

Newsletter of the Skyline Soaring Club for August, 2022

SKYLINES



WHAT A WoT!!

July 11 – 15. . . another GREAT training experience at the Grant County airport in Petersburg, WV is over!

So many “thank you” notes are called for, starting with Piet Barber who came up with this concept years ago and set the guidelines in the “WoT Bible”. But for sure this year, special note is due to Segelfluggruppeführer Stephanie for an outstanding job as Air Boss; instructors Justin Mensen, Allison Diaz, Ron Wagner, Chris Norris, Piet Barber, Ken Ring; towpilots Hugh McElrath, Andrew Neilsen, Richard Good, and Chris Norris. Also couldn’t have come off without all the wingrunners, cooks, gator drivers, pushers. Great teamwork from everyone!

There is some truth to the statement that if you can see it, you can be it. The effects of this were on full display during Randolph Macon’s visit to SSC operations. Tim Moran graciously showed the students around (braving the rain!) and showed them what gliders look like. Meanwhile, in between the raindrops, normal ops were occurring. And as part of that, Mia Anderson was going up for some checkride prep flights with Allison Diaz. Tim relayed to me later that one of the young ladies at Randolph Macon had asked, incredulously, if she had witnessed a female CFI-G flying with a female student. She was thrilled to find out that Allison was, in fact, one of our CFI-Gs and that she was helping Mia prep for her upcoming checkride. If you can see it, you can be it.

Maybe she will be inspired to stick with it until she gets her rating...maybe she'll even be captain on a flight that I take some day!

Now get this - - ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE SORTIES FOR THE WEEK! That's like almost two months' "normal" weekend soaring.

Now some of the many accomplishments:

Keith Brown's first solo and "A" badge

Chris Jones received his "A" badge (he'd previously soloed but didn't get his badge then).

Kevin Barret received his "B" and "C" badges



Jackson Loyer getting his "B" Badge from Chris Norris



Lydia Olsen finally getting her "A" and "B" badges (Soloed a long time ago, but A badge for first Club solo)



Jackson Loyer's first solo and "A" badge from Ken Ring



AND DO NOT FORGET THE COOK!



Peter Ross gets "C" badge from Chris Norris

Alex Zobell, Josh Barber, and Kevin Barrett all received their endorsements for practical exams; Mark Moran and Marcelo Morici were signed off for solo recurrency.



Left to right, Lydia Olsen, Emma Tetley (2022 SSEF scholarship awardee), Nerissa Zobell (2021 Ryan Trexel scholarship awardee), CFI Allison Diaz, President Stephanie Zilora, and Mia Trkulja (2022 Trexel scholarship awardee).

Roughly 6% of rated pilots (overall, not glider pilots specifically) are women. Many men and women who are wiser than me have speculated, opined, and debated over why this is the case, but it remains a fact. That is why I was THRILLED at Skyline Soaring Club’s latest Week of Training when we had four (out of twelve—33%!) female students, a female CFI-G, and a female duty officer. This is a fantastic start, and I hope the ladies all felt supported and encouraged. Unfortunately, many women who apply for student pilot certificates never finish their ratings, but I’m hoping that we at SSC can help change that, at least in our own circles. – Stephanie Zilhora



RIP, REGGIE CASSAGNOL



manager Rock Skowbo and the “Friends of Front Royal” tenants group organized a moving memorial tribute that included many of Reggie’s family and friends who shared memories of his extraordinary life in aviation. After a fly by, his ashes were dispersed over the airport he loved.



In May, we lost the longtime friend of Skyline and the FBO at our airport. On June 10, the current



CALEB STRETCHES HIS WINGS



America’s youngest glider pilot (at the time) was the recent recipient of an incredibly generous gift - - a Sparrowhawk R sailplane - - from William Bank!! After a thorough briefing on assembly and cockpit orientation, he finally took to the air on his first two flights!!

He wasn’t injured, and the glider is still flyable, so both flights were successful!



SAFETY FIRST!

On July 23, Burt Compton, trustee of the Soaring Safety



Foundation (see <https://www.soaringsafety.org/>) and one of the few DPEs approved by the FAA to conduct practical tests for all glider certificates anywhere in the United States, visited Skyline Soaring for the third on-site safety survey. During these surveys, Burt meets with members and observes the operation of the club and as a result, makes recommendations to the Club’s leadership on how we might improve our safety procedures.



ANOTHER COMMERCIAL PILOT!



Alex Zobell earns his CPL(G) on July 23!



NEW PILOT INTERVIEW – TIM BOOKWALTER

Marcelo Morichi

When did you take your practical test?

A: Sunday July 10, 2022

How long did it last?

A: Too long!

Weather at 8am

was not great. We

finally started the

oral test more than

an hour late when

we decided we had a good chance to actually fly.

We had a long break between the 2nd and 3rd flight

because operations were suspended for the Reggie

Cassagnol Memorial service and fly-over. I don’t

recall the exact time we finished, but it was well into

the afternoon.



Tim Bookwalter passed his Practical on July 10

Who was the tormentor (Designated Pilot Examiner)?

A: Piet Barber

What were the flight conditions that day?

A: Low overcast early becoming broken around 3000AGL by the time we were ready to fly but scattered clouds at lower altitudes. Winds were relatively calm.

How many flights did you complete? What do you remember most vividly about that flight?

A: Three. Third flight planned for 3000AGL had to release at 2500AGL due to cloud base and immediately hit a thermal which Piet suggested to work, but I said we were too close to the cloud base and requested that we just work the test items we needed to complete.

How did you prepare for the oral portion of the practical test? What was difficult about that part of the test and what advice would you give other students preparing for it?

A: I attended the online ground school held by the Philadelphia club over the winter, and then studied the Bob Wander books through the spring. I was not as prepared as I could have been to discuss weather. I would advise to bring a current weather forecast to the test and be prepared to discuss every detail in the report. Practice looking at different weather reports and be prepared to discuss anything in them with confidence.

Who was your first passenger after you became a pilot?

A: I have not yet had the opportunity to fly with a passenger. Any volunteers?

What is your most memorable flight since you became a pilot?

A: My 7th solo as a student was a 3000ft tow late in the day with approaching weather. When I released from tow and turned west into rain I quickly realized that the weather was approaching much faster than predicted. I decided I had no interest in being caught in bad weather and pulled spoilers and kicked into a hard slip heading for the airport. It was recorded as an 11-minute flight with a 3000AGL release. I landed in light rain and with help was able to get the glider in the hangar with only minutes to spare before the storm hit.

What are your goals as a glider pilot for the next two years?

A: To improve my skills in thermals enabling me to fly longer and higher and to learn how to fly the ridge.

If you met with Tim when he started his flight lessons, what advice would you give him?

A: Your landings will be bad, and you will think the answer is to do more pattern tows to practice landings. Wrong! Your landings will be bad because your flying skills are weak. Forget doing pattern tows just to practice landings. Every time you get in the glider tow as high as you can to maximize practice time on aerotow, then practice lots and lots of turns whether there is lift or not. Landings will get better as your flying gets better and flying gets better with time in the air.

What are the two things that Skyline Soaring Club does well in developing new pilots? What is the one thing that could be improved?

A: What does SSC do well: 1. Instructors - I flew with almost every instructor in the club, and every one of them had reviewed my training record and was well-prepared to help me with what I needed to do that day. I heard some complaints from other students about having too many different instructors, but every Skyline Instructor I flew with helped me improve as a pilot. 2. Training Record - SSC has an excellent online student training record that allows the student to review feedback from instructors and plan the next flights. There is no excuse for a student to show up to the field to fly and not know exactly what they need to work on. What can be improved: Students should be able to fly 4-5 times per flying day to make progress, but the current process allows for 2-3 (my average was 3.2 flights per flying day). I would suggest reducing the student load on a given flying day allowing students to fly more on a given day.





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

Jim Kellett

Jim Perlmutter

Peter Ross

Erik van Weezendonk

Stephanie Zilora

Keith Hilton - *Secretary*

Ralph Vawter - *Treasurer*

John Noss - *Chief CFI*

Shane Neitzey - *Chief Tow Pilot*

Chris Carswell - *Chief Duty Officer*

Ron Wagner - *Safety Officer*

Tim Moran - *Membership Officer*

Ken Ring - *Hangar Meister*

Ertan Tete - *Field Computer*

Meister

Mike Ash - *Duty Roster Chief*

Piet Barber - *Webmaster*

Brian Clark - *Assistant Webmaster*

Jim Kellett - *Newsletter Editor*

David Collier - *Tow Vehicle Meister*

Andrew Neilson - *Tow Plane Chief*

of Maintenance

Peter Melenson - *Club A&P*

Keith Hilton - *ASK-21 (N321K &*

N341KS) Meister

Evan Dosik - *ASK-21 (N321K) & Grob Meister*

Guido Kramp / Rob Jacobson - *Discus Meister*

Richard Good - *Sprite Meister*

Matt Vosika - *Organizations*

Liaison Officer