

The Valley Wave

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



Volume 8 Issue 8
September 2009



Composite Photo by Gregory Ranzini (David's brother)

CFI Mike Moses watches David's approach & landing



David's mother, Joan, watches as his shirttail gets cut by his father, Joe Ranzini, as CFI Jay Darmstadter supervises.



David receives A & B Badges from CFI Graham Pitsenberger

David Ranzini Solos!

David Ranzini flew his first solo flight on August 16, 2009. His father, mother and brother were there for the event along with several SVS CFIs and members. On **David's** second solo flight, he stayed aloft long enough to earn his SSA "B" Badge! It was presented to him prior to his departure for Williamsburg where he is starting his sophomore year at the College of William & Mary. Congratulations, **David!** (David's photo will appear in the Milestones section of the November edition of *Soaring* magazine.)

Soaring Article Featured in AOPA Pilot Magazine

There is a wonderful article titled, "Pure Magic" beginning on page 74 of the September issue of the AOPA PILOT magazine about the Seniors Soaring Contest. The magazine also features a photo from the contest on the Table of Contents page—quite a nice promotion for soaring.

The article is about the same contest in which our three Duo Discus owners participated last March — **Jim Garrison, Ben Johnson, and Hal Loken**. The author, Mark Twombly, spent the week at the Seniors Contest with Tom Knauff, even flying one day with Tom. Yes, it's the same Tom Knauff who is one of the world's most accomplished glider pilots and who has written nine books on soaring. The SVS instructors use his books and methods for teaching our students. Tom and his wife, Doris Grove (also an accomplished glider pilot) operate the Ridge Soaring Gliderport in Julian, Pennsylvania.

Anyone who is not a member of AOPA can contact one of the CFIs about how to get a free 6-month membership. AOPA provides an important venue to support all general aviation.



The Graduate

Our **Walter Grooms** is in the process of adding another FAA certificate and rating to his repertoire. He scored 100, 94, & 88 on his three FAA written exams for the A&P Mechanic Certification.

He recently graduated from the Blue Ridge Community College two-year A&P Program. From the look of these scores, he must have been the valedictorian!

Walter already holds five FAA Certificates, including Commercial Pilot Certificate with ASEL, AMEL, IA, RG, and G ratings; Flight Instructor with ASE, IA, RG & G ratings; Ground Instructor with Advanced & Instrument ratings and two Repairman Experimental Aircraft Certificates with Titan Tornado & Sparrow Hawk ratings.

Wow, **Walter!** You are a great role model for furthering our aviation education.

SECRETARY'S CORNER

ROSTER CHANGES

ADD:

Joseph R. Clark
454 Pewter Ct, Apt 304
Charlottesville, VA 22911
310-488-1107

M/M Robert R. Branch
8687 Rockfish Valley Hwy
Afton, VA 22920-3110
540-456-8687

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be Friday, October 2.

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

Ben Johnson
Secretary

THANKS!

Many thanks to *Leah & Bob Jones* (Ms Piper Cub) who donated two folding chairs to SVS!

The Valley Wave

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Editor: Jeanne Pitsenberger
Ph: 540.885.6589

E-mail: foxpits@ntelos.net

Graham A. Pitsenberger, *President*

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Poolside Barbecue Fun!

About thirty members and guests accepted **Tom Belt's** kind hospitality of on Sunday, August 23 for SVS's annual pool-side social. The event was postponed from Saturday due to rainy weather, which we sorely needed!

Festivities started at 6 pm and continued well past dark. The assortment of delicious salads and desserts satisfied the appetites. Of course, the highlight of the evening was the camaraderie and laughter enjoyed by all who were there. We are all blessed to have such a joyful SVS "family" who knows how to have fun! **Tom** has already offered to give a repeat performance next year, so mark your calendars now for August 21, 2010 for the next poolside party!

New Zealand/Australia

Several SVS members are planning a January 13, 2010 trip to New Zealand, with at least four of group going on to Australia after spending fifteen days in New Zealand.

The trip begins with a flight from Dulles to San Francisco where they will board an Air New Zealand flight for Auckland, NZ.



Once there they will have rental cars for a self-guided tour of both the north and south islands of New Zealand.

They are planning to taste some of the best soaring in the world on the south island at Omarama, New Zealand. Just "Google" "Southern Soaring" or "Glide Omarama" for hints of the spectacular scenery that greets soaring pilots there!

If you'd like to consider joining a fun group for a trip to "down-under," please let **Jeanne** know and she'll put you in touch with the travel agent.



Magazine Article Surprise

Would you like to have one of these tee shirts? They are NOT FREE! In fact, they are quite expensive—in time. You must submit an article to SSA that gets published in Soaring magazine.

Jeanne Pitsenberger did so and was recently surprised to receive the SSA shirt pictured here. The Soaring magazine staff apparently sends the shirts to magazine contributors. **Jeanne** submitted an article about her Silver Altitude attempts which was published in the August issue. She challenges more SVS members to submit articles for publication in the magazine.



Pawnee Report

Thanks to member, **Frankie Coyner**, the Pawnee has a new radio that is a real hit with everyone! We can all now hear transmissions from the tow plane clear as a bell, whether on the ground or in the air.

Please thank **Frankie** for his very generous donation of the radio to the Club when you see him.

Chic Randow reports that he is putting the Pawnee in the shop for her annual inspection. This inspection should not interfere with our weekend flying. He may be asking for help from members to assist with the annual—mostly cleaning, opening inspection plates, and removing fairings for the inspector to do his work.

Maintenance Meeting

Treasurer **Hal Loken**, Secretary **Ben Johnson**, and Board member **Jim Garrison** recently met over lunch with *John Trissel* and *A&P Art Salatin*. The purpose was to get answers to some questions that have come up during the past year about annual inspections of Club aircraft. The cost of annual inspections have increased dramatically in recent months



They report that while the meeting was fruitful, there are still questions that need to be answered.

Blanik Report

N22SB suffered a scratch and a ding on her right fiberglass wing tip. Don't know how or who, but **Walter Grooms** did a beautiful job repairing it, and **Frank Hall** did a beautiful job repainting it!

Thanks so much, **Walter and Frank!**



1-26 Report

Frank Hall has been busy installing air seals in the spoilers to reduce the air noise transmitted from the spoilers through the wings to the cockpit. He also bought some touch-up paint to address areas where the use of non-



flight tape pulled the paint finish loose. And, he repaired and painted minor skin tears on the underside of the fuselage caused by the dolly.

His next project will be to deal with the weather stripping around the canopy to get it ready for cold-weather flying and wave camp.

Thanks, **Frank!**



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
August	9	110	44	31	6	12	17	16

September 2009 Tow Pilot Schedule

Sat 0930 9/5/09	Sun 1100 9/6/09	Mon 1100 9/7/09	Sat 0930 9/12/09	Sun 1100 9/13/09	Sat 0930 9/19/09	Sun 1100 9/20/09	Sat 0930 9/26/09	Sun 1100 9/27/09
Chic	Graham	Hal	Walter	Larry	Matt		Graham	

SVS RC Glider Social

WHEN: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2010

TIME: 4:00 P.M. UNTIL ?

PLACE: FRANKIE & MARY COYNER'S AIRSTRIP/FARM

**The Coyners cordially invite all SVS members
to their home to see the RC Glider Club
put on a show for us.**

[The RC Club even has a Radio-Controlled tow plane!]

**The Coyner's will provide a catered meal and live band
music — just for us!**

You won't want to miss this social!

**Kindly RSVP to Jeanne at 540-487-4704 or
foxpits@ntelos.net by Monday, September 21
so the caterer will know how much food to prepare.**

Directions to the Coyner's from Eagle's Nest Airport:

Turn RIGHT on Rt 250 to Lew Dewitt Blvd

Turn RIGHT & drive to Rt 340

Turn RIGHT on Rt 340 & drive to the 3rd light

Turn LEFT on Ladd Road

Drive for 0.3 miles to the long paved driveway
on the RIGHT (Box 1241) to the Coyner farm.

SVS Hosts Pilots from Tidewater Soaring

John Mittell, President of Tidewater Soaring, and fellow club member, Byrd Saville, visited SVS during the last weekend in August. Both gentlemen and their wives were vacationing near Gordonsville and brought their gliders to Eagle's Nest to experience soaring opportunities in the Valley.

They flew on both Saturday and Sunday. Their glider assemblies on Sunday added to those of some of our members with private gliders, (Jim Garrison, Ben Johnson, & Alec Bate-man), made our flight line really busy!

Byrd Saville (left) & John Mittell (right) on SVS golf cart



The tow pilot was kept busy for quite a while getting all of the gliders launched — at one time there were eight gliders in the air! Some achieved 9200' over the Blue Ridge in apparent wave lift.

We heard that Byrd made contact with one of the airborne pilots at Tidewater and told him to “eat his heart out” when he told him what he and John were doing.

John, Byrd and their wives joined several SVS members for dinner at a local restaurant before they made their way back east. We certainly enjoyed their company and look forward to having them visit again soon.

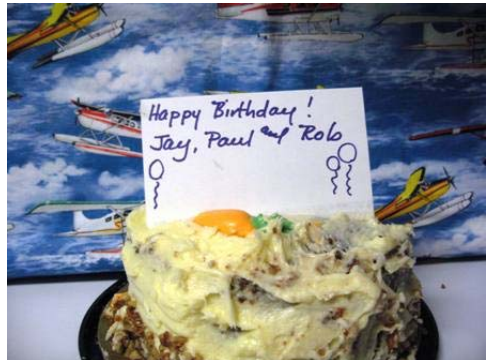
REMINDER

Please remember that airport policy requires that we accompany any and all SVS guests/visitors on the airport.

People coming for glider rides are told by our Secretary, Ben Johnson, to speak to the FBO if we're flying on Runway 6. The FBO folks will call us to get the visitors' transportation from the FBO to our operation setup. We will also provide the transportation or walk with them when they are ready to leave our operation area.

Operations on both runways require us to be vigilant so that visitors remain clear of the runways and all other operational areas. Folks should not be wandering around without being accompanied by an SVS member! !

REMINDER



Jay Darmstadter, Paul Roberts, & new member, Rob Branch, became a year older in August

Pick-up-game—Want to Fly?

A member called on a recent Thursday morning and asked if Graham could tow that afternoon. The impromptu operation on Thursday, August 13 resulted in five flights that afternoon — two by a student getting ready for his first solo.

The Club's 2-33, 1-26, and L-23 were all in the air. It was great to see that good flying weather was not wasted and was used for the benefit of Club members.

Two of the Club's tow pilots live near the airport, so if a day looks particularly good, give them a call.



Articles Needed!

Please help your newsletter editor by sending in articles, quips, photos, member profiles, etc to share with your fellow members. *Jeanne*

HOT AIR BALLOON FOR SALE!

Member Mike Patterson is selling one of his balloons:

1977 Cameron Viva-56,000 cu ft.
2 person N-78CB
Total time 120 hrs
Standard type certificate
Fuel tanks, complete system
\$3995

Serious inquiries from licensed pilots only, please

434-263-8561 or peaceroom@aol.com
The balloon is also listed on Craigslist
Charlottesville, VA PostingID: 1343631847



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our little Club is vital, vibrant and fun. We're breaking, or coming close to breaking, activity records every month. In August we had 110 tows.

Members are taking their FAA written exams with good scores and adding final touches to their skills for solo. Some members are working on more advanced achievement badges. All of the CFIs certainly encourage this. We continue to add new members which keep our CFIs busy! On one recent day, we were so busy that members who arrived late were unable to get on the tow schedule.

Our members are capturing much space in the SSA *Soaring Magazine* with articles, photos, and badges. We've talked to the SSA folks in Hobbs, NM so often, we're on a first-name basis — so convenient when we needed hand-out materials for the New Market festival or when we need more badges. The SSA staff in Hobbs have a real "can do" attitude and are just great support to our Club.

I have been working with some folks from SSA Region IV and II to help grease the way for some changes to our Club insurance. We hope one of my suggestions will have a positive impact and be forthcoming soon— maybe even in time for our insurance policy renewal.

Along with all of the Board members and Social Committee, I strongly encourage everyone to go to the social at **Mr. & Mrs. Frankie Coyner's** farm on Sunday, September 27 at 4:00 p.m. The radio-controlled glider club will be on hand to give us a show, and the rumor is there will even be a radio-controlled tow plane!! I'm not going to miss that! **Frankie** and **Mary** are providing a catered dinner for us, including a live band! All we have to do is show up and have fun!

Graham

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

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

Shenandoah Valley Soaring, Inc.

249 Aero Drive

Waynesboro, VA 22980 ~ 6524

COMING ATTRACTIONS!

**September 27: Radio-Controlled
Glider Social at Frankie & Mary
Coyner's Farm**

**October 16, 17, 18: Winch Clinic @
Philadelphia Glider Council in PA**



Socials + First Solo + New Zealand-Australia Trip + Maintenance Reports
