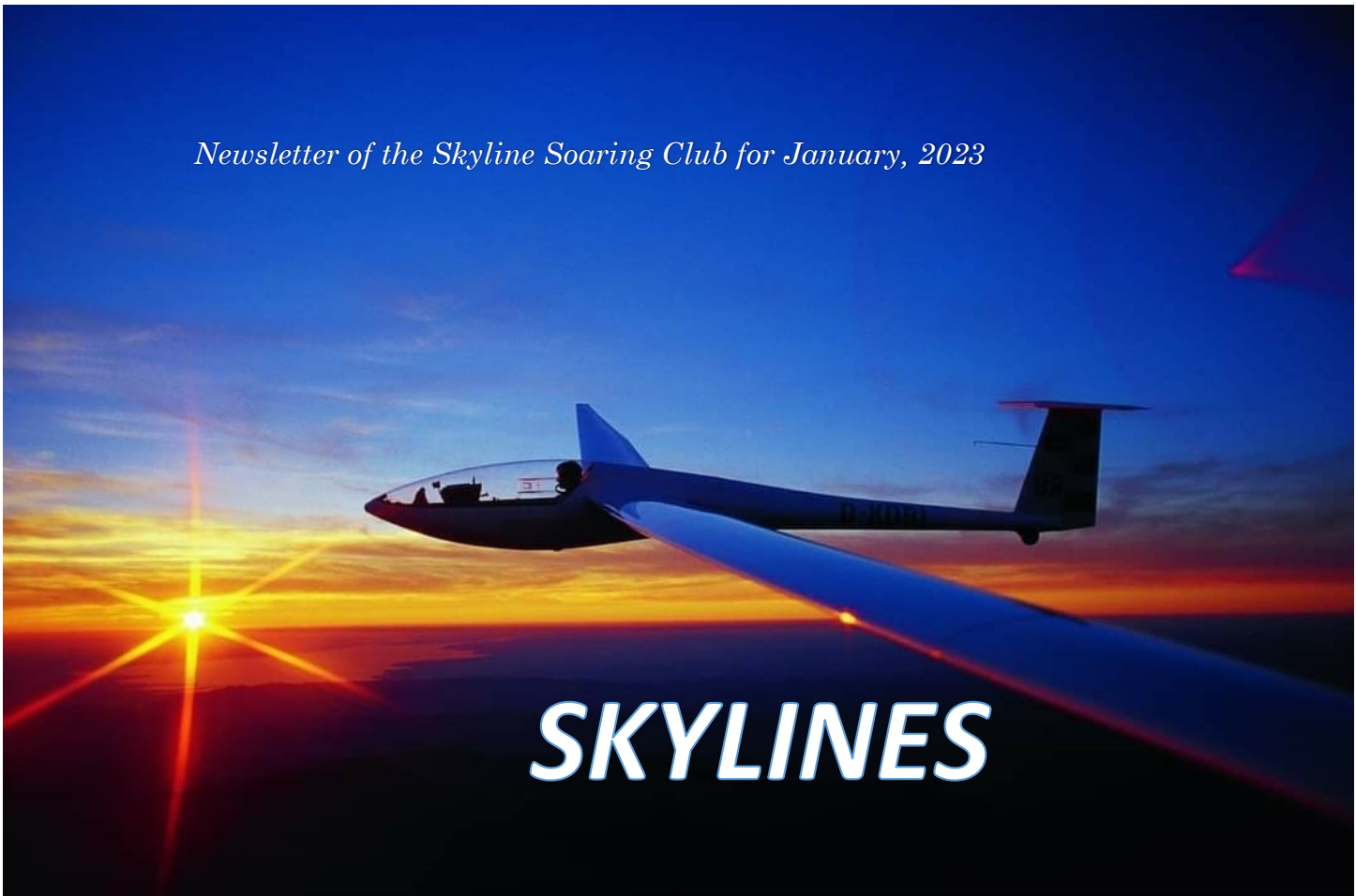


*Newsletter of the Skyline Soaring Club for January, 2023*



### **WHAT A BLAST!!**

December 17, 2022 – 56 club members and guests celebrated the Club’s 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary at the Heritage Hills Country Club, and what a fabulous evening it was!! Music, fine food, open bar, amazing keynote speaker, awards and some surprising revelations about some of the members when they’re NOT slipping the surly bonds of earth.



Justin, Jim, Erik, and Keith

First off, who knew glider pilots could clean up so well?? Not only were more than a few who opted for black tie formal finery, but some of our military members showed up in their dress uniforms.

Our guest keynote speaker, Dave Weaver, is a former Skyline member and currently the President of the Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association. He was also for some decades a pilot of the famous U-2 “reconnaissance” plane (which he insisted was NOT a “spyplane” 😊) His fascinating talk described the history of the development of the family of U-2 aircraft as well as some anecdotal experiences he had flying it.

Another big surprise for our President, Stephanie Zilhora, came when her fellow Directors conspired behind her back to select her for the 2022 Bela Gogos Award, the club’s most prestigious award recognizing sustained superior contributions to the

operations of the Club. Shown here flanked by Directors Erik van Weezendonk, Jim Kellett, Rob Jacobson, and Jim Perlmutter.



It's understandable that some may be surprised at the wide range of talent that's totally unrelated to flying many of our members have! One



who is the individual who led the effort to found Skyline Soaring Club is also an accomplished musician as well as successful entrepreneur. Yep, that's none other than Shane Neitzey, shown here serenading the crowd singing "Halleluiah".

The Club owes a HUGE debt of gratitude to Miriam Ellis, Skyline's very own professional party planner!! She, with a little help from husband Greg, did an amazing job coordinating all the myriad things that have to come together to make a memorable party. THANK YOU, Miriam!

The club aspires to celebrate its anniversary every five years (obviously COVID interfered with our 30<sup>th</sup>) so I'm already looking forward to 2026 and our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary!



### HELP PROMOTE SSC AND YOUTH AVIATION Chazz Smith

Caleb has been invited to a speaking engagement to talk about his journey, strength, and motivation as a glider pilot. This event is to take place on Feb 18, 2023 at 10 AM. Caleb & I would like to use this platform to request SSC as a joint effort and introducing the club to Marylanders. We want to demonstrate the diversity & skillset in the club. This will give the opportunity for Marylanders learn more about gliders (managing energy) and how beneficial it would enhance one's flying capabilities.

SSEF will also be in attendance introducing its scholarship program.

Please contact me personally if interested at [Toykey@aol.com](mailto:Toykey@aol.com). Come out and help promote SSC.

Location: College Park Airport Museum (KCGS)  
Address: 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Dr, College Park, MD 20740  
Date: 18 February 2023  
Time: 1000 AM (arrive early 0915-0930) to interact with audience.



### Board Meeting Update

Keith Hilton, Secretary of the Board  
December 2022

Operation of the Club never seems to slow down. Your Board of Directors met via ZOOM video conferencing on 27 October and 1 December. Various Club members also called in because they didn't have bamboo to shove up their fingernails. The Board is always interested in the thoughts of the Club members.

Treasurer Ralph Vawter provided an update to the Board on Club finances. He indicated that the Club is fortunate to remain in good financial shape with

\$75K in the bank. It was noted that the purchase and installation of the ADS-B transponder into the Discus was recategorized from an expense to an asset (which can be depreciated).

There was discussion on raising the annual Club dues based on the increase in our insurance premium due to the claim on the Discus, and the increase in hangar lease rates, but Vawter didn't think it was necessary.

With Warren County taking over the airport we are unsure if they will continue to offer a 5% discount when we prepay for fuel for the tow planes. The Board voted unanimously to continue to prepay for fuel for the tow planes if the County offers us the option.

Treasurer Vawter noted that he had Chris Norris review the latest hangar lease that was received from Warren County. Norris had a few issues with the lease. Of primary concern was some legal mumbo-jumbo about "subordination" and "non-disturbance." My take. If the hangars are sold, we can't be kicked out. However, a new owner could raise our lease rates. John Noss noted that the lease also requires the specific aircraft stored in the hangar to be declared on the lease. A two-week notice must be given if a different aircraft is stored in the hangar. Ralph is going to discuss these issues with the Warren County Finance Manager.

Membership Officer Tim Moran noted in his report to the Board that current membership is 102 members with 29 potential members on the student waiting list.

Erik van Weezendonk, reporting for our Community Relations point of contact Matt Vosika, noted that he attended the Warren County Airport Advisory Commission the last week of November. It was noted by the Commission that the Wings and Wheels event was very successful. Erik informed the Board that the County is drafting a request for proposal for an Airport Manager. More to look forward to in the future.

Erik also noted that three different entities want to build hangars on KFRR and that we should make our wishes known to them. It might be possible for us to have access to a large hangar for the Club's aircraft.

The Board received some good news from the Commission meeting. The long running soap opera concerning fobs for the new access gate may have been resolved. The county is willing to issue the Club 60 additional fobs. It was unknown the timeline of receiving the additional fobs. There was some discussion of placing 10 fobs in a box for Club members to use during Club operations. The Club would be responsible for these fobs.

Chief Instructor John Noss reported that we currently have 24 students. 20 have flown this year, 11 have flown in the last 60 days, 7 have flown in the last 30 days. One check ride is scheduled before the end of the season. John and Tim are still working their way down the wait list, which has understandably stalled out with the end of the season upon us. They have agreed to try for 10 more students from the wait list to begin next year, and he will try to identify those prior to the membership and safety meetings.

As our statistician, John Noss noted that flights by aircraft by year shows that (so far this year) we are way below historical rates for private gliders, clear evidence of poor soaring conditions. If you look at the numbers from the early years where we had data, there were many more private glider flights from a much smaller fleet of private gliders. If not for Piet with 22 flights in QQ, the total of 70 private flights so far this year would be even more dismal.

Chief Duty Officer Chris Carswell noted that we've had a great year getting most of the newer members trained and into ADO and DO roles.

At the 1 December Board meeting, Chris led a discussion on the cancellation of Clubs operations due to weather. Various options were offered by Board members. President Stephanie Zilora noted that it is a last resort to cancel operations from home without even going to the airport. Jim Kellett

noted that there is always work that can be done around the hangar (wax gliders, clean the hangar, etc.). van Weezendonk noted that it used to be standard policy for the duty instructor to provide ground school during inclement weather. In one of his last actions as Chief Duty Officer, Chris took the action to draft a policy for review by the Board and eventual inclusion in a Club Operations Manual update.

As you may have seen in the last issue of Skylines, Chris will be retiring this year from his Chief Duty Officer roll and plan to do extensive travel next year. Thus, he would like to pass the role on of chief duty officer to a new person.

The Board voted unanimously to deny Chief Tow Pilot Shane Neitzey's request for Service membership for Blake de Kozlowski to become a Skyline Soaring Club tow pilot. Blake is currently in the Air Force on temporary duty to Joint Base Andrews. The Board believes we have enough tow pilots and would rather offer the opportunity to current Club members that wish to become tow pilots.

Chief of Tow Plane Maintenance Andrew Neilson noted that the tow planes are currently in good shape. The right mag on the Pawnee was beyond repair and it was replaced. We have oil filters for the Pawnee and Husky, oil, TCP, main tires (the planes use the same size mains), and a couple of spare tailwheel tires on hand. He also noted that the annuals on both tow planes are coming due. They will be schedule during the Club down time.

Chief of Glider Maintenance Keith Hilton commented that there have been several inadvertent releases of the Tost tow hook from N341KS. He noted that it is about time to change out the Tost releases from both N341KS and N321K. Keith will order them and work with Daniel Wells to replace the tow releases.

Discus Meister Rob Jacobsen indicated that our treasurer received notification from our insurance company that they have approved the claim for the Discus canopy repair. They will be sending a check

for \$14,172.34. This is to cover the labor (\$5980.00), parts (\$8792.34) less a \$600 deductible. The Discus will be towed to Gehrlein Products in Pennsylvania late January to complete the repairs. That is the earliest we can get the Discus in for repairs. It is the intention of the Board to also have additional miscellaneous repairs that we have been putting off completed by Gehrlein at the same time.

The Board has been discussing what to do to protect the Sprite once it is back on the ramp. Richard Good recommended full aircraft covers at a cost of around \$1,500. The Board voted against protective covers because they would not protect against water intrusion. They are currently investigating other methods to "water proof" the Sprite when stored outside on the ramp.

The Board also looked at some other options for storing the Sprite. One was to store at Burner's in Woodstock over the winter. That would make it nearly impossible to have the Sprite available for ad hoc days. The Board voted against storing at Burner's and determined that the Sprite should stay at KFRR.

Daniel Wells had completed most of the maintenance items that were identified during the last annual inspection. The only item still remaining is the "slop" in the left elevator.

The option for selling the Sprite is still on the table.

The annual inspection is due on the PW-5 in December. PW-5 Meister Kevin Barrett is working with Daniel Wells to complete the inspection.

Ron Wagner asked the Board to approve his proposal to submit a waiver request to the Washington FSDO to establish a "maneuvering area." This area would replace the previous aerobatics area established by Curtis Wheeler in 2013. That aerobatic box expired several years ago. The Board unanimously agreed that the "Aerobatics Manual" should be immediately removed from the Club website. Chris Norris has since removed the manual from the Club website. The Board

unanimously approved the motion to support Ron's pursuit of a "maneuvering area" waiver with the Washington FSDO.

Chazz Smith requested to address the Board concerning a request from Collage Park Aviation Museum for Caleb to present a lecture at the museum on 18 February. Caleb plans to fly a powered aircraft in as part of the motivational speech to get kids interested in aviation. Chazz requested that an invitation be given to the Club to help support the presentation at the museum. The presentation is scheduled for 1000 – 1300. Club members are all invited to attend and show the diversity of pilots in aviation. The Board members were in full support. It would be great if you have the opportunity to show your support for Caleb.

The Board discussed the 2023 Club Annual and Safety meetings. The Board voted unanimously to hold a combined Annual and Safety meeting on 4 March. The location is to be determined. Treasurer Vawter is investigating the rates to rent the Front Royal North Fire Hall. The Board is also looking at holding the meeting closer to the Washington DC metropolitan area. If you have an idea of a reasonably priced venue for approximately 75 people, please let me or a Board member know.

The Board spent a significant amount of time discussing violations to the Club Operations Manual and how to handle them. Jim Kellett noted that they used to have a "DUFUS" report column in the Club newsletter. It was acknowledged that that was a good way for members to admit when they violated the Operations Manual and that the latest violator should write an article. Chris Norris and Safety Officer Ron Wagner will talk to the violator of Club policy on cross-country flights in Club gliders to ensure they are aware of Club policy.

Peter Ross expressed concern as to why it is taking students so long to progress in their training. He asked the Board if he could contact each student member and get some feedback on their progression. The Board expressed strong support for his approach.

The question of the need for a release form when we give a ride to non-member guests was discussed. It is a complex issue. The Board will get guidance from our insurance company.

The Board also remains very active via email between Board meetings. After the 27 October meeting the Board voted via email to continue with the Anniversary / Holiday party even if we didn't get sufficient members attending to cover all the costs of the celebration. Additionally, the approved a member's request for exception of the one reservation per quarter.

The Board was briefed by Chris Norris on the installation of OGN (Open Glider Network) receiver (SSA has asked us if we're interested in buying several, partially subsidized by SSA.) This would help everyone track gliders in the mid-Atlantic area. Chris Norris will take the point on discussions to make this happen.

Secretary Keith Hilton noted that Jim Kellett and James Perlmutter are up for reelection during the March Annual Membership meeting if they desire to run again. If you are interested in running for a position on the esteemed Skyline Soaring Club Board of Directors, please let me or a member of the Board know.

The next Board meeting is schedule for 5 January 2023 at 1830 via ZOOM video teleconference. Brian Clark usually sends out an invitation with the web link to all members. Please dial in if you would like to see how Club business is conducted.



### **SKYLINES MASTHEAD PHOTOS**

Have a favorite soaring related photo? Share it for one of the 2023 masthead photos. We have only one left in the file here, and it'll be used in February. Just email your suggestions to the editor!





Skyline Soaring Club, Inc.  
is a private, 501(c)(7) nonprofit  
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  
Chief Duty Officer- OPEN

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 – Asst. 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 Meister

Rob Jacobsen – Discus Meister  
Richard Good – Sprite Meister  
Kevin Barrett – PW-5 Meister  
Matt Vosika – Organization Liaison  
Officer