

SKY LINES



SKYLINE SOARING CLUB NEWSLETTER

November 2009

Prepare for the Wave Flying Season

Are you a fair weather flyer? Do you hang up your bucket hat when the leaves fall from the trees? If so, you're missing a side of soaring you may not have imagined.

Today, September 30th and just a week into the fall season, was a day like many winter days to come. All the numbers said serious lift was possible but the sky was gray, overcast and seemed unsoarable.

But I went out to the airfield anyway to find out there was all kinds of good stuff, soaring wise, going on.

Well, words cannot do wave soaring justice, so I'll let a video demonstrate what winter soaring is all about. The video can take a minute or two to download on high speed internet, but it's worth it.

View the video at: http://www.skylinesoaring.org/VIDEOS/Misc/WaveKFRR_Pub.wmv.

—Vern Kline

W. Virginia Wave Soaring

Plans are being prepared for the winter 2009-2010 soaring season at Grant Co. Airport in Petersburg, W. Va.

At this time wave camps are scheduled for Nov. 7-8, Nov. 28 to Dec. 6., and Feb. 27 to March 7. You can assist the organizing of the camps by e-mailing your dates



Photo by Martin Gomez
David Collier lands his father's vintage Schweizer SGS 1-26 after a 3:58 flight Oct. 3.

of attendance and any special requests to confirmation@wave99.info or by calling the airport at (304) 257-4435.

Impromptu operations will be announced on short notice (2-7 days prior) throughout the winter and contingent on the weather and interest.

Go to: <http://wave99.info> to sign up for wave alerts and to view the latest schedule, or e-mail signup@wave99.info and advise of your interest in receiving future e-mail an-

nouncements.

For more information contact Larry Stahl, Grant County Airport (W99) Rt. 33, Box 55, Petersburg, WV 26847 / (304) 257-4435 / larry@stahlflyingservices.com / <http://stahlflyingservices.com/>

These wave camps are strictly an all volunteer effort that can only continue with the support of interested participants and volunteers. Share this information with other glider pilots who might be interested in attending

Christmas Party Anyone?

Shane and Valerie Neitzey have offered the use of their shop, next to their home in Gainesville, Va., for the annual Christmas party, Dec. 5.

A few volunteers are needed to come out about 3 p.m. to convert the workshop into a holiday ballroom. At least four or five should be sufficient. "Blues On The Side," a rhythm & blues / classic rock band, will perform.

It's always been a potluck party; bring your own adult beverages and something tasty to share, and the club will fund the soft drinks.

Shane and Valerie Neitzey

17015 Gaines Rd

Broad Run, VA 20137

(703) 753-3806

—Jim Kellett, Skyline Soaring Club Resident Curmudgeon

Martin's Photos

Martin Gomez posted more of his Skyline Soaring Club photos at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/21003395@N08/sets/72157622510259762/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/21003395@N08/sets/72157622564120060/>

Have a look.

Gliding Great Grandma

Age was no barrier for 92-year-old Dorothy Orr to experience gliding with her son George Hazelrigg. On a sunny Saturday morning in September Dorothy decided to watch the gliders being towed up, joining the duty officer and others in the tent at the far end of the field. After some time had passed, she said, "How I'd love to go up." In response I said, "Do it now, today!"

But she hesitated until I told her that a few weeks ago, John Noss took his mother up in the glider and how much she had enjoyed it. So, although dressed very fashionably in a skirt and blouse, with a little help Dorothy climbed into the back seat of the Grob and was strapped in by George.

Later she said she wasn't at all scared as the Grob was towed up and that she was thrilled to be "soaring like a

Copy That 1



Photo by George Hazelrigg

92-year-old Dorothy Orr waits to be pushed out onto the runway at Front Royal for her first soaring flight.

bird," experiencing the silence and enjoying the spectacular views of the mountains. During landing she was surprised that the glider could sail to a smooth stop without any help from an engine. On her return home Dorothy surprised her relatives and friends with a photo of herself in the glider, grateful that a club member had taken a picture of her getting ready for her new adventure.

Being brave and young at heart she was able to experience the thrill of a sailplane. Was this a record-setting flight for her age group at Skyline Soaring Club?

—Maruta Mitchell

Skyline's New Face

I have created a Facebook page for the club, since that seems to be a fashionable thing to do.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=180000864618&ref=share>

—Piet Barber

Public Relations

It's not always obvious but the long term health of the club requires attention to how it relates to others. So we were very pleased when the Warren Co. Airport Commission invited us to share their space at the Aviation Education Exposition held Oct. 13 in the ProJet hangar at Winchester

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 or e-mail welcome@skylinesoaring.org.

President — Craig Bendorf

Secretary — Jim Kellett

Treasurer — Daniel Noonan

Membership — Steve Rockwood

Chief Tow Pilot — Curtis Wheeler

Chief Flight Instructor — Piet Barber

Safety Officer — John Noss

Skylines Editor — Dennis Johnson

Directors — Shane Neitzey, Spencer Annear, Paul Seketa, Jim Parrish, Vern Kline



Regional Airport. It was a great opportunity to meet like-minded aviation organizations and to promote soaring to people who already had some involvement with aviation.

The exposition attracted over 50 sponsors, including flight training companies, medivac companies, a university and several government agencies. It provided a nearly day-long program for several hundred teens, including local Civil Air Patrol cadets, student pilots from Randolph Macon Academy and a group from Gallaudet.

There were over a dozen aircraft on display, including a large bizjet, a couple of Cessna Caravans and Cirrus airplanes, helicopters and one Schleicher ASW-20 glider (H3) owned by three Skyline Soaring Club members.

My wife and retired crew, Pat, manned the table behind the glider with a TV running a 13-minute soaring video and passing out brochures about SSA and our club. I stayed with the sailplane, answering questions and chatting with many exhibitors who were fascinated by soaring. Bottom line: it was a networkers paradise.

—Jim Kellett

Soaring Society of America Region IV Director

Show Your Neighbors What You're doin' on a Good Weekend

Recently we had to replace a flag bearing the Skyline Soaring Club logo that we'd flown at our home for the past 15 years. That flag was custom made by a seamstress in Winchester who's now retired.

After searching the Web I finally found a company in Australia that offered good custom flags at a reasonable price, so I bought several. I got a considerably



Photo by Jim Kellett
A young student tries on a glider at the Aviation Education Exposition held at Winchester Regional Airport Oct. 13.

better price for buying five rather than just one, so we've kept one, donated one to the club and I have three left if anyone wants one for the price of \$60. First come, first served.

—Jim Kellett, Resident Curmudgeon and Flag Waver

Geotagalog

A fellow I know writes a program called Geotagalog for Macs. It takes digital photos and, using the time stamp that virtually every camera embeds, combined with a GPS track log from a suitable GPS device, figures out exactly where you were when you took the picture and will display it on a map, and tag the photo so that other programs can also display the location.

After seeing one of my flights posted to the Aerokurier Online Contest (OLC), and some pictures that I had taken on the flight, he got intrigued and decided to add support for International Gliding Commission logs to his application. Version 1.5 now works with IGC logs. I thought it was neat to see support for the soaring community built in to a program like this.

So, if you take pictures while you fly, and you have a logger, and you use a Mac—I feel like I just eliminated everybody in the club except me—you can now use your logs to tag your soaring photos and never ask yourself again, “Uhh, where did I

take that?”

If you're interested, you can get it at:

<http://calftail.com/geotagalog>

What's OLC?

The Aerokurier Online Contest (OLC) is a worldwide decentralized soaring competition for glider, hang glider and paraglider pilots. The OLC is operated by Segelflugszene Gemeinnützige GmbH, a German nonprofit organization founded in 2000. “Segelflugszene” translates as “gliding scene” in English.

Glider pilots upload log files from a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) flight recorder to the OLC website and the server automatically scores the flight performance. Scores are handicapped to allow for the performance differences of glider makes and models. The scores are summarized and displayed by airfield, club, region, country and continent, along with the overall world standings. The handicap factor and the scoring breakdowns allow pilots to compete against one another on any level, from local to international.

The competition runs for a full year beginning in October. There's an annual OLC symposium and award ceremony in late October each year in Gersfeld Germany, near the Wasserkuppe.

—Wikipedia

SSA Promotes Soaring Safety with New Sailplane Tracker List

It's late in the day and one of your sailplane pilots has not returned – what to do? If he is one of the growing numbers of pilots equipped with a SPOT™ satellite tracking device, an APRS (ham-radio only) or other personal locator beacon and has updated his SSA profile with that information, then you may be able to quickly access the latest tracking information on the pilot through the SSA's new Sailplane Tracker List.

The SSA Sailplane Tracker List is a list of internet links to satellite tracker data, such as SPOT's Shared Tracking page or other Web-based tracking devices. Click on the Sailplane Tracker icon on the SSA home page to go directly to the Sailplane Tracker List, then click on the link for a listed member and the most recent tracking data will be shown superimposed on a map.

—SSA E-news



Photo by Jim Kellett
A flag sporting the Skyline Soaring Club logo graces the home of longtime member, Jim Kellett.



Top left: David Collier assembles his father's trusty SGS-1-26.

Top right: Bob Collier supervises the canopy closure for his son, David.

Middle left: Tow pilot John Noss receives special instructions while towing with the club's Husky.

Middle right: John Noss is ready to tow another.

Bottom: Skyline webmaster, Piet Barber, makes his radio call before launching in his LS-4.



All photos by Martin Gomez