

Billy Goat History

Excerpt of a letter to Kary Redick 7/6/2010

{Please let me introduce myself, my name is Ed "DoDo Bird" Lord, I am the founder and Director of the "Air Sailing Jim ""Billy Goat"" Hayes Memorial Youth Soaring Scholarship Fund", which is a program that I founded in 1998 after my two sons, Mark "Nomad" Lord, and Luke "Rockin Robin" Lord, learned how to soar and fly gliders and were "soloed" by their instructor...

"Charlie" Hayes, whose father was "Jim ""Billy Goat"" Hayes".

"Billy Goat" was Charlie's father's "handle" and his contest number was "BG"... and he was also one of the founders of Air Sailing almost 40 years ago.

During the summer of 1998 when my two sons learned to fly gliders and soar (They learned to fly... before they learned to drive a car...) whereby it was a summer filled with precious and great summer moments for me as a father, so much so, that the weekend when I witnessed my sons "Solo" in a glider, after three months of intense and qualified safe training in the desert of Air Sailing, each time I saw my sons landing after soloing... the shared experience was so exhilarating... that it was the closest thing that a father could come to experiencing "child birth", of his own children... without all the pain and suffering...!

The memories of that special summer for me, were so special, that I was also extremely grateful to Charlie Hayes, CFIG, for his professional training and instruction in taking great care, skill, and attention in training my two sons... that I felt a need to initiate and found a scholarship program, in honor of Charlie Hayes father... who taught him how to fly...!

Keep in mind that all the while, in the background... my beautiful wife "Anna" thought that this whole episode was a conspiracy to "kill the kids"

and it did stress our marriage, but just for a brief moment in time,... but she is a very patient as well as a perceptive wife... and in time, she began to understand the power of how learning how to fly, can change the life of her (Opps... Our..!) own children... when she also personally witnessed the glow of renewed self esteem in their eyes... and behavior... including when they did learn to drive... they have never had an accident, and I have even seen them do a walk around "preflight" inspection of the cars they drive... before they drive...!

But... to this day, even though I have invited my wife numerous times to visit Air Sailing... she has yet to come visit...!

The feeling I experienced during that summer of solo's of sharing my sons's earned accomplishments and that of their CFIG Instructor, Charlie Hayes, created an addiction of satisfaction in my own mind, to the point that I felt a need to initiate a program to "duplicate" that feeling... as well as establish a program that by default, would inspire and ferment "new blood" to be introduced into the art and science of soaring and aviation.

Keep in mind that Air Sailing and Nevada Soaring Association has probably one of the most talented and tenured cadre of CFG's, Tow Pilots, and experienced Pilots of any glider port in the United States... and all our members take personal pride in mentoring youth in soaring.

The "Billy Goat" Scholarship fund was essentially initiated during the Air Sailing Banquet in 1998, when my wife and I donated \$1,000 as seed money, along with spontaneous donations... that were made by some of our old guard ASI / NSA members, Mrs. Clair Siebold, Bruce Laxalt, and Pam Sutton, and our "little" scholarship fund was born and on its way...!

Network Realty, Inc. which is a company owned by myself and my wife Anna, who is the Corporate Broker for the company, also announced that we would donate a minimum of 50% of our real estate commission's as a "credit" to any Air Sailing or Nevada Soaring Association Member who would refer a buyer or seller real estate referral to us... whereby we would then instruct the escrow officer prior to the close of escrow, to "credit" back 50% of our commission... back to the referee (the ASI / NSA Buyer or Seller) whereby the ASI / NSA Buyer or Seller would then VOLUNTARILLY donate the credit back to the scholarship program, which is administered by our Air Sailing Board of Trustees, which I am the Director.

Since Air Sailing is a qualified 501-3c IRS Non-Profit EDUCATIONAL organization... each Buyer or Seller voluntary donation... is also a qualified tax deductible contribution...!

Since 1998, the "Billy Goat" scholarship fund has generated over \$85,000 in total contributions, since inception, we have spent over \$45,000 during that period of time on youth scholarships, JRROTC aviation and soaring orientation and soaring mentorships, and individual solo scholarships, and has ~\$40,000 in the bank, which is overseen and controlled by our trusted ASI Treasurer, Ms. Terry Duncan, at my direction.

Surprisingly, one of our biggest problems... is giving money away... to support youth in soaring...!}