



SKYLINES

CONGRATULATIONS TO CARLOS TRONCOSO!!

With the start of the new season, Carlos will take on the arduous task of the Chief Duty Officer, striving to keep all the free spirits in the club



safe and having fun at the same time. Carlos replaces Chris Carswell who has served the club for several years with distinction.



BUMPER STICKER FOR YOUR CLUB!



Skyline's very own signmaker, Shane Neitzey, can make you a nice bumper sticker. The standard is 3"x12", but he can make it larger or smaller as desired. Just send him a note asking for it!



MANDATORY SAFETY MEETING AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This year we return to face-to-face meetings, and it'll be at the community center in the firehouse just across the road from the airport. Will run 8:30 - 11:30 . . . and it's important! Our "Culture of Safety" requires that all members must either attend the Safety Meeting (Or view a recording of it) before flying any time after the date of the meeting! And at the annual member meeting, we'll be electing two new board members for three year terms. (Want to run, contact club president Stephanie Zilhora.)

BOARD NOTES

Leith Hilton, Secretary

Your Board met again on 5 January via Zoom Video Teleconference. Six other Club members attended to watch the sausage being made.

Our Treasurer, Ralph Vawter, noted that the Club had a \$4,300 loss last year. That is not all bad news. The primary reason for the loss was the early payoff of the loan on N321K. The Club now owns all but N341KS free and clear. As you may or may not know, Fred Winter graciously leases N341KS to the Club.

Ralph also noted that we received the insurance payment for the canopy damage to the Discus to pay the \$8,000 still owed to Gehrlein for the installation of the canopy.

On a very positive note, Ralph stated that the Club is in stable financial condition and did not recommend an increase in Club dues for 2023. The Board voted unanimously to keep the Club dues at the 2022 level. As a reminder, Club dues pay our “fixed costs.” Those costs include such things as hangar rent and insurance.

Warren County is currently asking airport residents to sign new leases for the hangars. There are a few issues that the “Friends of Front Royal airport” asked the County to change in the lease. Club legal eagle, Chris Norris has reviewed the lease and provided some input.

We still have 36 individuals on the Student wait list eager to join the Club. John Noss noted that our Membership Officer, Tim Moran, is offering student membership to ten individuals from the Student wait list. The intent is for the new members to attend the March Membership and Safety Meetings.

Jon Noss noted that approximately 52% – 56% of Club annual glider flights are typically training flights. 2022 was no exception.

Carlos Troncoso volunteered, and was unanimously approved by the Board, to replace Chris Carswell as the new Chief Duty Officer. Chris and Carlos have provided some recommendations to the Board for inclusion in the Club Operations Manual on how the Duty crew should handle the cancellation of Clubs operations due to weather. You will see that guidance after the Board has the opportunity to discuss the recommendations.

On the Club glider front, Richard Good had the Sprite seat cushions reupholstered with some nice blue fabric. Additionally, Kevin Barrett worked with Daniel Wells to complete the conditional inspection on the PW-5.

As noted in a recent email from President Stephanie Zilora there will be two open seats on the Board (Perlmutter & Kellett) this year. The consensus of the Board was for candidates to declare or be nominated not later than 17 February. The on-line election is scheduled for 24 February – 2 March 2023. Results will be announced at the Annual Membership meeting on 4 March 2023. If you are interested in helping make sausage, please make your intentions known to one of the Board members.

Eric van Weezendonk has been researching the Club’s liability in the event of an accident for non-member “guest” flights and if a signed waiver of liability should be required to be signed by the passenger. This is a very complex issue. The consensus of the Board was that we have “walk on” guests review and sign a waiver of liability. Family members and guest flight individuals would not be required to sign the waiver. van Weezendonk noted that he received a sample waiver of liability from the gentlemen at KFRR that gives rides in his Boeing-Stearman that we might use as an example.

Since the Board meeting, Eric had the opportunity to talk to our insurance provider, Costello Insurance Associates, Inc. for some advice. Eric noted that Costello doesn't have a standard Liability Release, nor would they be interested in one. Their basic thought process is that it varies from state-to-state so it is difficult to develop a policy. Supposedly a lawyer would sue anyway. If the PASSENGER dies, they cannot sign away their heir's (estate) right to find somebody to sue. Most importantly, our current club policy DOES allow passengers to fly with us, as PASSENGERS. If they manipulate the controls, then they are no longer a passenger. So, if we decide to use some kind of liability release form then we will need to explicitly state that they are NOT PILOTING the glider. This coverage is only up to \$100,000, so there is that. Not very much in today's dollar.

Please stay tuned for additional information on this topic.

The next Board meeting is schedule for 16 February at 1830 via ZOOM video teleconference. Please feel free to attend. If you have something specific that you would like the Board to address. Please let me know prior to the meeting so you can be added to the agenda.



SORRY WE'RE LATE (AND SHORT!)

Jim Kellett, Editor

The editor's desktop computer crashed on January 25, and it's still in the shop! Of course it had all the backup files and archived files and drafts of SKYLINES on it. The shop did manage to email me the draft of the newsletter as of January 26, so I'm editing it on my laptop. And you'll notice there's no "closing box" with the routing offerings of names of officers, etc.