

Columbia River Poker Run SOP

Summary

- CTRs and TRACONs, know your holding points in case things turn IFR and be ready to speak up early for ground holds! There may be a shortage of holding room in the air, particularly over BTG if things get dicey. “Encourage” pilots to take the same approach if we’re in IFR ops, lots of switching around between approach types will get ugly. Flight following is MANDATORY, so be ready to give it!
- Towers, know your traffic patterns! Some of the airports have non-standard (right-hand) traffic patterns.
- Ground controllers, have a plan! You could have 10+ aircraft on the ground at any one time, particularly at Hillsboro where things will get really busy! Know where you’re having them park to get their next card, know where to stack them up if needed, and know where the fuel is for those who ask.
- Don’t Suck.

Enroute Operations

- SEA_N_CTR will control all airspace when no other CTR’s are online (126.10). Use the 2-way split for this event.
- Fill North center first then South center, then L6 center, then L4 center.
- SEA_S_CTR will be busy if there is no L4 or L6. Be patient!
- South or L6 will handle approaches to KSLE if IFR conditions prevail.
- South or L4 will handle approaches to KKLS if IFR conditions prevail. Expect early handoffs from PDX_N_APP for arrivals to KKLS. Hand off departures to KPDX to PDX_N_APP as soon as practicable.

TRACON Operations

- Portland will be North/South split.
- PDX_N_APP will handle VFR leaving KTTD for KKLS, and arrivals from KKLS for KPDX. Hand off traffic for KKLS to L4 or South center early. Expect late hand-offs from L6 or South center for arrivals from KKLS.

- PDX_N_APP will handle IFR from KPDX to KHIO (via BTG) if we are IFR. In VFR, most planes from KPDX to KHIO should go directly from one tower to another, but there may be a couple high-performance props and pop-up higher and come to you VERY briefly; get them to KHIO tower as soon as practicable.
- PDX_N_APP will handle airspace to the north AND the final approach corridor for 10R/10L if in use.
- PDX_S_APP will handle VFR from KHIO for KSLE. Hand them to L6 or South center shortly after UBG. You will also handle arrivals from KSLE for KTTD from L6 or South center.
- PDX_S_APP will handle IFR approaches to KTTD.
- PDX_S_APP will handle airspace to the south AND the final approach corridor for 28R/28L if in use.
- If KPDX is IFR, work it out early!

Tower Operations

- Keep an eye on aircraft performance in the pattern. You may be able to sneak out departures between slow planes arriving into the pattern if needed.
- Read the event main page. The pilots will be expecting those instructions unless you have a good reason to change them.
- SLE_TWR, if needed, use both 31, and 34. Given the short KPDX-KHIO hop, traffic to KSLE should be pretty steady. Using 34 for arrivals, and 31 for departures will allow you to get planes out quicker, just watch out for runway incursions!!

Ground Operations

- Know the airport diagram. Know where the planes will be coming off the runways, find a good spot (or spots) where you can park at least 10 planes that allows for good traffic flow in (from the runways) and back out (for departures).
- Remember, the planes will need to switch off your frequency for 2-3 minutes to get their next card from the dealer. Make sure they get their first card before leaving their starting airport!
- CHECK YOUR RANGES IN ASRC/VRC!!!! KSLE and KPDX are on THE SAME GROUND FREQ (121.90), so it is imperative you have your ranges set correctly!!