

Shenandoah Valley Soaring

Eagle's Nest Airport - Waynesboro, VA

January 2007

1-26 Partners Donate Sailplane to SVS

SVS has a new sailplane — the 1-26D that a group of club members bought a few months ago from the Farmville Airport.

The 1-26 partners' group voted Thursday, Jan. 4, to offer the sailplane and its trailer to SVS at no charge, but the 14 partners would be added to the club's liability list for \$700 each. The partners also stipulated that SVS keep, operate and maintain the plane for at least two years. Twelve of the 14 partners attended the Jan. 4 meeting, and the vote to offer the 1-26 to SVS was unanimous among the 12 attendees.

The following night, Jan. 5, the SVS board of directors accepted the 1-26. Under a **revised rental fee schedule** that the board also approved, SVS members can fly the plane for \$10 per flight.

Effective immediately, the **new fee rental schedule** (see p-4) also applies to the club's 2-33s and Blanik. Instead of an hourly fee, the board voted to charge a per-flight fee — \$10 per flight for the 2-33s (\$5 for

students), and \$15 for the Blanik (\$10 for students). The new schedule also applies to weekday flying, when there was a slightly cheaper rate.

The board also increased the **initiation fee** for new members. Effective immediately, new members will be charged an **initiation fee of \$500**. The former fee was \$300. Board members generally thought that new members are buying into the club's many valuable assets and that the former fee, unchanged since the club's formation more than a dozen years ago, was too low.

Among other actions by the board, **Graham Pitsenberger** was named interim president; **Hal Loken**, interim vice president, and **Alec Bateman** and **Bev Orndorff** were named interim board members. The vacancies resulted when **Dennis Gorman** and **Evelyn Gorman** stepped down as president and vice president. New officers and board members will be elected at the March membership meeting.

Tow Plane Woes

Nine-Eight Zulu's prop bit the dust, literally, on Saturday, Dec. 23, during run-up before the first flight of the day.

The prop initially appeared only to be scratched but East Coast Propellers, a prop shop, said late last week that it was not repairable. Further, the shop told **John Trissel** that **Nine-Eight Zulu's** engine probably should be inspected for damage.

Interim President **Graham Pitsenberger** has called a meeting of SVS's board for Jan. 17 to address the issue. He has asked Chief Tow Pilot **Chic Randow** to report on expected costs and to make recommendations on alternatives and next steps. Graham has also asked **Jay Darmstadter** to report on costs and availability of other tow pilots-tow vehicle services while **Nine-Eight Zulu** is out of commission.

Graham gave the following account of the unusual incident: *"While doing a run-up in the 24 staging area, the prop struck the sod. I was sitting about 75 degrees to the runway at our regular tow plane parking area. Walter had taxied the aircraft from the hanger but it had not been flown, so I was doing a run-up before the first flight of the day. Winds were probably 90 degrees to my right less*

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Our Teen Fleet



William



Mollie



Claire



Victoria

A new generation of glider pilots is being trained at SVS.

While the club has previously had students in their early teens – Brian Leeth, Randy Branch and Hunter Johnson Jr. among them – they were generally solitary exceptions to the adult students and members who flew regularly on weekends.

But now, we have four young teenagers in training at the same time. They are:

Victoria Price, 15, whose father, Mike Price of Elkton, is a designated FAA examiner.

Claire Johnson, 13, of Free Union, daughter of **Hunter Johnson** and sister of **Hunter Johnson Jr.** Hunter Senior is an SVS tow pilot and instructor. Claire, an honor student at Henley Middle School, comes from a family with a long tradition in flying. Her great-grandfather was a career pilot, her grandfather was a pilot. So's her uncle as well as her father and brother.

Mollie Domin, 15, of Floyd County, daughter of Laura Michaud and stepdaughter of John Michaud. Mollie is a sophomore and a home schooled student. Her parents, she says, fully support “my flying dream every second of every day. This is so much fun for me and I am excited to begin accomplishing this dream.”

William Orndorff, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Orndorff of Harrisonburg and grandson of **Bev Orndorff**. William is a freshman at Harrisonburg High School and has been taking occasional glider rides since he was about 8 or 9 with his Granddad.

Newsletter Returns

The hibernating Shenandoah Valley Soaring newsletter is being reactivated and will be distributed solely on-line. We will attempt to issue it monthly and contributions of articles, news items, items of interest and photos from around the field will be welcomed.

We hope to list, with your help, names of new members, newly soloed students, newly licensed pilots, pilots who have obtained new ratings, schedules of board and membership meetings and summaries of those meetings.

Also, please share with us any personal flying experiences you may have had, good or bad, that may be of general interest or value to our members. And instructors, feel free to contribute whatever you feel may be helpful for our flying and safety.

Thanks,

bev

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(Tow Plane Woes continued)

*than 10 knots with higher gusts. Run-up to 1500 rpms was normal; on increasing to 1800 rpms for a mag check, the tail came up far enough to strike the prop in the sod. I have no idea why except possibly a gust raised the tail. Had lots of witnesses including tow pilots **Walter (Grooms)** and **Hunter (Johnson)**. No one noticed anything out of the ordinary, not even a reduction in RPM during the sod hit.”*

Notes

Three SVS members ferried **19-Tango** Tuesday, Dec. 19, to **Larry Stahl's** shop at Petersburg, W.Va. for some minor fabric repair. Those taking part in the air tow operation were **Chic Randow, Graham Pitsenberger and Ben Johnson**. Chic flew the towplane; Ben flew tow and Graham reports getting very cold in the 2-33's drafty back seat. In addition to the repair, 19-T will get its annual inspection while it's in the shop, so it may be a few weeks before it is back in service at Eagle's Nest. Graham flew 98-Zulu back to Waynesboro, and Chic and Ben flew back in Chic's Ercoupe, which underwent an annual by Larry.

SVS members approved a newly revamped set of by-laws at a dinner meeting Dec. 2 at the Old Ivy Inn at Charlottesville. **Graham Pitsenberger** led the committee that revised the by-laws, and copies have since been distributed to the membership.

Wings Over Waynesboro, a lively video DVD put together by **Tiffany Gibson**, depicts a day in the life of SVS activities one weekend in September, plus a Cessna flight piloted by **Hunter Johnson Jr.** Assisting Tiffany in the production, and piloting the **Mail Truck** for the glider flying scenes, was **Jay Darmstadter**. **Graham Pitsenberger's** hand is also featured – in a staged scene of the glider release knob being pulled. Jay distributed copies of the DVD to members on a recent weekend and placed copies in the FBO. Tiffany, whose hobby is videography, has a public access television show, *Reality Adventures*, that appears on CPA-TV, a Charlottesville cable channel.

The **glider trailer project** that has been going on for several months is nearing completion. **Jim Garrison and Jeanne Pitsenberger** have been heading up the efforts to “overhaul” and recondi-

tion the **2-33 and the Blanik trailers**. The 2-33 trailer was completely repainted – thanks to many volunteer hands enlisted by Jeanne. Both trailers had their hitches lubed and made in good working order thanks to **Mike Moses**. Welding and all wiring was repaired by Mike as necessary to assure safe and legal night operations if needed. The latest is the recovery of DMV titles and registration cards and the sorting out of proper license plates. The remaining item on the Blanik trailer is the possible reupholstering of the 13 padded areas. Jim is planning to get that taken care of that over the holidays by an upholsterer in Charlottesville – depending on the cost.

2006 SVS flight accomplishments

Compiled by Graham Pitsenberger

10 Started flying with SVS in '06 - Paul Roberts, David Zook, Richard Burns, Alec Bateman, Molly Damon, Victoria Price, Larry Stahl, Claire Johnson, William Orndorff, Michael Shulman

5 lost their shirrtails - Jeanne Pitsenberger, David Zook, Hans Foss, Alec Bateman, Nelson Trinkle

5 added Glider ratings to their FAA Certificates - Hans Foss – Pvt, Hunter Johnson – CFI-G, Jeanne Pitsenberger – Pvt, Paul Roberts – Commercial, Alec Bateman - Pvt

1 earned a “C” Badge - David Ross

14 pooled their \$\$ to buy a 1-26 (and donated it to the club) - Mike Moses, Ben Johnson, Paul Roberts, Bev Orndorff, Graham-Jeanne Pitsenberger, Michael Shulman, Bruce Burkholder, Tom Belt, Alec Bateman, David Ross, Hans Foss, Norbert Hamm, David Carr, Hunter Johnson

Instructors are anticipating that 7 will lose their shirrtails in '07 - Evelyn Gorman, Michael Shulman, David Carr, William Orndorff, Claire Johnson, Molly Damon, Victoria Price

Know Your SVS

Officers and Board

President – (Interim) Graham Pitsenberger

Vice President – (Interim) Hal Loken

Secretary – Ben Johnson

Treasurer – Bud Branch

Bruce Burkholder, Fred Hoffman, James C. Garrison, Hal Loken, Graham Pitsenberger, David Ross, Alec Bateman (interim), Bev Orndorff (interim)

Committees and Groups

Airworthiness & Maintenance – Golf Cart, Jay Darmstadter; Trailers, Jim Garrison and Jeanne Pitsenberger; Tow Ropes, Dennis Gorman; Blanik, Graham Pitsenberger; Pawnee, Chic Randow; 2-33s, David Ross

Tow Pilots – Chic Randow, Coordinator; Larry Burruss, Walter Grooms, Hunter Johnson, Bud Klaser, Hal Loken, Graham Pitsenberger

Instructors – Walter Grooms, Coordinator; Mike Moses, Graham Pitsenberger. (The following not active but can authorize student pilot solos – Jay Darmstadter, Bud Klaser, Hal Loken, Bev Orndorff)

“Sightseeing” Pilots – (Ben Johnson, Coordinator); Jay Darmstadter, *Jim Garrison, Walter Grooms, Hal Loken, Mike Moses, Bev Orndorff, Graham Pitsenberger, *Paul Roberts (*=not FAST program)

Corporate & By-Laws —Graham Pitsenberger, Coordinator; Ben Johnson, Bud Branch, Bruce Burkholder, Gordon Aylor, Hal Loken, Michael Shulman

Webmaster – Alec Bateman

Social & Fund Raising – Evelyn Gorman, Coordinator

Newsletter — Bev Orndorff

Records Storage Protocol - Jim Garrison

Protocol for Handling Guests - Hal Loken, Jim Garrison

Nominating Committee - April 07 - Chic Randow, Hal Loken, Bev Orndorff, Evelyn Gorman

Operations/Safety Manual -Bev Orndorff

Membership - Bev Orndorff

DUES AND FEES STRUCTURE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2007

HERE'S A SUMMARY OF THE AMENDED FEE SCHEDULE THAT SVS'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVED AT ITS JAN. 5 MEETING:

Initiation Fee – Regular Adult Voting membership (family) - **\$500**

Initiation Fee – Schools with aviation programs - **\$500**

Initiation Fee — Junior memberships - [none]

Annual Dues — Regular Adult Voting memberships (family) - **\$420**

Separate Annual Junior Membership Dues - **\$120**

Annual Sustainer Maintenance fee - **\$120**

Glider Rides (walk-ons) - **\$75**

FAST instruction w/o a coupon - **\$90**

Tows [pay-as-you-go]: First 1000' AGL is \$20, every additional 1000' is \$5.

Example: 3000' AGL tow costs \$30

Use of Gliders - Schweitzer 1-26 & 2-33s: \$10/tow, \$5/tow until pilot is glider rated

Blanik: \$15/tow, \$10/tow until pilot is glider rated

Aero-retrieve (Pawnee): \$75/hour tach. time plus expenses