

The Valley Wave

A Publication of
Shenandoah Valley Soaring, Inc.
<http://www.svsoar.org>



Volume 8 Issue 1
January 2009



Tuesday, December 30 was another stellar day for SVS! Our **Paul Roberts** successfully completed his CFI-G check ride with FAA Designated Examiner, *John Molumphy*. **Paul** is shown above receiving a congratulatory handshake and his temporary Flight Instructor Certificate from *Mr. Molumphy* following their flight.

SVS is fortunate to have members like **Paul** who work hard to continue to improve their skills. Congratulations, **Paul**!

The SVS CFI staff is growing!

Mark Your Calendars for the Annual Safety & Membership Meeting

At the January 2 Board meeting, the Board changed the date of the Annual Safety & Membership meeting to Saturday, March 21. The date was moved ahead by one week since several members will be in Florida at the Senior Soaring Contest.

The meeting will be held at the home of **Jim and Wendy Garrison** and will begin at 0900 — an early start so we can fly in the afternoon. Breakfast will be served. New CFIs, **Larry Randall, Paul Roberts & Jeanne Pitsenberger** will do the annual safety presentation.

A Nominating Committee composed of **Bev Orndorff, Paul Roberts** and **Graham Pitsenberger** will be contacting all members prior to the meeting to ask members if they have an interest to serve on the Board. Please give serious thought to accepting a nomination for the Board of Directors. Your Club needs your input and support to continue to be successful and provide safe operations for all.

Condolences

SVS sends its sincere sympathy to **Sarah and Hal Loken** on the passing of **Sarah's** father on January 2, 2009. We know he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Winter Starting Times

The January and February start times will be 1100 for both Saturday and Sunday. Saturday at 0930 seemed a little early during the winter months to begin glider operations. The flight instructors and tow pilots were often the only members at the airport at 0930, so at the January 2 Board meeting the consensus was to begin flight operations at 1100 on Saturdays and Sundays. Student pilots will still have priority until noon.

The plan is to resume the 0930 Saturday start time in March.

Winter Holiday Dinner Party Report



Thirty-one members and guests enjoyed the “meal of the millennium” prepared and elegantly presented by **Judy & Chic Randow** in their lovely home on January 4. Beef tenderloin, ham, shrimp remoulade, herring salad, marinated vegetables, dilled potatoes and even more delectable dishes were served at the sit-down meal. **Chic & Judy** had four tables set in their living room, each with a choice of Chilean red wine and South African white wine.

Then came the desserts! Tiramisu, chocolate and cherry torte, trifle, cheesecake, and white chocolate bark candy. It was truly the dinner party of the season and well worth waiting for until after New Year's!

“Thank you” seems inadequate for the resplendent evening to which **Chic & Judy** treated us. Their efforts and the camaraderie of our members gave 2009 a magnificent dawning for SVS.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

ROSTER CHANGES

Delete

Wayne T. Walker (resigned)

Matthew E. Putz (dropped)

Add

Ms. Yvonne B. Cutler
6661 Alysma Lane
Jacksonville, FL 32244
904-779-5292

Capt & Mrs. D. Mike Patterson
10 Tucson Lane
Arrington, VA 22922
434-263-8561

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2009 at the home of Jim & Wendy Garrison. The Board of Directors will meet immediately following the Annual Membership & Safety Meeting

Ben Johnson
Secretary

The Valley Wave

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Robert "Bev" Orndorff, *Director*

Lawrence W. Randall, *Director*

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Club Financial Status

At the January 2 Board meeting, the Treasurer's report showed that the Club's long-term liability has been reduced significantly.

As of March 30, 2007, \$59,800 was owed to 37 individuals (25 members and 12 former members). As of December 31, 2008, that figure has been reduced to \$28,004.

This tremendous reduction was accomplished by several means. A large amount of the debt was waived. Payments were made to individuals in January and December of 2008; some of the individuals returned those checks to the Club.

The Club has been setting aside a portion of all Sightseeing rides specifically to reduce the long-term liability.

It was pointed out that all of our aircraft are debt free and this is the only Club liability.

More from the Treasurer

At the January 2 Board meeting, it was reported that the Club has accumulated \$7352 toward future Pawnee engine overhaul by setting aside \$5 from each tow.

SVS has \$5530 set aside in a "self-insured" fund. Instead of sending the premium to the insurance company for hull coverage on the gliders, it was put into this fund. The plan is to make a deposit into that fund each year when our other insurance is due.

The Club maintains full liability insurance for SVS and every flying member. It also carries hull insurance on the Pawnee.

New Fence Sign

Thanks to **Hunter Johnson**, our airport relations coordinator, we have a new sign on the fence at W13 advertising our glider rides. The sign was donated by our **Larry Burruss**.



Thanks, **Hunter and Larry!**

On the Road Again!

Graham Pitsenberger and **Ben Johnson** (and maybe **Tom Belt**) will represent SVS at the second "SSA Regional Leadership Conference" on February 21. The meeting will be hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association (M-ASA), exact location to be determined. Some possible locations are the AOPA Headquarters, the M-ASA Clubhouse, (both in Frederick MD), or the Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly.

SSA Region IV Director, **Jim Kellett**, prompted the first Regional Leadership Conference in Chesapeake, VA in February 2008.

Our SSA Region IV is planned to be merged with Region II in 2010, so this one may include glider organizations from both regions.

Be at war with your vices,
At peace with your neighbors,
And let every new year find
you a better person.

... Benjamin Franklin

Blanik Report

Walter Grooms reports that the Blanik is scheduled for her Annual Inspection in January. There is a new AD to be addressed.

Walter may be calling for volunteers to help once he knows the date.

19T Report

Hunter Johnson has scheduled 19T for her Annual Inspection in February. He may also be calling for volunteers to help once he knows the date.

Please Help the Tow Pilots!

Among other things, the tow pilots have the responsibility for determining and logging who is responsible for payment for the flights. Please make it very clear to the tow pilots the names of the individuals on board and whether or not the cost is being shared.

Winter Comfort—Not a Geisha House!

At **Ben Johnson's** suggestion, **Frank Hall** designed and built wind-screen panels for our tents to help protect members and guests from the winter winds. The screens are portable, very lightweight, and easily carried on the trailer on an apparatus that **Frank** also designed for that purpose.

The photo below shows **Frank** and **Mike** installing the screens for the first time. Many thanks to **Ben** for the suggestion and **Frank** for the engineering design and follow-through.

The "shelter" was unveiled and tested on Tuesday, December 30, a rather chilly day, by a few members who were there to support **Paul Roberts** for his CFI check ride. Not only did it protect from the wind, but the plastic also provided a "greenhouse effect" for warmth!

Now there's no excuse for not flying on cold, wintry weekends!!



Sightseeing Rides

Ben Johnson, our Secretary and Sightseeing Ride Coordinator, reported at the January 2 Board meeting that there were 93 Sightseeing Rides in 2008, including 22 gift certificates, half of which were during December! Great job, **Ben**!

\$45 of every sightseeing ride is applied toward retiring the Club's long-term debt, or a total of \$4185 in 2008.

Ben has been working on a new addition to the SVS website to specifically promote soaring and glider rides. It will answer a lot of the questions he gets from interested persons. At the January 2 meeting, the Board members were all very favorably impressed with his presentation and gave the "go-ahead" to send it to the webmaster. Be sure to check out the SVS website often for the updates.

Activity Report Highlights

The Annual Activity Report to Board showed that we had 805 tows for the year, an increase from 663 tows in 2007, and a 25% increase in the number of operational days. There was a decrease in the utilization of both the 1-26 and the 2-33, 19T. Tows for non-SVS operated aircraft tripled in 2008. Sightseeing rides doubled. Two more tow pilots were added as well as three flight instructors. Fuel costs increased by 55%.

SVS TOWS & Aircraft Use - 2008

2008	# 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
Total	95	805	288	239	117	55	106	93

January 2009 Tow Pilot Schedule

Fri 1100 1/2/09	Sat 1100 1/3/09	Sun 1100 1/4/09	Sat 1100 1/10/09	Sun 1100 1/11/09	Sat 1100 1/17/09	Sun 1100 1/18/09	Sat 1100 1/24/09	Sun 1100 1/25/09	Sat 1100 1/31/09
Chic	Matt	Graham	Walter	tba	Chic	Larry	Walter	Hunter	Matt

CFI Fee

Beginning January 1, SVS will begin collecting \$5 for each flight with an instructor. This pittance payment will allow the CFIs to deduct their related expenses on their income tax returns. This fee in some clubs ranges up to \$60 per flight. It is obvious that our SVS instructors don't do it for the money.

This fee does not directly benefit SVS. It will be distributed to the instructors quarterly. At least one of them indicated that he would return his fees to the Club for the Pawnee engine overhaul fund.

CFIs spend a considerable amount of money on renewal of their instructor certificates, buying books, attending proficiency seminars, and traveling many miles. While this \$5 fee will not cover those expenses, it makes it possible for them to write off some of the expense on their tax returns if they so desire.

The fee will be applied to members when CFIs are giving flight instruction, reviews, and any other flights where the CFI may be considered a crew member in any unforeseen event. All SVS CFI's can charge more than the \$5, but that will be handled between the Instructor and the student.

It should be noted that this \$5 fee wipes out the \$5 reduction for aircraft use by student pilots.

Discounts may not Work

The individual business cards made for all members that authorize them to offer 10% discounts for glider rides have not set the world on fire — yet. Perhaps the winter months discourage glider rides, even with a discount.

While we have seen some of those cards, by spring we hope to see more of them. Paid sightseeing rides help reduce our long-term debt and introduces people to soaring and perhaps membership.

Financial Review

At the January 2 meeting, the Board again selected **Ron Coffey** to review the financial records of the Club. He will report his findings at the Annual Membership and Safety Meeting in March.

Ground Towing with a Harley Boys will be Boys!!



Paul Roberts, Alec Bateman, and Matt Skretta were caught trying to replace the golf cart with a Harley, but they determined that the "hog" did not work quite as well.



Staging

Several months ago, SVS began pre-staging the gliders at a 90 degree angle to the runway heading. This has been evaluated over the months and has not produced any surprises. This staging configuration allows the glider pilot to have visibility of landing aircraft on downwind and base leg.

It also gives the tow pilot a better indication of the glider pilot's progress toward readiness for tow. This will be quite appreciated by the tow pilots in the summer time when he can delay getting into the hot cockpit until the glider is turned into launch position and runway heading.

It is working well.

Virginia Soaring Association

At the recent Board meeting, **Jim Garrison** reported that he has not yet contacted other Virginia glider clubs to establish a Virginia Soaring Association.

This was recommended by Mr. Randall Burdette, director of the Virginia Department of Aviation. Mr. Burdette said that such an association would give glider pilots a "seat at the table" for inclusion in Virginia's aviation plans—and maybe \$.

THE LAWS OF ULTIMATE REALITY

Law of the Result

When you try to prove to some one that a machine won't work, it will.

Law of Logical Argument

Anything is possible, if you don't know what you are talking about.

2009 SSA Soaring Calendars

SSA is offering a 2009 Soaring Calendar for \$6.00 plus actual shipping. Supplies are limited!

Calendars can be ordered by sending an email to clong@ssa.org or calling 575-392-1177 or FAX 575-392-8154 with your name, address and credit card information.

Wave Camp

The Board approved the use of the SVS Blanik and 1-26 at the Petersburg Wave Camp to be held from February 22 to March 7. The use of the Pawnee was approved to aerotow the Blanik to Petersburg and for tow use there during weekdays only. It is to remain at W13 on the weekends.

The following website has information about the Wave Camp and has a spectacular slide show of the Grant County Airport area showing wave clouds.

<http://wave99.info/>

Cross-Country Course

At the January 2 Board meeting, **Jim Garrison** gave the details for the Cross-Country Course that will take place on Saturday, March 28. He plans to invite members from other clubs, including Skyline.

He is going to try to make it a one-day course, or possibly Friday evening and Saturday. The tentative location is in the Harrisonburg area, a location that will accommodate both SVS and Skyline members. The site may be at a community facility where *Jim Kellett* lives.

You won't want to miss the outstanding opportunity to learn about cross-county flying from our resident expert, **Jim**. He said that he may include more information about wave flying this time, and since the course will take place after Wave Camp, there might even be some good stories to share!

Reserve the date on your calendars. Whether or not you've taken one of **Jim's** courses before, this is an opportunity you don't want to miss!

1-26 Cross-Country Quiz

The instructor staff has developed a pre-solo quiz for our SGS 1-26D which includes basic safety information for cross-country flying.

It would also be good for those pilots already checked out in the 1-26 to get a copy and refresh your knowledge.

Ask one of the CFIs for a copy.

Pilot Information Request

All flying members were recently asked to complete a Pilot Information Questionnaire to be kept on file at the airport. This was precipitated by our September Soaring Safety Foundation audit. *Burt Compton*, who performed the audit, strongly suggested, on behalf of our insurance company, that we maintain data on all pilots that includes basic information about emergency contact numbers, certificates and ratings, and currency.

A couple of members have not returned their completed form yet.

Membership Report

At the January 2 Board meeting, Membership Chairperson, **Jeanne Pitsenberger**, reported that SVS now has a total of memberships, some having more than one flying member. This number includes Junior and Sustaining Memberships.

14 members joined the SVS family during 2008, 6 resigned or were dropped from the rolls, and there are currently 20 student pilots in various stages of training.

There were 222 dual instructional flights during 2008.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You don't need to be told why our flying activities have slowed. Some days folks could not wear enough clothes to stay comfortable, but this Club's members never fail to do what it takes to support the Club's activities for the enjoyment of the individual members.

I want to encourage everyone to consider attending Wave Camp — at least on the weekends. The drive to Petersburg is uncongested and scenic. The food and lodging there is very inexpensive. It makes a nice family outing even if you don't get to fly — and non-flying family members will enjoy it, too. I guarantee you will learn something just spending time with world-class, record-holding glider pilots. The large glass-walled pilot lounge, with panoramic views of the mountains and runway, provides knee-deep camaraderie that extends on into the evening's social activities.

Our Annual Membership meeting is nearing. We get to select a new Board of Directors. Please consider taking your turn serving on the Board. At the meeting we also get refreshed on safety issues after the long winter lull. And, the food is generally good.

At the gathering, we have the opportunity to thank those individuals who quietly and behind the scenes take care of our equipment and operations throughout the year. It's easy to forget that many individuals' efforts assure that SVS operates smoothly for all of us. They keep our aircraft, hangar, mowers, ropes, golf cart, etc. maintained to SVS standards. They tow, mow, build things, water the golf cart batteries weekly, teach, empty trash, give rides, take photos, attend meetings, write letters, maintain our SSA memberships, insurance, pilot records and website, pay the bills, produce the newsletter, keep our relations with W13 power pilots on a harmonious keel, etc., etc. There are those who show up every Saturday and Sunday to get the aircraft out and ready so that other members can fly as their schedules permit.

The individuals will appreciate your acknowledgement of their contributions to SVS — and you.

Graham

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

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

Shenandoah Valley Soaring, Inc.

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Waynesboro, VA 22980 ~ 6524

COMING ATTRACTIONS!

Petersburg Wave Camp—Feb 21 thru Mar 11

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP & SAFETY
MEETING—March 21, 2009**

**Cross Country Ground School with Region
IV clubs — March 28**

May Social at the Lokens—TBA

**IN
THIS
ISSUE**

New CFI + Board Meeting + Club Finances + Holiday Dinner Party
