



SKYLINE S

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF SKYLINE SOARING CLUB, INC FEBRUARY 2012



Annual Meeting

George Hazelrigg

Our Club held its annual meeting on January 28 at the Samuels Library in Front Royal. There were about 30 club members present. John Noss, our new club president, kicked off the meeting, and he was followed by several Meisters covering all aspects of our club's operation. Interesting stuff as you can tell by the intense expressions on the members' faces. For those of you who are not so deeply involved in the workings of the Club, guided by our Board of Directors and helped by the devoted efforts of many Club

members, we have made steady progress. The Club is in excellent financial shape under the care of our treasurer, Tom Park and his assistant Dan Ernst. Our membership has continued to grow under the leadership of Steve Rockwood. And our equipment is kept in great shape by our team of Meisters: Shane Neitzky our Maintenance Chief; Steve Rockwood, Membership Office and Cirrus Meister; Mike Christensen, ASK-21 Meister; Rufus Decker, Grob Meister; Bill Woodard, tow car Meister; Dave Collier, four-wheeler Meister; Piet Barber, web-Meister and Chief CFI; Vern Kline, assistant web-Meister; Dan Ernst, hangar Meister; Martin Gomez, chief tow pilot; Bob Gould, our representative on the Warren County Airport Commission; Charles Norman, safety officer; Paul Pruitt, field computer Meister. Let's also welcome our Board of Directors for 2012, Mike Christensen, Jim Kellett, John Noss, Steve Rockwood, Ertan Tete and Curtis Wheeler. These people all devote a considerable amount of time to the Club.



A special thanks was offered to Joe Parrish, who won the 2012 Gogos Award for service to the Club in recognition of over a decade of devoted service. Joe gets the bulk of the credit for our strategic plan, which has led the Club through its growth over the past ten years. We have a truly great Club. Let the efforts of those recognized above, and all the ones I forgot to mention, serve as inspiration to the rest of you to become equally involved.

Gogos

The Bela Gogos Service Award was established, as the Exceptional Service Award, in 2001, and the first award was made at the Club's tenth anniversary gala. It is a permanent trophy, and hangs in the Terminal Building of the Front Royal Airport. It is the Club's most prestigious award, and recognizes the special long-term contributions in more than one area to the Club. Previous recipients are: Spencer Annear, Piet Barber, Chris Groshel, Phil Jordan, Jonathan Kans, Jim Kellest, Jim McCulley, Shane Neitzey, Dan Noonan, Bill Vickland, and Fred Winter.

The name of the award was changed in 2008 to the Bela Gogos Memorial Service Award, in recognition of an outstanding exemplar of the award's goals and purpose. Bela Gogos, who passed away in 2008, was a founding member, director, and long-term Treasurer of the Club who also personally funded a \$50,000 scholarship fund for young soaring pilots.



FIRC

George Hazelrigg

One of the great benefits the Skyline Soaring Club offers is free instruction from an outstanding cadre of highly skilled and experienced instructors. Many of you have earned your glider ratings under these instructors. But how many of you know that, unlike your PPL-G rating, which stays with you for a lifetime, the instructor rating, the CFI-G, must be renewed every two years? The process is called recertification. There are a few ways that an instructor can recertify, including retaking the practical exam. In fact, if an instructor allows his or her CFI-G to lapse, the only way to recertify is to retake the practical. Another way to recertify is to take a flight instructor recertification course, a FIRC. And that is how many of your instructors spent the weekend of January 21 and 22.

The focus of a FIRC is not the rules and regulations, aerodynamics, airspace, weather and so on. It is assumed that instructors already have a good grasp of these things. Rather the focus is on how these things can be taught effectively and efficiently, and without intimidating the student. We all get a little up tight when we take a practical test for any aeronautical rating.

Those of you who already have your ratings can certainly relate to that feeling of angst as the test begins. But it's not really you who is being tested, it is your instructor—the person who put you up for your rating.

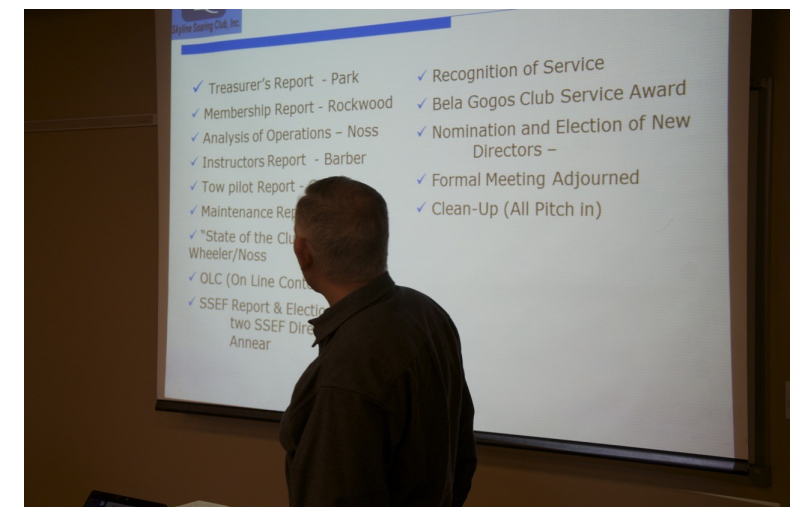
When an instructor signs a student off for a practical test, the instructor is certifying that the student has mastered to the appropriate level every item in the Practical Test Standard. The examiner is merely checking to see that the instructor has done his or her job in assuring your level of competency.

You can be sure that your instructor is just as up tight about your test as you are. Although it's not entirely a formal measure, a passing grade for an instructor is that 80 percent of the students put forward for their practical test pass on the first try. I'm confident that we do much better than that at Skyline Soaring. It's a rare event indeed that one of our students fails

While we're on the subject of instruction, it's time to give a lot of credit to Chief Instructor Piet Barber, who has created perhaps the best on-line glider



Membership - Steve Rockwood



Congratulations Mr. President - John Noss



training system in existence. The system enables both student and instructor to see exactly where they stand in the training process. Preparation for every element required for a rating is carefully documented and available with lesson plans, objectives and standards, reference to FARs and helpful documentation. We miss nothing when you get signed off for you test. So, the next time you go to the field and meet your instructor, keep in mind that there's more to your instruction than someone who sits behind you in the cockpit to keep you from destroying yourself and the glider whilst you learn to aviate. Your instructors devote a lot of personal time to being up to date on the regs and approaches to instruction. And know that many little things that you may think rather trivial, such as which checklist to use, have probably been argued over ad nauseam by your instructors

in 23 minutes. After the crew and Mike returned to the field the skies had opened up to partly cloudy so SSC operations resumed with Shane towing again. By 1630 flights were finished for the day 94E was re-rigged, a positive control check was completed, and put back in the barn after disassembling and storing the rest of the gliders. A more detailed PIREP, with lessons learned, will be given the SSC Annual Safety Meeting.



Photo by Dick Otis



Tow Pilots

Skyliners,

Your club towpilots and instructors have been dialoging on club towing procedures, and have plotted to meet in February to discuss "joint Towpilot/CFI face-to-face meeting to engage in a dialog about consistency". If you have any thoughts or comments on this topic, please feel free to send them to the towpilot or instructor of your choice. Please do NOT send your comments to the distribution list.

Grob 103 Landout



On 14 January 2012 at about noon the SSC Grob 94E landed-out in Eastern Front Royal after cloud streets closed in and lift turned to sink. Mike Christensen was wave flying solo and landed out without damage to 94E or property on the ground. Mike was un-injured and the neighbors were friendly and supportive. No public safety personnel were involved or required. Twenty five minutes after getting the "Landed Safe and Sound Phone Call", Shane Neitzey had his Shane's Signs Truck, an SSC Crew and the Grob trailer at the landing site for the retrieval. Shane, Ertan Tete, Joe Lingovitch, and Sobek Dziadek had 94E de-rigged and loaded in the trailer



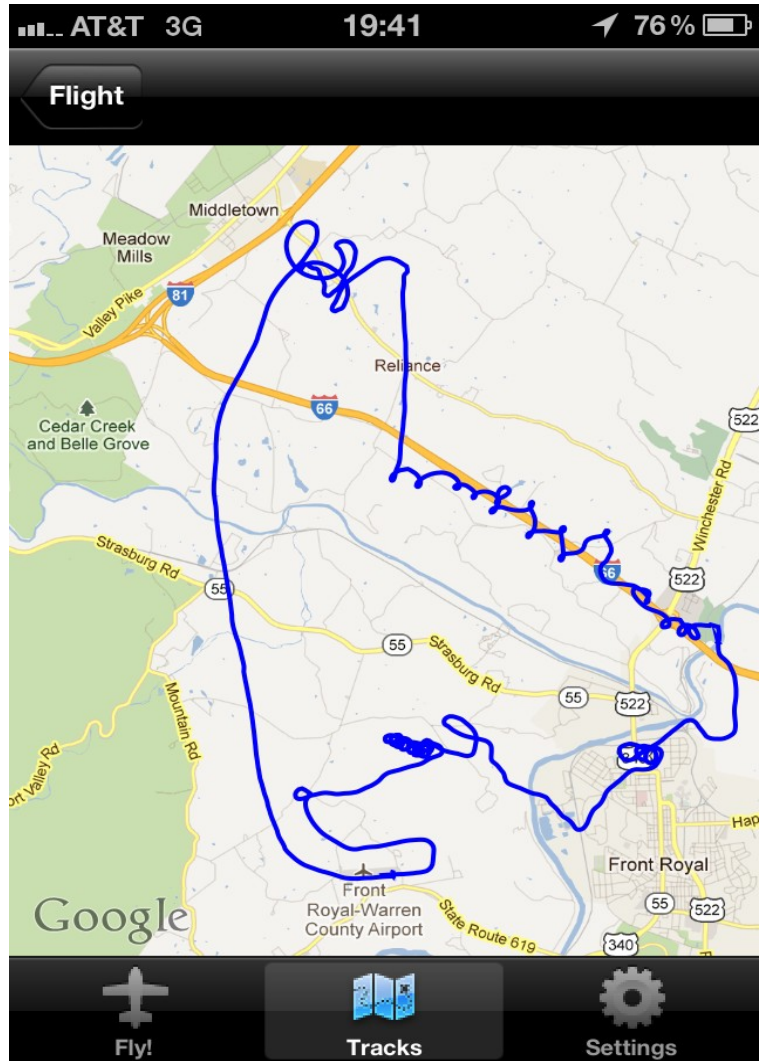
Photos by Joe Lingovitch

ASK 21 Transponder Installation



Cloud Flying in the Wave above Warren County

Sprite Adventure



IGC trace on a iPhone of a flight in clouds and wave stretching the limits of the Sprite beyond the 3 mi standard tow radius. The release was at 6,000msl 6 mi out, still well in glide back distance of the Sprite at 1/2 L/D (15:1).

Annual Safety meeting

February 12, 2012 - Mandatory Annual Safety Meeting 10:30 at Samuals Library 330 E. Criser rd. Front Royal, VA 22630

Recycled

Information

Worth

Repeating

SAY AGAIN



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.skyinesoaring.org

President - John Noss

Secretary – Jim Kellett

Treasurer – Thomas Park

Membership – Steve Rockwood

Chief Duty Officer – Craig Bendorf

Chief Tow Pilot – Martin Gomez

Chief Flight Instructor – Piet Barber

Safety Officer - Charles Norman

Skylines Editor – Douglas Hiranaka

duck_h@hotmail.com

Directors – Daniel Ernst

Mike Christenson, Jim Kellett

John Noss, Thomas Park

Steve Rockwood, Ertan Tete

Things to remember on each flight:

- Cell Phone
- Good shoes
- Clothing appropriate for the weather
- Snacks
- Water
- Sunglasses
- Hat