

The Valley Wave

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



Volume 8 Issue 10
November 2009

New Club Glider Update

Jim Garrison is still gathering information about the possible purchase of a new Club glider.

The Grob 103 that was mentioned and pictured last month has a wing span that is four feet longer than our Blanik, which may pose a challenge for storing in the hangar. Other considerations include useful load, previous damage, current condition, which aircraft to replace, and of course, price.

Be sure to let **Jim** or any Board member know of your interest and/or ability to help with the purchase if a good buy becomes available.

Wave Camp

Ron Chapman has again "volunteered" to coordinate our SVS participation in this season's Petersburg Wave Camps. It is a meticulous task. He must not only deal with aircraft movement that requires three pilots, but also ground transportation back and forth, lodging, weather forecasts, parties, etc.

If you are a student, you'll get high consideration for the cross-country flight to/from Petersburg. Please be as definite as possible when contacting **Rob** about your participation — towing, instructing, car-towing a glider, helping launch, or maybe just watching. Just driving up for a day to watch and associate with world-class glider pilots is worth the trip!

Flying at Petersburg's Grant County Airport is worth the trip even if there is no wave lift.

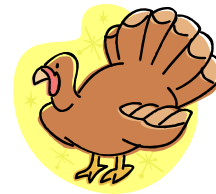
Rob's email address is:
rchapman@invasolutions.com

Do Turkeys Fly?

SVS has scheduled soaring operations on November 27, the Friday after Thanksgiving, beginning at 11:00 a.m. This would be an excellent day to take your visiting family and friends for a ride.

Ben Johnson has arranged for a day of glider rides for a group on a weekday during Thanksgiving week. Watch your emails to find out the exact day and perhaps get a tow for yourself.

Also remember that if any weekday looks like good soaring weather, send an email to all members requesting a tow pilot and some ground help.



Val Paget Visits SVS

Val Paget, the Club News editor for *Soaring* magazine, and her husband, Glenn (a CFI-G), visited W13 on Sunday afternoon, October 18. **Ben Johnson** drove them from Richmond where they were visiting family.



Region IV Director, **Jim Kellett**, and his wife, **Pat**, welcome **Val Paget** to the Valley and W13.

Although the weather gods made it unsuitable for flying, *Val* and *Glenn* visited our hangar, sat and chatted at length about soaring and glider clubs, and *Val* shared photos and stories from her two-month soaring visit to New Zealand. They stayed for an early dinner before departing for Richmond from where they would begin their motor trip home to Texas the following day.

Both *Val* and *Glenn* were quite complimentary about our operation, equipment and philosophy.

We look forward to another visit when we can show *Val* and *Glenn* the beauty of the Shenandoah Valley from the air!



Jeanne & Graham Pitsenberger and **Ben Johnson** hosted *Val* and *Glenn* at W13.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

ROSTER CHANGES

NONE

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be in January.

ALL members are invited and encouraged to attend all Board meetings!

Ben Johnson
Secretary

Mowing Update

Hal Loken brought his amazing tractor/mower to W13 on Tuesday, November 3, and is mowing up a storm as we write! Watch for the photos and article in the December issue of the *Valley Wave*.

Thanks, Hal!!

The Valley Wave

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Region IV Leadership Conference Update

Our Region IV Director, *Jim Kellett*, reports that *Pat Costello* will attend the SSA Region II and IV Leadership Conference scheduled for February 13 at the AOPA Headquarters in Frederick, Maryland.

Mr. Costello is the SSA Group Insurance broker. Our insurance is through his company. He will make a brief presentation followed by a Q & A session.

Graham needs discussion items other than insurance for the conference. Give him a call. He does not plan to do another full power point presentation but will give an update about our Club to the group.

Website Improvements

Webmaster **Alec Bateman** recently made changes to our website. He and **Ben Johnson** have been discussing various possible improvements since it became quite apparent that our website has become popular with those wanting to learn about soaring and glider rides. **Ben** has been getting inquiries almost weekly.

Alec made the website's FAQ's (frequently asked questions) section easier to find by adding a "Fly with Us" button. He made it appear more "welcoming" as suggested in an article about websites from a previous issue of the Soaring magazine and he added more pictures.

Don't forget you can also view the current and all past issues of the newsletter on the website.

Saturday Start Times

Just a reminder: the winter Saturday start time beginning November 7 is 11:00 a.m. The starting time is not poured in concrete. It can be modified as conditions dictate — for example, good wave-day forecasts may dictate earlier start times. Remember that students will still have priority until noon on Saturdays and Sundays. Our students and new members are strongly encouraged to participate in the set up and staging process each morning.

EVERYONE is welcome to hang around and help put equipment to bed.

Lots of Annual Inspections

Most of SVS and members' sailplanes are ready, willing and able!!

Ron Coffey's PIC 20E received her Annual Inspection recently and is ready to get airborne in time for the expected fall and winter good-wave-days. Likewise, the Duo Discus owned by the trio **Loken, Garrison & Johnson** got her Annual on the same day.

Jim Garrison's ASW 27 got her Annual a couple of months ago and has been flying when there is good soaring weather. The Russia AC4 owned by the duo of **Alec Bateman & Ron Chapman** recently jumped through the Annual process, too.

Avery Groves reports that his acrobatic SZD-36-A will be getting her Annual look-over in the next couple of months. Likewise, **Fred Hoffman** reports that he plans to get his HpH 304CZ an Annual very soon. His airline duties have kept him from glider flying for quite a while but he's hopeful he'll get that rectified soon and get back to real flying.

Hal Loken has been doing equipment upgrading and the associated cockpit panel modifications to his Genesis 2 and will get her inspected when that is completed.

The **SVS 1-26** and **Blanik** will be due for Annual Inspections before Spring. The "Mail Truck" is due in May.

Pawnee Report

This is a follow-up to our October report on our Pawnee's Annual Inspection. She went into the Eagle's Nest shop on Monday, September 28 and came out of their shop on October 23 with a clean bill of health. She got a new brake caliper, spinner and "Slick" magnetos. The magnetos included new wiring harness.

She received a redo of a patch to a small dent which entailed fabric work and painting. The brakes were relined and rivet repairs were made to an exhaust shield bracket. One main tire was flipped and several missing fairing screws were replaced.

In conclusion, our Pawnee should be in tip-top condition and require nothing but oil and filter changes until a recurring Airworthiness Directive (AD) inspection comes due in 100 hours.

Utility Trailer

As reported last month, the utility trailer springs needed a boost. They had sagged to the point that the bed sometimes touched the tires when the trailer was heavily loaded.



Ben Johnson donated spring leaves and **Frank Hall** installed them. Thanks, fellows!

Daily Preflight



Preflighting for the day — Is it 36 or 37 pounds? "Magic" **Mike Moses** takes care of checking the air pressure in the Blanik tire one recent morning.

N3619T Report

Hunter Johnson is adding a placarded banner to the hoist carabiner reminding everyone to remove it from the glider and leave it attached to the pulley chain hook.

Removal of the carabiner from the 2-33 will eliminate any possibility that it could sag down and jam the aileron controls.



One of Ben Johnson's beautiful photos of a recent fall day in the Valley from the Duo!

Evidence Found

On a recent day at W13, the bare spots in front of our hangar were found with scratch marks and grass seed. Was that done by a secret little elf — or possibly **David Ross**? We look forward to having the red clay hidden by green grass next spring. Thanks, elf (**David!**)

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
October	3	31	16	3	5	1	6	8

November 2009 Tow Pilot Schedule—start time: 11:00 am all days

Sun 11/1/09	Sat 11/7/09	Sun 11/8/09	Sat 11/14/09	Sun 11/15/09	Sat 11/21/09	Sun 11/22/09	Fri 11/27/09	Sat 11/28/09	Sun 11/29/09
Larry	Graham	TBA	Matt	Hal	Hunter	Hunter	Graham	TBA	TBA



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, we really had a slow month — the slowest since February of 2007. We've had fewer tows in a month, but have not had such a long period of uncooperative weekend weather. We only operated three days during October for a total of 31 tows. Those included 13 tows by a Cessna 182 owned by SVS friend, *Scott French*. Even though the Pawnee was "out of service" for several weeks, most of the days it was unavailable coincided with the "unflyable" weather. Is everyone getting cabin fever?

We have some new members who have not had the privilege of attending Petersburg Wave Camp. We look forward to sharing the exciting experience with them. I appointed **Rob Chapman** to again coordinate SVS participation. That's what he gets for doing such a nice job with it last year. This year should be easier for him since we will not be ferrying the Pawnee back and forth.

In light of our rescinded invitation to the Winch Tow Clinic at Philadelphia Glider Council, I asked **Jay Darmstadter** if he would investigate us going to Bermuda High Soaring in South Carolina to experience winch towing. If he can work it out it will be after February.

We hope the November weather will be cooperative. Watch your emails for impromptu days during the week — especially during Thanksgiving week. I know there is a plan to give glider rides to a small group on a week-day.

I hope we will see more activity in November — which will probably be reflected in a bigger newsletter!

Graham

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

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

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COMING ATTRACTIONS!

Holiday Social: TBA

Nov 7 & 8: Petersburg Wave Camp

Nov 28 thru Dec 6: Petersburg Wave Camp

Jan 9 & 10: Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic, Udvar Hazy Museum, Dulles

Feb 27 thru Mar 7: Petersburg Wave Camp



**IN
THIS
ISSUE**

Wave Camp + Annual Inspections + Website Update + Equipment Reports
