

Topic of the month: October 2025

Safe Ridge Soaring with Cloud

Especially at this time of the year, there is often some orographic cloud on the ridge. This creates an additional risk to be aware of and to think about before you take off.

With a nice westerly, Bishop ridge will be working, but what about all these clouds in front?



There will be a good chance that you get lift in front of the cloud, but the following must be considered:

- Less visibility of other gliders
- Danger of drifting into cloud
- Disorientation when surrounded by clouds
- Disorientation when above the clouds
- Danger of drifting into the curlover behind the ridge when above the cloud

To reduce the risks and stay safe, consider the following

- The duty instructor will most likely reduce the number of gliders that are allowed to be airborne at the same time to reduce the danger of collision
- Always stay well clear of cloud, turn early and away from the clouds
- Clouds are changing very rapidly, don't be tempted to go somewhere and lose sight of the ground or the airfield
- Be very vigilant, you may only see another glider at the last moment and not everyone has a working FLARM
- If you get above the clouds, you are unlikely to see the edge of the ridge. Make sure you are well to the front of the ridge and head west until you are sure again where you are.



If you haven't seen it before, watch this video of a glider getting caught in cloud on a ridge
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpyqiAp2TFY>

Safe Flying

Wolf