



From the President

John Noss

Well, other than one nice day early in the month, Mother Nature certainly delivered some rather brutal February weather. Even after an afternoon of attacking ice on the ramp in front of our hangars on Saturday, with log-splitting maul and sledge hammer and wedge, we barely made a dent in the ice barriers. Thanks to everybody who helped out in that project!

Great turnout at the rescheduled safety meeting, thanks to everybody for adjusting their schedules for the slip, thanks to Martin for getting us into the Aurora facility on short notice, and thanks to Charles for all the work that went into the presentation. If you were unable to make the meeting, remember that you will need to review the slide presentation package before you fly!

Special thanks to Ertan Tete, today he installed a very nice web camera at the terminal building that will give us an online view of the ramp and runway. There are still some refinements to be made, but it is up and running now, the link is on the club website weather page. The club bought the camera, Ertan did the work, the airport is providing the power and data connection, and we all benefit. We have been working on this for years, quietly, it's great to see it finally happen. The club owes a lot to people like Ertan who invest a huge amount of time and effort with very specialized skills to make nice things happen.

Winter will be over soon, I promise....
Fly Safe, Fly Often, Have Fun!

Masthead photo: Dick Otis



Photo: Martin Gomez



Thanks Ertan! This flightline webcam project has been years in planning, incubation, and test. Link is now on the club weather page, may eventually tie in to Weather Underground.

Great turnout at the rescheduled safety meeting, thanks to Martin for getting us into the Aurora facility on short notice, and thanks to Charles for all the work that went into the presentation.—*John Noss*

Photo: John Noss



Charles Norman (above) and Martin Gomez.



Photos: Dick Otis

Skyline Soaring 2015 Safety Meeting



Safety Meeting

Charles Norman, SSC Safety Officer

On February 28th the club held its annual Safety Meeting at Aurora Flight Sciences at the Manassas Airport. For the second year in a row, weather forced us to postpone the meeting. None the less, we had a standing room only crowd and a vibrant discussion on safety issues that apply to our club. After a review of the NTSB reports from 2014, Keith Overstreet led a discussion of helicopter rotorwash. Rotorwash is a subject many of us have not had much experience with, but is pertinent to our operations at Front Royal. We also discussed Hypoxia and John Noss introduced us to the club's new tow ropes and highlighted



Above: Charles Norman opens the Safety meeting.
Left: John Noss and the new tow rope.
Below: Keith Overstreet discusses helicopter rotorwash.

Photos: Martin Gomez





some key operational issues. Finally, Craig Bendorf led a refresher course on duty crew responsibilities.

For members that missed the presentation, we will post the presentation slides on the club website in the next few days. Before you're able to fly with the club, you'll need to review the presentation and send a confirming e-mail to me. The club will then update your profile to reflect that you're cleared to fly.

Thank you to all the members for making safety such an important priority. We're fortunate to have such strong safety culture where we really do great job mitigating risks and looking out for each other.

I'd also like to thank Martin Gomez for providing us a venue for this year's safety meeting, and to Keith Overstreet, John Noss, and Craig Bendorf for their presentations.

Have a great year and fly safe! ✈️

Above: Rapt audience of Skyliners.

Right: Craig Bendorf speaks of DOs and ADOs responsibilities.

Below left: Dick Garrity, Brandon Snow and Mike Ash focused.

Below right: Guin Kutella and Ellodie, who attended her very first safety meeting, pose for Dick Otis.

Bottom: Bruce Zivic, animated as always.



Photos: Martin Gomez (except as noted).

Photo: Dick Otis



A Family Affair—A few photos of baby Ellodie Kutella’s first visit to Skyline. She’s Josh and Guin Kutella’s daughter and Bill and Sharon Burner’s granddaughter.

Guin and Josh flew and Bill towed while Martin Gomez photographed and towed. FOD seems to have gone to Mike Ash at 23 minutes. See Steve Rockwood’s DO report in “SAY AGAIN”.



Above: A “Gator-eye” view of John Noss and Guin Kutella.

Right: Ellodie Kutella is the star on February 8.

Below: A family portrait— Mama walks a wing, Daddy drives a Gator and Baby stays out of the cold. Photos by Martin Gomez.





Photos from Jim Kellett

Warrenton Soaring Center Reunion

Saturday, May 16, 2015, 10 AM-?

You DO know, don't you, that our club was created 24 years ago by the customers and staff of the Warrenton Soaring Center, and that we still fly one of the towplanes from that company? See <http://skylinesoaring.org/HISTORY/history-3.shtml> In fact, there are still thirteen full or emeritus Skyline members who flew at WSC!

A fondly remembered aspect of flying at WSC was the frequent Saturday evening potluck picnic. The grills came out, the

coolers of beer came out, and once the planes were stored away the group would hang out and relax as the sun went down. It was not unusual for people to drive out to the airport JUST for the picnics!!

WSC flew out of a grass strip named Warrenton Airpark then owned by the former Mayor of Alexandria, Charles Beatley. The Airpark, now owned by Thomas Richards, is not only still in operation, but has actually expanded to include a successful skydiving operation as well as being home to about 50 aircraft, many of them ultralights.

The owner has enthusiastically agreed to a reunion picnic of "Friends of Warrenton" on Saturday, May 16, 2015. This can occur

rain or shine, as the skydiving operation has graciously agreed to let use their large building in the event of inclement weather (which would mean they wouldn't be skydiving anyway!)

I have started an e-mail list of interested attendees to whom I can send updates and more information and to get a grip on how many people may show up. If you would like to attend, please e-mail me to get on that list!!

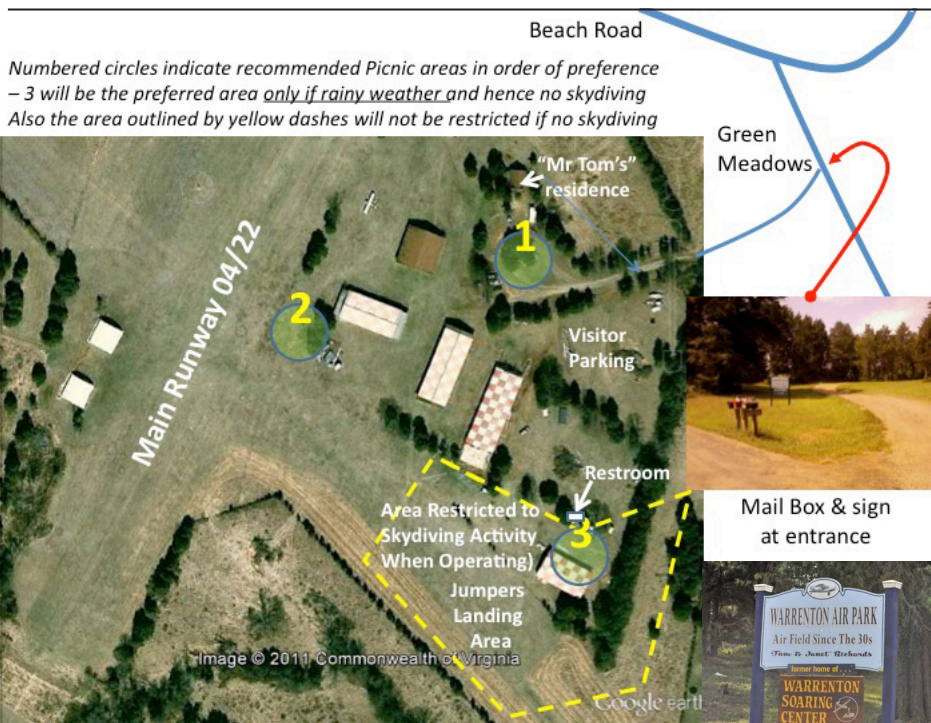
Here's an overview of the airpark now, with some notes about logistics:

Plan to bring your own food, drink, disposable eating utensils, some chairs to sit on and, if convenient, a table.

Enjoy!

Jim Kellett, Resident Curmudgeon

PS: To get a glimpse of some of the action at WSC in pictures, see <https://www.icloud.com/photostream/#A1JoDiRHGcoGBE>





Photos: Martin Gomez

I was visiting the Navy test pilot school recently, and ran into a familiar face. —Martin Gomez

Still serving after all these years: Bob Sallada congratulates Mike Heinz on earning his A Badge on February 8.



Dick Otis by Martin Gomez



Martin Gomez by Dick Otis

It is with deep regret we note the passing of Joan Vickland—

Bill said “Joan enjoyed our soaring friends from Warrenton and Skyline during the 42 years that I have been soaring in the east.”

Joan Vickland suffered a very serious stroke and passed away on February 24. Joan has been a familiar and much loved presence on the 1-26 circuit, having crewed for Bill in all but three of the 40 contests he has flown in. She is also well known to many Skyliners from the Vicklands’ long association with the club. Joan also soloed in 1-26 #238, which she and Bill built from a kit.

Please keep Bill and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Anyone wishing to send a card to the Vickland family their address is:

629 North Monroe Street
Arlington VA, 22201

—Dan Ernst



Photo: Matt Linger

Recycled
Information
Worth
Repeating

SAY AGAIN



Bermuda High Soaring School—Congratulations to Carlos Ignacio Troncoso (Washington, DC) on his accomplishment of upgrading his Private Glider to Commercial Glider rating. DPE Frank Reid says “Carlos is one smart fellow and really made an effort to be totally prepared for his check ride.” Carlos flies with Skyline Soaring in Front Royal, VA and looks forward to becoming more involved with his club now that he has his commercial rating. Thanks to Bill Ballard for towing and taking the photo!—*forwarded by John Noss*

Please put on your calendar the next New Members Orientation Meeting that will be held on March 7, 2015. This one hour discussion will begin at 8:30 a.m. and held in the FBO at the Front Royal Airport. If you are new to the club and an older member that may need some updated information plan to attend. If you are interested respond to Bob Sallada at rsallada@aol.com and Steve Rockwood steve.rockwood@comcast.net. Attendance at this meeting is mandatory for all new club members.
—*Steve Rockwood—Membership*



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

President—John Noss
Secretary—Keith Hilton
Treasurer—Steve Rockwood
Membership—Steve Rockwood
Chief Duty Officer—Craig Bendorf
Chief Tow Pilot—Martin Gomez
Chief Flight Instructor—Piet Barber
Safety Officer—Charles Norman
Skylines Editor—Phil Jordan
flyingfish2@cox.net
Directors—John Noss, Ertan Tete,
Martin Gomez, Richard Garrity,
Keith Hilton, Dan Ernst

Excerpts from Operations Report for February 8th—The day started off cold and warmed up as time progressed. Lift was nonexistent, but lots of accomplishments were completed. Not a bad day with twenty-one (21) successful flights. Welcome back Josh and Guin Kutella who have been busy with other projects last year, including bringing a new life into the world. In fact, they brought their 4-month old daughter to the airport to check out our operation and ride in the Gator. What a gorgeous baby and she never complained all day long. Mike Heinz converted his Introductory membership to a Probationary membership then proceeded to complete his first solo flight in the Grob. Congratulations and a job well done Mike. Tom Ward began his Introductory membership and had two training flights with John Noss. Tom is an accomplished pilot and has a commercial glider rating with 300+ glider flights in gliders ranging from SGS 2-22 to ASW-20 to ASH-25. Welcome to the club Tom.
—*Steve Rockwood, DO*

Who says “there are no, old bold pilots”?—Fitz” Fulton dead At 89—The test pilot who many test pilots acknowledge as the “Dean of Test Flight” died last week. Fitzhugh “Fitz” Fulton died at his home in Los Angeles from complications of Parkinson’s Disease. He was 89. Fulton tested everything from sailplanes to the YF-12 (predecessor of the SR-71) during his 40-year career and was inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame in 1999. He received four Distinguished Flying Crosses and numerous other awards and flew combat missions in Korea in an A-26. He also set an altitude record in a B-58 bomber by going up to 85,360 feet.

Likely his most famous role was as the commander of the Boeing 747 that carried the space shuttle test vehicle. He was also the remote control pilot of a Boeing 720 intentionally crashed in the desert to test fire-resistant fuel in airliners. After a long career with the military and NASA, he ended his flying life working for Burt Rutan’s upstart Scaled Composites, flying the innovator’s varied designs <http://www.avweb.com/avwebflash/news/Fitz-Fulton-Dead-At-89223525-1.html>

(Once again Skylines is the victim of hyperlink voodoo-cut and paste the link—ed.)



Photo: NASA