



## **NOSTALGIA**

Jim Kellett

June 2025 marked my sixtieth year as a glider pilot. And what a ride it has been! Over the years I have owned all or part of six sailplanes, and I have flown a total of twenty different machines ranging from a Slingsby primary to a Duo Discus in thirteen states (including Hawaii and Alaska) and four foreign countries. I earned all the FAI badges except the Diamond distance, and was named by the FAA as a Master Pilot. For years I was named by the SSA as the most active instructor in Region IV. Finally, this sport introduced me to the special “band of brothers (and sisters)” including WWII fighter pilots (on BOTH sides of the war!), and one who flew combat gliders into France on D-Day. Twice.

When I was a “Volunteer Aviation Safety Counselor” for the Virginia Department of Aviation, I made many presentations focusing on two topics: Glider operations at mixed-use airports, and the aging pilot. I’m following my own counsel on the latter topic, having stopped giving instruction over a year ago. In 2026, I’ll be soliciting a “ballast” (AKA safety pilot) from another club member when I fly.



Robb Hohmann

A gentle nudge to plug the 2026 SSA calendar in this month's newsletter. If you look closely at the cover, you'll spot Nick Meeder at the end of a successful PPL-G practical test at our beloved home 'drome.





Skyline  
Soaring

Club, Inc.  
is a

private, 501(c7) non-profit organization, dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of the sport of soaring. SSC is based at the Front Royal-Warren County, Va. Airport and is an affiliate club of the Soaring Society of America. For information about the club go to [www.skylinesoaring.org](http://www.skylinesoaring.org)

Stephanie Zilora - President  
Directors  
Robert Jacobsen  
Carlos Troncoso  
Jim Perlmutter  
Peter Ross  
Erik van Weezendonk  
Stephanie Zilora

Keith Hilton - Secretary  
Ralph Vawter – Treasurer  
Marcelo Morichi – Asst.  
Treasurer

Chris Wuerker - Safety  
Officer  
Tim Moran - Membership  
Officer  
Shane Neitzey – Chief  
Towpilot  
John Noss – Chief CFI  
Ken Ring - Hangar  
Meister  
Ertan Tete - Field  
Computer Meister  
Carlos Troncoso – Chief  
Duty Officer  
Mike Ash - Duty Roster  
Chief  
Piet Barber - Webmaster  
Brian Clark - Assistant  
Webmaster  
Jim Kellett - Newsletter  
Editor

Evan Dosik - ASK-21  
(N321K)  
Meister  
Rob Jacobsen – Discus  
Meister  
Steve Paris – Tow Vehicle  
Meister  
Andrew Neilson –  
Towplane Meister  
Keith Hilton – ASK-21  
Meister  
Matt Vosica –  
Organizations Liaison  
Officer  
Cindy Lawyer –  
Merchandise Meister