
Peter Satitpunwaycha	95.7	99.8	—	—	—
Nicholas J Thomas	92.0	94.5	96.2	82.8	92.6
Bertrand Lecocq	90.8	96.9	—	110.5	—
Peter Plackowski	89.9	—	—	—	—

Top Speed

Pilot	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Gordon Boettger	196.3	228.2	213.0	201.2	—
Jim Payne	189.2	200.7	166.7	109.0	212.5
Brad Jackson	178.6	141.7	169.2	104.4	174.3
Thomas Greenhill	156.4	169.6	151.6	118.0	—
James G Lee	155.0	197.4	181.4	157.9	174.4
Keith Essex	154.6	160.6	144.1	147.3	180.7
Nicolas Bennet	153.3	146.9	156.4	130.6	139.8
Brian Neff	148.7	137.2	170.3	132.0	136.1
David Greenhill	144.1	147.0	137.2	—	—
Steven Wertheimer	137.7	110.0	105.5	—	—
Jeffrey Bilyeu	129.8	95.3	—	—	—
Uwe Kleinhempel	123.8	131.3	—	—	109.0
Jim Dingess	123.5	109.7	129.0	—	—
Charles Griffin	122.4	132.4	140.6	124.1	147.1
David Moruzzi	122.3	—	—	—	—
Steve Sliwa	121.6	116.3	119.6	—	—
Nicholas J Thomas	120.1	112.1	125.2	119.2	169.7
S Valentin	119.7	114.5	80.7	86.8	—
Sam Whiteside	118.9	—	—	—	—
CR Gillespie	113.8	—	—	—	—
Robert Trumbly	113.1	134.6	124.1	108.5	—

Average Sprint

Pilot	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Keith Essex	172.4	174.7	151.8	179.6	—
Thomas Greenhill	165.2	163.8	91.1	—	—
James G Lee	160.6	176.0	166.6	174.1	181.0
David Greenhill	159.8	—	—	—	—
Nicolas Bennet	153.5	151.2	149.7	125.8	144.9
Steve Sliwa	152.2	115.8	123.7	—	—
Uwe Kleinhempel	147.7	152.4	—	—	137.5
Gordon Boettger	141.7	143.5	157.5	173.0	—
Brad Jackson	140.0	129.1	117.7	123.9	137.1
Jim Dingess	137.0	111.9	155.5	—	—
William Oxx	133.4	—	—	—	28.5
Jim Payne	130.6	141.9	141.3	113.0	151.5
Charles Griffin	124.6	116.4	102.8	96.0	113.6
Sam Whiteside	122.0	—	—	—	—
Luke Watters	119.9	—	—	—	—
Tom Phillips	116.5	—	—	—	—
Robert Trumbly	113.4	114.3	115.1	92.9	—
Nicholas J Thomas	109.6	115.4	110.6	93.8	102.1
Barry Danieli	109.2	80.2	109.3	86.8	91.2
Hannariina Laukkanen	103.2	—	65.9	—	—
Alan Coombs	99.4	109.4	86.4	—	—

Best Sprint Speed

Pilot	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Gordon Boettger	254.5	258.2	250.6	275.9	—
Jim Payne	244.4	275.2	230.4	139.0	274.1
David Greenhill	213.5	—	—	—	—
Thomas Greenhill	205.3	208.2	224.9	—	—
James G Lee	204.1	243.6	214.5	245.9	232.9
Nicolas Bennet	198.3	192.8	196.8	166.3	175.9
Keith Essex	195.9	213.7	179.4	179.6	—
Steven Wertheimer	188.1	—	—	—	—
Brad Jackson	177.5	180.8	177.4	146.7	189.5
Steve Sliwa	173.5	147.9	139.7	—	—
Jim Dingess	160.6	111.9	175.4	—	—
Uwe Kleinhempel	160.5	195.4	—	—	137.5
Robert Trumbly	147.7	182.5	159.3	139.4	—
Charles Griffin	146.2	159.7	176.3	137.6	173.3
Nicholas J Thomas	138.5	137.6	155.7	154.8	199.7
David Moruzzi	138.2	—	—	—	—
Peter Satitpunwaycha	137.7	—	—	—	—
Hannariina Laukkanen	135.9	—	67.4	—	—
CR Gillespie	135.3	—	—	—	—
William Oxx	133.4	—	—	—	107.0
Sam Whiteside	129.1	—	—	—	—

OLC-Plus: USA

Rank	Name	Pts
1	Gordon Boettger	10,126
2	Keith Essex	8,424
5	Uwe Kleinhempel	7,265
7	James Lee	7,002
8	Jim Payne	6,729
10	Josef Bostik	6,645
13	Darren Braun	6,542
14	Thomas Greenhill	6,520
15	Nico Bennet	6,231
18	Jim Dingess	5,420
25	Gary Ittner	5,177
Others in the top 100: David Greenhill, Tom Selm, Nic Thomas, Brad Jackson, Mitch Polinsky, Robert Trumbly, John Cochrane,		

OLC-Plus: USA

Name	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Gordon Boettger	1	2	1	1	3
Keith Essex	2	3	2	2	1
Uwe Kleinhempel	5	6	10	7	2
James Lee	7	5	4	3	5
Jim Payne	8	12	24	13	4
Josef Bostik	10	1	35	27	7
Thomas Greenhill	14	11	7	8	32

OLC-Plus: World

Rank	Name	Pts
1	Gordon Boettger	10,126
3	Keith Essex	8,424
8	Josef Bostik	6,645
14	Uwe Kleinhempel	7,265
19	James Lee	7,002
20	Nico Bennet	6,932

OLC-Plus: World

Name	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Gordon Boettger	1	2	1	1	5
Keith Essex	3	4	6	5	1
Josef Bostik	8	1			
Uwe Kleinhempel	14	38			2
James Lee	19	23	30	13	10
Nico Bennet	20	15	27		44

OLC Speed: USA

Rank	Name	Pts
1	Gordon Boettger	1,252
2	Jim Payne	1,191
3	Keith Essex	1,010
4	Nico	991
5	Brad Jackson	990
6	Jim Lee	979
8	Thomas Greenhill	933
10	Gary Ittner	913
13	David Greenhill	893
14	Uwe Kleinhempel	877
19	Darren Braun	864
Others in the top 100: Mitch Polinsky, Josef Bostik, Jim Dingess, Nic Thomas, William Oxx, Tom Seim, Robert Trumbly, John Cochrane, Sam Whiteside, Alan Coombs, Chris Gillespie		

OLC Speed: USA

Rank	Name	Pts
1	Gordon Boettger	1,252
2	Jim Payne	1,191
3	Keith Essex	1,010
4	Nico	991
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OLC Speed: USA

Rank	Name	Pts
1	Gordon Boettger	1,252
2	Jim Payne	1,191
3	Keith Essex	1,010
4	Nico	990.5
5	Brad Jackson	990.2
6	Jim Lee	979
8	Thomas Greenhill	933
10	Gary Ittner	913
13	David Greenhill	893
14	Uwe Kleinhempel	877
19	Darren Braun	864
Others in the top 100: Mitch Polinsky, Josef Bostik, Jim Dingess, Nic Thomas, William Oxx, Tom Seim, Robert Trumbly, John Cochrane, Sam Whiteside, Alan Coombs, Chris Gillespie		

OLC Speed: USA

Name	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Gordon Boettger	1	1	1	1	4
Jim Payne	2	2	2	4	1
Keith Essex	3	3	10	3	3
Nico	4	7	4	20	9
Brad Jackson	5	11	9	36	8
Jim Lee	6	4	3	2	2
Thomas Greenhill	8	6	7	6	12
Gary Ittner	10	28	15	17	16
David Greenhill	13	25	21	10	
Uwe Kleinhempel	14	14	8	11	5

OLC Speed: World

Rank	Name	Pts
1	Gordon Boettger	1,252
2	Jim Payne	1,191
3	Keith Essex	1,010
4	Brad Jackson	1,015
5	Nico	1,005
7	Jim Lee	979
11	Thomas Greenhill	933
14	Gary Ittner	913
18	David Greenhill	893
22	Josef Bostik	883
25	Uwe Kleinhempel	877

OLC Speed: Worldwide

Name	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Gordon Boettger	1	1	1	1	4
Jim Payne	2	2	2	21	1
Keith Essex	3	3	14	7	3
Nico	4	8	7	15	20
Brad Jackson	5	16	9		13
Jim Lee	6	4	4	2	2
Thomas Greenhill	8	6	12	38	37
Gary Ittner	10				
David Greenhill	13	97			
Uwe Kleinhempel	14	30	17	99	7

WeGlide - Global

- Distance
  - Gordon Boettger – 1
  - Keith Essex – 5
  - Josef Bostik – 23
- Out & Return
  - Josef Bostik – 1
  - Gordon Boettger – 2
  - Keith Essex – 48
- Travel by Glider
  - Jim Lee – 15
  - Jim Dingess - 50

- Sprint
  - Gordon Boettger – 1
  - Jim Payne – 2
  - Brad Jackson – 6
  - Nico – 10
  - Keith Essex – 11
  - David Greenhill – 15
  - Jim Lee – 16
  - Thomas Greenhill – 19

WeGlide Club Champion

Sum of 3 Best Distance Flights Over the Season

- 2026 – MSC 1st (Boettger, Bostik, Payne)
- 2025 – MSC 1st (Boettger, Bostik, Nico)
- 2024 – MSC 1st (Boettger, Essex, Lee)
- 2023 – MSC 1st (Boettger, Lee, Essex)
- 2022 – MSC 2nd (Lee, Essex, Reinholt)
- 2021 – MSC 64th (Essex, Nico, Lee)
- 2020 – MSC 1st (Payne, Essex, Lee)

WeGlide Club Total Distance Champion

- 2026 – 5th
- 2025 – 7th
- 2024 – 11th
- 2023 – 75th
- 2022 –
- 2021 –
- 2020 – 1st

Total Distance

OLC

- Nico is champion again
  - 70,299 km – 111 Flights
  - 2nd Place is 55,664 km
  - Nico Champion also: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022
  - Keith Essex champion: 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015

WeGlide

- Nico is champion again I 2026
  - 70,736 km – 112 Flights (2nd place 62,237)
  - Champion also: 2025, 2024, 2023