



Annual Meeting

Twenty-nine people attended the Annual Meeting at the home of **Jim and Wendy Garrison** on Saturday, March 21, 2009. **Jim and Wendy** graciously provided a delightful array of breakfast food and beverages.

Following the corporate business for the Annual Meeting, **Paul Roberts** and **Jeanne Pitsenberger** provided the annual Safety presentation. **Jeanne** discussed the fact that even though most glider accidents are in the landing phase (53%) and generally involve only one person (the pilot), launch accidents (23%) almost always involve multiple people who could impact the results for more favorable outcomes. **Paul** provided a real account of things that can go wrong when flying in wave.

The following people were in attendance:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Jim & Karen Arthur | Hunter Johnson |
| Alec Bateman | Claire Johnson |
| Tom Belt | Mike Mellon |
| Rob Brooks | Mike Moses |
| David Carr | Bev Orndorff |
| Jay Darmstadter | Mike Patterson |
| Jim & Wendy Garrison | Graham & Jeanne Pitsenberger |
| Dennis & Evelyn Gorman | Chic Randow |
| Walter Grooms | Paul Roberts |
| Frank Hall | David Ross |
| Norbert Hamm | Nelson Trinkle |
| Ben Johnson | <i>Jim & Pat Kellett</i> |

Cross-Country Course Report

Twenty-nine glider pilots from four states attended **Jim Garrison's** cross-country course on March 27 and 28. Five of the six glider clubs in Virginia were represented and there were also pilots from Maryland, Tennessee and New Jersey.

The course began on the evening of the 27th with an excellent briefing on weather, including how to predict good thermal, wave and ridge days so one can easily plan on going to the airport — or, to the mall!

The next day's topics covered navigation and flight planning using pilotage and GPS, badge flight requirements and documentation of flights, and landing away from a gliderport that included pilot/farmer relations. What a lot of information to digest! **Jim's** engaging presentation style prevented any "nodding off" in the room and the time just "soared" by.

The venue could not have been nicer, thanks to our Region IV Director, *Jim Kellett*. He made the arrangements for the course at the Sunnyside Retirement Community where he lives just outside of Harrisonburg. It was very pleasurable and convenient to have dinner on Friday evening and lunch on Saturday right there at the site. The Sunnyside staff made us feel welcomed and fed us royally. Thanks, *Jim!*

SVS is so fortunate to have **Jim Garrison** as one of our members. His expertise and experience is awe-inspiring, and he is so generous with his time and talent. Thank you, **Jim!**

Now, SVSrs, let's work on some cross country flights that take us away from W13!

Election Results

At the March 21, 2009 "Annual Meeting," SVS members elected Directors to serve on the Board for the 2009-10 year. Immediately following the Membership meeting, the new Board members met and selected those to serve as Officers. The all-star team is:

- Alec Bateman, Director**
- Tom Belt, Vice President**
- Jim Garrison, Director**
- Ben Johnson, Secretary**
- Hal Loken, Treasurer**
- Mike Moses, Director**
- Bev Orndorff, Director**
- Graham Pitsenberger, President**
- Paul Roberts, Director**

Thanks to the Nominating Committee for developing such a nice slate. And, a special *THANK YOU* to **Jay Darmstadter** and **Larry Randall** who served SVS with distinction and are retiring (taking a sabbatical) from the Board this year.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

ROSTER CHANGES

Address change

Avery & Barbara
Mr. & Mrs. Avery Groves
4457 Rockfish Gap Trpk
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Add

New members

Simon Skretta
son of Matt & Amy

Joe Greenberg (trial membership)
255 Homestead Lane
Charlottesville, VA 22902
434-296-6366

The next meeting of the Board of
Directors will be Friday, July 3

**REMINDER: ALL MEMBERS ARE
INVITED AND WELCOMED AT THE
BOARD MEETINGS**

Ben Johnson, Secretary

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Thomas L. Belt, *Vice President*

Benjamin F. Johnson, *Secretary*

Halvar Y. Loken, *Treasurer*

Alec J. Bateman, *Director*

James C. Garrison, *Director*

W. Michael Moses, *Director*

Robert "Bev" Orndorff, *Director*

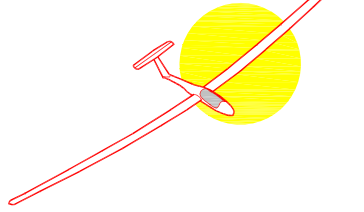
Paul T. Roberts, *Director*

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Shenandoah Valley Soaring



Operations and Field Procedures Manual

Operations Manual Updates

Bev Orndorff is revising the
Club's Operations and Field Man-
ual to reflect recent operational
changes including using the new
tost hitch on the Pawnee and the
related tow rope information.

Graham had asked Bev to
look over and glean information
from the Soaring Safety Founda-
tion's Training Guide. Bev reports
that our manual already covers al-
most all of the areas in the guide.

He is updating the manual to
reflect requirements of the FARs
so that we don't waiver from those
regulations or unnecessarily in-
clude items that can be found in
the regs.

Stay tuned for notices about
when the revised manual will be
printed and loaded on the website.

*"Great minds discuss ideas;
Average minds discuss events;
Small minds discuss people."*

Eleanor Roosevelt

Welcome New
Member!



Simon
Skretta was born
on Friday, March 20
at Augusta Medical
Center in Fishersville.

Simon's daddy, Matt, knew
that SVS was flying that day and
asked the tow pilot (Graham) to fly
by and rock his wings.

The ladies in the blood bank
at AMC hospital where Jeanne &
Graham regularly donate blood
said they saw an airplane fly by
and do just that!

Welcome, baby Simon, and
congratulations, Matt and Amy!



Winch Clinic

At the SSA Regional Leader-
ship Conference in February, sev-
eral people asked about getting
winch launch endorsements and/or
experience.

The Philadelphia Glider Coun-
cil in eastern Pennsylvania is trying
to organize a Thurs—Sun Winch
Clinic. They anticipate accom-
plishing the experience needed for
winch launch endorsements.

At least five SVS members
(Jim Garrison, Jay Darmstadter,
Alec Bateman and Graham &
Jeanne Pitsenberger) indicated
an interest in attending. Stay
tuned.

Aircraft Maintenance Costs

The Board reviewed the last twelve months of maintenance costs on the fleet. They came to no conclusions, but are well-informed of what it costs to operate each of the aircraft.

Pawnee Report

Tow Pilot Coordinator, **Chic Randow**, is planning to take the Pawnee to New Market for an evaluation of the plane's radio. The recent towing trip back to W13 from Petersburg Wave Camp demonstrated once again that the radio was unsuitable. The pilots in the Blanik on aerotow could only hear "gobbledygook" on the trip when **Chic** transmitted.

Blanik Report

Good news! The mandatory FAA Airworthiness Directive (AD) due on the Blanik before May was complied with during the time the Blanik was at W99 for Wave Camp. Member and IA **Larry Stahl** performed the AD inspection and declared our Blanik in compliance. No cracks were found in the bridge. (That's where the control sticks are joined.) If cracks had been found, the replacement parts would have cost in excess of \$2400. The bridge will be examined annually for cracks.

Walter Grooms' written report to the Board was "She's in tip top shape, ready to fly another hundred hours."

Tow Pilot Report

Chic Randow reported to the Board that he is planning to have an e-meeting with the Club's eight tow pilots. They will review some safety items and standardization.

Golf Cart

Ben is taking care of getting additional rear leaf springs for the golf cart. Sometimes it bottoms out with a full load of passengers. The current springs were not designed for a rear seat. When these are installed, **Frank** is going to modify and beef up the towing hitch and ball.

Mike Moses brought grease and a grease gun to take care of keeping the cart well lubricated.

Jay takes care of weekly batteries maintenance.

19T Report

Hunter Johnson reports that "19T is in tip top shape post annual. She even got a good bath after the annual."

1-26 Report

Frank Hall reported that the 1-26 received an annual inspection while at W99 (Petersburg Wave Camp). Even though it was not due for another six months, some folks had some time on their hands and opened it up for member **Larry Stahl** to do his magic. A couple of items were noted that needed correction, such as spar pins. They have been replaced. A couple of nuts were not the proper type and **Walter Grooms** and **Frank** will replace those.

The glider's former restorer, *Bill Vickland*, was on hand at W99 to see and appreciate the good care SVS is giving his "baby."

Licenses

State registration licenses have been renewed for the Pawnee, 1-26 and 19T. The Blanik renewal is not due for a few more months. You'll see new stickers on the fuselages under the horizontal stabilizer. Staying legal with the Federal, State and August County governments is quite a chore.

SVS TOWS & Aircraft Use - 2009

2009	# days operating	Total Tows	Blanik N922SB	SGS 2-33 N7780S	SGS 2-33 N3619T	SGS 1-26 N7713S	Non-SVS operated	Sight Seeing glider rides
March	4	27	13	5	0	1	8	1

April 2009 Tow Pilot Schedule

Sat 0930 4/4/09	Sun 1100 4/5/09	Sat 0930 4/11/09	Sun 1100 4/12/09	Sat noon 4/18/09	Sun 1100 4/19/09	Sat 0930 4/25/09	Sun 1100 4/26/09
Graham	Hal	Walter		Chic	Hunter	Chic	Graham

Hoist

Ben Johnson suggested that we manufacture some kind of hoist to get infirmed people in and out of the gliders for rides. **Graham** made a visit to the Woodrow Wilson Rehab Center in Fishersville that resulted in a used hydraulic patient lift being donated to SVS. **Chic Randow** and **Frank Hall** did a masterful job of mounting a bracket to accommodate the lift on the front of the golf cart. The apparatus can also be used to lift items like the back end of gliders to changes tire, etc.



EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM

As recommended by the Soaring Safety Foundation (SSF) on behalf of our insurance company, SVS has pilot emergency contact forms on file for most of our members.

BUT, a couple of members have not sent their form to Secretary **Ben Johnson**. The form deals with our insurance so the matter will not be dropped.

If you are one of the delinquent members who has not sent his/her pilot information form, you may mail it to SVS or email it to **Ben**.

NEW Trailer

Bob Lock, former SVS President and current Sustaining member, donated his 1-26 trailer to the Club. It is the one you've seen parked next to the other three Club trailers.

THANK YOU, **Bob!**

Have you Seen the Website Lately?

Ben Johnson recently wrote a modification to the website to answer questions of persons who are interested in glider rides and SVS.

It is masterfully done and we encourage all of our members to go to our website and feast your eyes on the new addition. It clearly gives the SVS position and protocols on glider rides.

Alec Bateman, our webmaster, is working on making the information more easily obtained as well as giving the whole website an updated look.

Many thanks to both **Ben** and **Alec** for keeping SVS digitally current!

Spring & Summer Social Plans

By popular request, two more SVS socials are planned for the coming months. **Hal & Sarah Loken** have graciously offered to host another covered dish meal at their mountain-top home. We will gather there at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, May 24 (Memorial Day weekend). The **Lokens** will again provide venison and salmon and ask that everyone bring either a salad, vegetable or dessert to share. The Club will provide beverages.

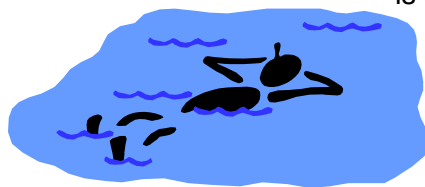
The special entertainment this year will be hot air balloon rides furnished by sustaining member, **Eva Tashjian-Brown** and our **Mike Patterson**. Both are commercial-rated balloon pilots and own balloons. Can't you just imagine the beauty of the sunset from a hot air balloon or from **Loken's** magnificent deck?

Thank you, **Hal, Sarah, Eva** and **Mike!**

Tom Belt offered to host another swim social at his clubhouse pool on Saturday, August 22 with a rain date of Sunday, August 23. Bring your own meat to grill and a side dish or dessert to share. This

is a great family activity for young and old alike. The fun will begin as soon as the gliders are put to bed at W13.

More details and directions will follow in later newsletters, but mark your calendars for both of these fun events.



Mike will be looking for volunteers (5 people) to help inflate and launch his balloon.

Board Meeting Notes

At the Friday, April 3 quarterly Board meeting, Board President **Graham Pitsenberger's** first order of business was to welcome **Alec Bateman** and **Paul Roberts** (in absentia) to the Board as well as the non-Board members who attended the meeting.

Tom Belt reported he has SSA report almost ready so that all members will continue as members of SSA.

In the absence of the Wave Camp coordinator, **Rob Chapman, Graham** gave a report on it. Ten members attended over the three week period. They made 22 flights—14 in the Blanik and 8 in the 1-26. No records were set, except for **Paul Robert's** personal altitude record.

Rob Chapman enjoyed giving his father his first glider ride while at Wave Camp. His father was an F-16 fighter pilot.

A good time was had by all.

The Club's financial condition was examined by the Board in great detail. The conclusion was that SVS is in pretty good shape. The SVS financial records have been reviewed in detail by **Ron Coffey** and found to be in order. Thanks to **Ron** for that job. Federal and state tax income returns have been filed. SVS owed no taxes. The Augusta County Personal Property tax forms have also been filed.

Now that there is a Virginia Glider Association, **Bev Orndorff** will represent SVS in those matters and with the Virginia Department of Aviation.



Miss Something?

You can read previous SVS Newsletters on the website

<http://svsoar.org/news.htm>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the glider pilots is?

Some of our members have enjoyed using their glider pilot certificates during the winter months at places near and far. There were three cold weekends at the Petersburg Wave Camp. Well, not really, one weekend was pretty warm. The week at the Seniors Contest in Florida was perfect — warm and sunny. Now we welcome the beautiful Valley spring and promises of many thermal days ahead.

You will see reports throughout this newsletter about various happenings and Board activities.

The grass at W13 around our hangar and launching area will soon need weekly attention. The lawn mowers at the hangar do not require any special operator's license or endorsements, and all members are invited to push or ride the equipment of their choice.

All of our aircraft are up to SVS standards (way above FAA minimums) and the CFIs are ready and willing to give spring checkouts if asked. If you have not flown in the last couple of months, it would be a good idea to ask one of them to ride with you. We anticipate cutting off some shirrtails of new members and celebrating several successful check rides.

I encourage you to look at our updated website, especially the new "frequently asked questions" link on the home page. This will help all of us give the same answers.

We are all looking forward to seeing our members using their SVS business cards to give the 10% discount for glider rides to friends and acquaintances. Income from the glider rides will help pay off our long-term debt so we may consider getting additional aircraft. Several of us are interested in that!

Graham

The Newsletter photos (in fact, everything) look great on the internet

Try it: <http://www.svsoar.org>

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COMING ATTRACTIONS!

**Sunday, May 24, 4 pm: Covered
Dish Social at the Lokens, Rain or
Shine**



**Saturday, August 22, Rain Date
Sunday, August 23, 5 pm Swim
social at Tom Belt's Clubhouse**



**IN
THIS
ISSUE**

Board Meeting + Equipment Reports + Hoist + Website Updates
