

Air Sailing Clean-up Day is Coming!

By Dale Thompson

The date is April 22, 2006. As usual, we have again ordered a perfect spring day. So far several members have stepped forward to volunteer for specific tasks. Neita Montague will be preparing the lunch, Bob Spielman will be tuning up the golf carts, John Boyce has requested the opportunity to get the irrigation system going, and Ty White has taken on application of the UV-resistant paint for the hangar doors. To stake out your favorite Air Sailing job, contact Dale Thompson at 510-223-4259 or dale_thomp@sinewave.com.



Bear surveys the winter landscape near Air Sailing.

Soaring Safety Foundation - First Flight Program

By Dick Horn

The Soaring Safety Foundation has established a program to encourage all sailplane pilots to take their first flight of the year with a CFI-G. The premise is based upon the fact that we don't get much flying in during the winter months and sailplane pilots in general get very little recurrent training after their private pilot license.

While strictly voluntary, this policy makes a lot of sense for us all. Many well-known competition and CFIG pilots have stepped up and committed to taking their first flights of the year with a CFIG. Your ASI Board strongly supports this new SSF initiative, and hopes that everyone takes the opportunity to take a flight with a friendly CFIG at Air Sailing or other convenient gliderport near you!

Let's have a great and safe soaring year!

Highlights from the Regular Winter Meeting of the ASI Board of Trustees

By Pam Sutton

The winter meeting of the Air Sailing Board of Trustees took place on February 11, 2006, at the Airport Plaza Hotel in Reno, Nevada, with all trustees present. Main topics of discussion and decisions include:

- 2006 budget was approved with no major changes.
- ASG is largely in compliance with the Washoe County SUP requirements. In addition to having established campground/RV Park boundaries, we are becoming a non-municipal transient water district, signage and lighting is in place and a sign in/out log will be located in the clubhouse to document trailers complying with the 60 day rule.
- With regard to towplane maintenance, at a minimum, we require maintenance to be performed according to the permitted list in the FARs and we prefer that permitted maintenance be done by a licensed A&P.

New to Air Sailing? Would you like to go for a ride in a sailplane, or learn how to fly? Call Lee Edling at 775-722-9188.

Newsletter of Air Sailing, Inc. is published quarterly and is free to members of ASI and to clubs with which we exchange newsletters. Correspondence should be addressed to Editor: Eric Norris at 2635 Benton St., Santa Clara, CA 95051 or gliderboy1955@yahoo.com. Air Sailing, Inc., a 501(c)3 corporation, owns and operates Air Sailing Gliderport exclusively for scientific and educational purposes.

Trustees	Phone (h)	Phone (w)	FAX	e-mail
Ty White, President	510-490-6765	510-739-2190	408-532-7272	tylerwhite@earthlink.net
Steve Smith, Vice-President	408-996-2932	650-604-5856	-----	stephen.c.smith@nasa.gov
Terry Duncan, Treasurer	408-446-0847	-----	-----	tduncan11@comcast.net
Pam Sutton, Secretary	775-323-4868	775-830-8388	775-323-1292	jt12330@earthlink.net
Cindy Donovan	925-932-4269	415-667-9142	-----	donovan_c@sbcglobal.net
Mike Hoke	775-747-4145	775-827-6568	-----	mjh@abaris.com
Dick Horn	408-737-7887	408-771-3550	-----	dhorn15@comcast.net
Bob McKay	530-676-3275	-----	530-676-3684	n78034@directcon.net
Rolf Peterson	925-447-5620	-----	-----	rolfpete@aol.com
Bernald Smith	510-656-0434	-----	510-657-1261	bernal@juggernaut.com
Dale Thompson	510-223-4259	-----	510-669-0356	dale_rsmry@sinewave.com
David Volkmann	775-787-3197	-----	-----	drvolkman@charter.net
Rick Walters	775-265-3386	775-720-4779	-----	sierrar@sagedb.minden.nv.us

Standing Committees	Chair			
Executive:	David Volkmann	Steve Smith	Terry Duncan	
FBO:	David Volkmann	Ty White		
Finance:	Terry Duncan	David Volkmann		
Fund Raising:	Bernald Smith			
Maintenance Oversight:	David Volkmann	Terry Duncan	Steve Smith	Bob McKay
Long Range Planning:	Pam Sutton	Rolf Peterson	Steve Smith	Ty White
Nominating:	Ty White	Terry Duncan		
Publication:	Pam Sutton			

Management Areas	Manager
ASI Tow:	
Memorial Grove:	Pam Sutton
Membership:	Ty White
Operations:	Steve Smith
Tie-downs and Hangar	David Volkmann
Web Master / Guest Book:	Pam Sutton

Nevada Soaring Association

A club operating at Air Sailing that offers low-cost soaring for members. It also provides introductory rides, instruction, BFRs, a cross-country safari, land out training, encampments, overnights, the Gerlach Dash, and a guest membership program. Contact: Neita Montague, 7840 Tamra Drive, Reno, NV 89506 - neitalibelle@aol.com 775 527-2789

Air Sailing Membership

New members, changes of address, lost members coming home... Send your personal information and check to:

Ty White			\$ 35.00
2003 Membership	Donation (Tax Deductible)	+	
41600 Marigold Drive	TOTAL		_____
Fremont, CA 94539			

Use of Mode C Transponders

The potential conflict between gliders and commercial air traffic near Reno has increased with the growth of commercial jet traffic into Reno-Tahoe Airport (RNO) during the past few years. PASCO (Pacific Soaring Council, Inc.) emphasizes that glider pilots operating in the Reno area must be alert for all air traffic arriving and departing RNO.

Transponder signals are received by Traffic Collision Avoidance Systems (TCAS) on board commercial aircraft as well as by Air Traffic Control (ATC) Radar. By ATC Letter of Agreement, gliders in the Reno area can transmit on the 0440 transponder code in the blind without establishing radio contact with Reno Approach Control.

PASCO recommends, and Air Sailing endorses, that gliders operating cross country, within 50 nm of Reno-Tahoe Airport, install and use a Mode C altitude encoding transponder.

- The 2006 action plan developed by Dick Horn will be adopted. This summer, tow ropes will be monitored and managed to determine the unique wear characteristics associated with the gliderport. This will help determine an eventual rope management procedure. ASG will request a site survey to be conducted by the Soaring Safety Foundation.
- A proposed housing development north of ASG on the former Winnemucca Ranch was discussed. The development is in the early planning and approval stages and could create a significant change in the Palomino Valley in the long term. We will find out more about the possible impacts of this development on Air Sailing.
- The generator experienced a fire and is in need of rehabilitation. No other significant maintenance items were identified.



Folks, Do Not Leave Food in Your Glider

ASI Happenings

By Lee Edling

What has been going on at Air Sailing since the first of the year? Not much flying, that's for sure. The weather has been wet, but not too cold. The New Year's flooding caused some erosion at Air Sailing. People arriving from Winnemucca Ranch Road soon after the stream had emptied could only get across with four wheel drive. There were steep edges and a lot of sand in the dip. Bear and I hooked up Peter Neumann's trailer behind the new tractor and

removed several cubic yards of sand from the dip until Bob Spielman could get his little (very little) white car through.

There was some erosion on runway 21L west of the pavement, but that is mainly filled in thanks to the tractor dragging what I call "pull toys" across the problem area. The aux strip to the west has damage that will be taken care of by the road grader crew and it will be widened. David has grand plans for the road grader when it gets here this spring. The drainage ditch on the east side of the property is silted in and needs to be opened up again. The dip between 17 and 21R will be leveled.

This summer we expect to have wireless high speed Internet via satellite at Air Sailing. How is that for news? Hmmm, weather cam, anybody? Maybe I'll get my extra satellite dish hooked up to the TV in the club house. It would help if somebody has an LCD TV they'd like to donate to the club house. That would save us 200 watts of power usage when the TV is on. Well, okay, it would just be cool to have a new TV in the clubhouse.

When you come out for the annual cleaning party, please bring a hoe and attack any weeds you see. Yes, green things are showing in the runway dirt, so dragging will have to start soon to rip them out. Rick Walters will be removing the old tractor and stake bed truck, and that junk pile at the entrance will be moved. David Volkmann has laid out the new area for glider trailer tie downs south of the main ramp. There will be some extra glider tie downs south of Lee's RV.

"Why do we have wide runways," said the spider to the fly. Well, we may have a Nimbus 4 based here this summer. Stay tuned. You built it—they will come.



Condor in Jeff Byard's Hangar, Tehachapi, CA

Message from the Air Sailing President

By Ty White

You would think this would be a quiet time of year, but I do have a couple of items of interest for our members.

1. Major Development Could Impact Our Gliderport (with much input from Neita Montague)

In 2002 Washoe County established a comprehensive Regional Plan that set guidelines for the next 25 years of growth in the Reno-Sparks area. This plan, considered to be very innovative, concentrated most growth within the McCarran "ring" and along major corridors, preserving plenty of undeveloped areas and establishing the basis for a regional transportation system.

In the past month or so, three public hearings were held to air proposed major amendments that would drastically change the current Regional Plan. The new amendments to the plan, described by the Regional Planning Commission itself as "developer driven amendments", cover 100 years of growth and carve out 140,000 acres for annexation and development north of Reno and east of Sparks. The plan calls for working with the Federal Government for expedited sales of BLM lands, including most of the public land between Sparks and Air Sailing, the land north from Air Sailing almost to Flanigan Dry Lake, and north from Stead Airport to the Dogskins and beyond.

If the proposed amendments are successful, one early major development would be centered at Winnemucca Ranch, just up the road north from Air Sailing, where 8700 homes are proposed on about 8500 acres of land lapping around the north end of the Dogskins. The development would house up to 25,000 people, and would mean major infrastructure investments to roads and power. Most of the vacant land in between Air Sailing and Winnemucca Ranch is BLM land, which would be targeted for expedited sale and ultimate development. The Winnemucca Ranch plan would almost certainly accelerate development of Warm Springs Valley.

There is plenty of local opposition to the proposed amendments to the Regional Plan, as evidenced by the speakers at the public hearings. According to the Reno paper, there is also outrage in some quarters regarding a process that apparently bypassed public input and comment until it was almost too late to

organize opposition by those who wish to preserve the undeveloped areas north of Sparks and Reno. On March 8, the Regional Planning Commission was scheduled to "...adopt the amendments" but voted instead 7-1 to send the proposed amendments back the Planning Commission technical committee of planners and other professionals. This action could delay consideration of the amendments until next year at the earliest. A developer has filed an appeal to this delay, so it is probable the matter will not rest for long.

The *Reno Gazette Journal* (www.rgj.com) has many online articles and maps related to the proposed annexation areas. There is also lots of information available on the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency website (www.tmrpa.org). Some local conservation groups, such as Scenic Nevada (www.scenicnevada.org), are calling for a longer period of public debate followed by a public ballot.

This matter is obviously of interest and concern to the Air Sailing, Inc. Board of Trustees, and we are working with our local members to keep abreast of developments and to try to understand the possible implications to Air Sailing Gliderport. Stay tuned, and we will give you more information in future newsletters or special mailings as we find out more.

2. Soaring Safety Foundation Invited To Air Sailing

Upon a suggestion by Air Sailing, Inc. Trustee Bernald Smith, the Board of Trustees, working in concert with the leadership of the NSA, has invited the Soaring Safety Foundation (SSF) to conduct an independent survey of our operations related to safety. The survey is to be conducted by Trustees of the SSF at a time agreed upon by ASI and the NSA. The results of the survey are strictly confidential and are geared to give us feedback on where we might have weaknesses in our current operations. We have a complex operating environment in the spring and summer, and this is when we anticipate having the survey take place. We don't expect to find anything seriously amiss, but it couldn't hurt to have an independent set of experts give us a once-over.

See you at the gliderport!



Gliders Awaiting Restoration, Tehachapi

John Hammond

1935 – 2005

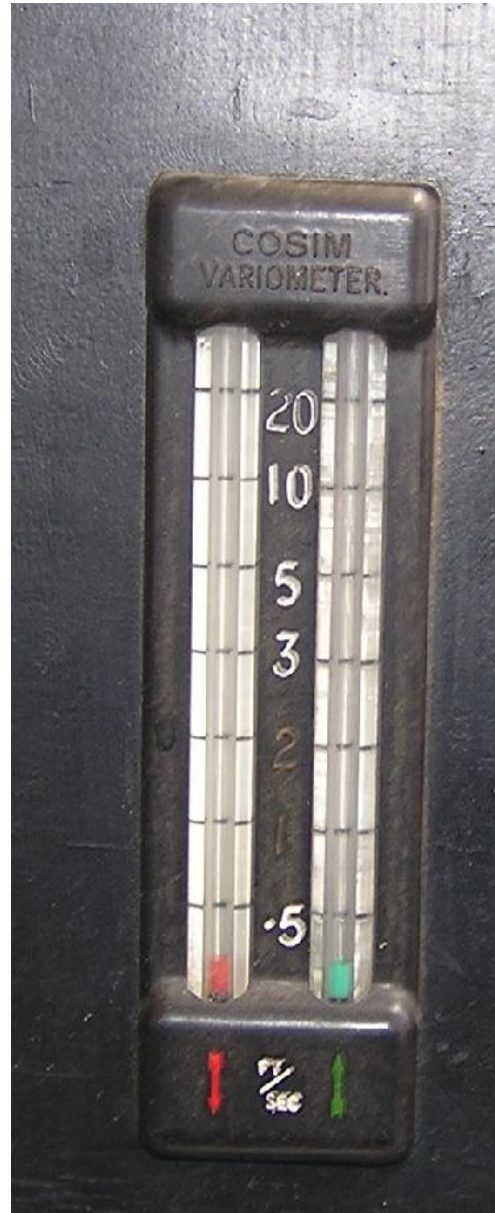
John Hammond, a long-time member and supporter of Air Sailing, died of cancer on December 15, 2005.

John was a man of many talents who brought his quiet demeanor, teaching and engineering skills, and his love of flying to Air Sailing in 1980. He lived on-site for two years, serving as caretaker, tow pilot, flight instructor and welcoming committee.

When John moved on to Oregon he never forgot Air Sailing, continuing his membership and returning regularly for our Spring Work Parties.

His wife, Joyce, tells of his Diamond Badge that he earned in 1983. After a burglar missed it during a break-in, John moved it to his shaving kit so he would always have it with him. Over the years that badge got a little beat up, but it is still there.

John's family has requested that his name be inscribed on our memorial stone and a tree be planted in his memory in the memorial grove at Air Sailing. Contributions in his memory may be sent to our treasurer, Terry Duncan.



Cosim Variometer in Raul Blacksten's Slingsby T-31b Tandem Tutor

Did You Know?

The term "green air" comes from pellet variometers (like the one pictured above) that had a green pellet that rose in rising air and a red pellet that rose in sinking air.

Calendar:

April 22 - Spring Work Party Dale Thompson, 510-223-4259, dale_rsmry@sinewave.com

April 23 - Spring Regular Meeting of the ASI Board of Trustees Ty White, 510-739-2190, tylerwhite@earthlink.net

May 6 - American Yankee Assoc. Fly-in Colin Aro, 775-746-5190, colinaro@earthlink.net

May 15 – Deadline for June Issue. Eric Norris, gliderboy1955@yahoo.com 408-505-6165

May 15-19 – Twelfth Annual Thermaling Camp Rolf Peterson, 2618 Tahoe Drive, Livermore, CA 94550. 925-447-5620 or 447-4255, rolfpete@aol.com.

May 21-26 - Master Cross-Country Instructors Course Rolf Peterson, 2618 Tahoe Drive, Livermore, CA 94550. 925-447-5620 or 447-4255, rolfpete@aol.com

May 21-26 – 20th Annual Cross Country Camp David Prather, 3179 Boeing Road Cameron Park, CA 95682-7821, 530-672-6993 or dwprather68@yahoo.com

July 24-29 – Air Sailing Sports Class Regionals Practice Day, July 23
Tim Taylor, 1698 E 1220 N, Logan, UT 84341, 435-713-4952, ttaylor@cc.usu.edu

AIR SAILING NEWS

41600 Marigold Drive

Fremont, CA 94539

