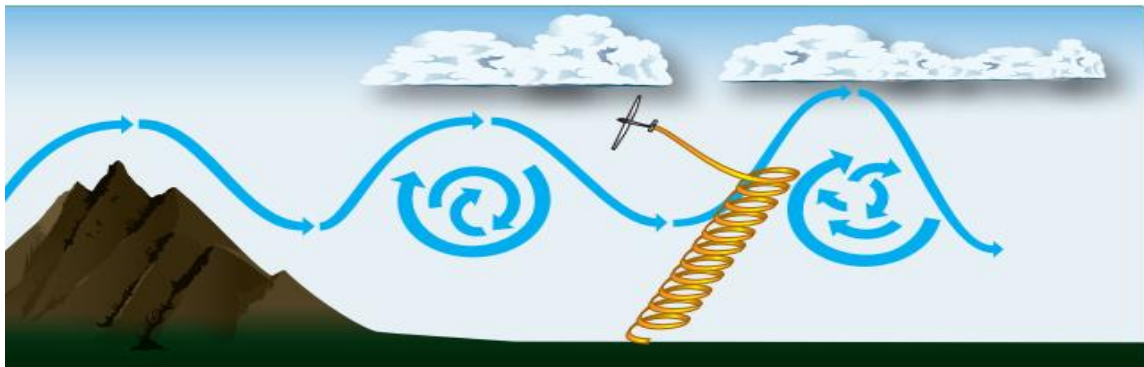




## What is wave?

Wave is a phenomenon created by the prevailing wind meeting a large hill or mountain in stable air mass conditions. The air will 'flow' over the obstacle and bounce like fast flowing water over a rock in a stream. Gliders can climb in the up going portion of the wave.



Wind climbing up a hillside and over the ridge

By flying in the upgoing part of the wave system a glider can fly to extreme heights and fly a long way without having to stop to climb.

- The air below the boundary layer can be very turbulent with rotor effects.
- It is usually necessary to climb in rotor thermals to get high enough to enter wave.
- When at cloud base, or slightly higher, fly forwards until you connect with the wave.
- When the air goes smooth, pull hard to establish in the upgoing air.

When using wave

- Fly along the wave bars laying off the drift. Beware, the wind can be very strong.
- Do not get blown back into the cloud. Push forward to avoid this.
- Jump forward at the end of the bar where sink is lesser.
- If in sink it is easier to reconnect downwind (if airspace allows).
- Watch out for closing cloud gaps. They only exist because of the wave is working.
- Use oxygen above 10,000ft. Wear warm clothing.

When descending

- Stop occasionally to let the airframe warm up.
- Never descend through cloud. You will ice up and will not see the ground.
- Plan your recovery to the airfield in good time.
- Expect turbulence near the ground.