

Air Sailing News



Editor: Eric Norris

ASI web site: <http://www.airsailing.org/>

Spring 2007

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AIR SAILING SPRING CLEAN-UP

Saturday 21 April 2007

Our annual airport clean-up day, Air Sailing sponsored lunch, and NSA annual meeting are all scheduled for 21 April.

We have had excellent response. Some of the volunteers are:

Dale Thompson Galactic Emperor of Clean-up Day and perpetual unsung hero

Fred Fricke Back-up organizer

Neita Montague Lunch Czar

Cindy Donavan Lunch Czar Backup

Ed Lord V.P. in charge of getting the windmill signed-off for the year

Herb Robbins V.P. in charge of repairing the wind-damaged windsock

John Boyce Coordinator of irrigation and tree maintenance

Matt Herron Volunteer to help with irrigation check-out

Bob Spielman Golf Cart maintenance

Rick Walters Pawnee Tow clean-up

David Volkmann Runway patching

Mark Montague Runway numbers

Jeannine Herron Painting and patching

Steve Smith Windmill tank replacement

Ty White, our fearless President, has agreed to be the photographer and scribe for this soiree.

There are plenty of rewarding jobs for everyone. No matter what your capabilities, restrictions, or limitations, you can contribute!

Come help get your gliderport ready for the 2007 season.

If you have any additional ideas, contact Dale Thompson 510-223-4259

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.

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Standing Committees	Chair		
Executive:	Ty White	Steve Smith	Terry Duncan
Finance:	Terry Duncan		
Fund Raising:	Bernald Smith		
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Long Range Planning:	Pam Sutton		
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Publication:	Pam Sutton		
Safety	Charlie Hayes		

Area Managers	Manager
ASI Tow:	David Volkmann
Memorial Trees:	Pam Sutton
Membership:	Ty White
Operations:	Dick Horn
Tie-downs and Hangar	David Volkmann
Web Master / Guest Book:	Pam Sutton
Facilities:	Lee Edling

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: Bob Spielman, 250 River Bend Dr, Reno, NV 89523, 775 560-2406, thudpilot1@msn.com

Air Sailing Membership

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

Ty White			\$ 50.00
ASI 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.

Air Sailing Sports Class Contest

By JJ Sinclair

At age 72, I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that I ain't no Ray Gimmy. In fact for most of the past 30 years, old JJ can be found on the back page of the score sheet. Last year I performed up to my reputation, scored 3rd on one day in the 15 meter nationals and then landed out the next day! Now, this was no average land out, I plunked it down at the little airport BEFORE going through the start gate for a whopping ZERO points!

Just one more contest I screwed up, what to do?

Three of us who placed 16, 17 & 18th at Montague, headed straight for Air Sailing to try and get well. A surprising thing happened; we placed first, second and fourth! There's a message there; Stop beating your head against the nationals wall and try Air Sailing Sports Class where you have a real chance of winning for a change. Maybe, like me, your skills are not what it takes to ever win a nationals. Maybe your sailplane isn't the latest and greatest. It doesn't matter; you will be treated fairly in Sports Class.

Trailers (for rent) are available if you sign up early and a meal is prepared each evening. Take your turn at the grill or kick in a small amount if your culinary skills aren't up to Norma's cooking. Fresh lies will be told around the BBQ pit each evening. Camping areas and hot showers are available for all. We're holding it at the same time as last year (July 23 - 28) with Sunday, July 22 practice day. The soaring during this time period, last year was FANTASTIC. No kidding, we were cruising around at 16,000 most of the time. The tasking was aggressive also, nothing less than 3 hours. I went down to Sweetwater / Bridgeport area on two TAT's. Your CD, Bob McKay will try and call an even mix of AT, MAT and TAT's.

Come out and give Sports Class a try, It's a whole lot of fun and maybe you can actually give that winners speech you've been working on, all these years! One little proviso, win it and you'll be writing this article next year, but with Bob McKay willing to CD it, you will still be able to fly--just do the managers job.

I hope to see you on the grid at Air Sailing come July 22nd.



Alright, I'm next in line and so far nobody has noticed that I don't have a glider! I'll just hold the tow ring with my teeth and hold my arms real straight...

Air Sailing Photo Caption Contest Winner – Lee Edling!

I was nearly overwhelmed by the number of entries, but Lee's was by far the best. –Ed.



Glider Repair the Hard Way

Board of Trustees Update

By Pam Sutton

The Winter meeting of the Air Sailing Board of Trustees was held on January 27, 2007. During this meeting the board:

- Approved the 2007 budget
- Finalized items for the 2007 Capital fundraising campaign
- Raised hangar and tie down rates slightly
- Agreed that Ty will become the permanent liaison

with the SSA with regard to the ASI Sports Class contest



Bear Guards the Editor's Glider—Hey it's Not a Fire Hydrant!

Air Sailing Happenings

By Lee Edling

Over the weekend, Blue Tow was very busy (Red Tow is at Stead for an engine overhaul). On Saturday Vern flew his Comanche out. There were three other member aircraft that flew in, also.

Air Sailing wasn't as wet this winter. Two winters ago we had a foot of snow for a month and a half. Last year we had the rains that flooded us. This winter the roads have always been usable and that was very nice.

The Air Sailing tractor (named Jeff) has been busy and has over 230 hours on the tach. Jeff's latest project has been relocating the junk pile that you've all seen on your left as you enter Air Sailing. That area will now be open for other uses.

There was lift on March 2nd. Today is March 5th and it is 68 degrees. It is so nice that I'm inspired to take a nap with the windows open! We've had several days now where you could look south and see the normal dusty thermals of the Warm Springs Valley.

Remember that we have wireless at Air Sailing, so bring out your laptops and enjoy being connected.

Well, time for that nap. I've got to rest up for the summer because you will all be out here keeping me busy, right?

I'll see you April 21st for our party.



Air Sailing from Above

ROTC Report

By Cadet Marissa Anaya

Air Sailing Incorporated serves as a sponsor for North Valleys High School in an agreement to show AFJROTC high school students the appreciation of flying. This is a special program that requires cadets to maintain good grades in the ROTC program in order to be chosen to participate. Since April of 2003, orientation flights have been held to give deserving cadets the opportunity and excitement of flying in an engineless aircraft. More than 200 cadets have flown in this unique program and two have soloed and received their solo wings.

The first time I stepped into a glider, I had a slight feeling of uneasiness, since I had never flown in a glider before and the concept of it not having an engine puzzled me. I was really curious to feel what it was like to fly in an aircraft with no engine. When I first saw the controls in the cockpit, I reviewed what I had been briefed by my instructor and began to familiarize myself with which control served which function. I remember my instructor pointing out some of the basic controls that were used for the take off. He had asked me to follow along and observe what he did with the control stick.

Most of my initial orientation flight remains a partial blur in my mind, but I do remember the awesome feeling of being lifted off the ground by the tow plane. Once airborne, I looked out of the cockpit and forgot about all of my previous concerns. At that point, I immediately realized how much I love to fly. I also remember when my instructor told me to pull the release from tow plane. I looked at the big knob in front of me and pulled it, expecting the glider to noticeably nosedive from 7,000 feet once we were disconnected from the tow plane.

After I heard the pop and nothing happened, I realized just how stable it was to fly in a glider aircraft. The wind could be heard blowing around the glider and it seemed amazingly quiet up in the sky, except for the occasional shot and echoes heard from the practice shooting range far below us.

Since that first orientation flight, I've been provided the opportunity to take additional glider lessons, hopefully leading up to the day when I earn my solo wings. I'm extremely thankful to our great sponsors at Air Sailing Incorporated, especially my flight instructors and the other ASI members who work at the gliderport who have always been profoundly helpful and friendly. They've always offered me sound advice and answered my questions, thinking of others before thinking of themselves. Once again, thank you all!



Soaring Starts at Air Sailing – March Flying

By Lee Edling

We had a beautiful day for soaring. Where was everybody? Okay, I suppose most of you had to work.

Stoney volunteered to tow (thanks, Stoney). I took a very high tow to Tule Peak, releasing at 9,200. The ridge at Tule wasn't quite working due to light winds, and the thermals weren't strong enough, yet. The BASA Pegasus and I were slowly losing altitude.

Mother Nature was teasing me until 7,800 about a mile north of Black Knob, half way back to Air Sailing. That was the first workable thermal of the day and it took me up to 9,400. You all know how this goes. Back to Tule, lose altitude, get back up, head back to Tule and then there was finally workable lift up there. After getting above 10,000, I started touring the area, checking out the Dogskins and First Lift.

Visibility was great early in the day. Mt. Lassen was in view. I made the circuit again the Tule ridge was now working. Cirrus surrounded the area and was moving in, but it stayed clear over Air Sailing. I passed two hours in the air and set three hours as the goal. My aching behind!

There was still lift when I landed after 3.1 hours and that was good enough to start the season.

The good lift was usually 6 knots. Once in a while it would hit 8 knots and once in a great while it would hit ten, and that was a thrill for this time of year!

Let's hope we have more great days soon.



Karol Hines and Mark Montague Do Some March Soaring



Congratulations Taylor Phillips, New Glider Pilot!

Calendar:

April 21: Spring Work Party - Dale Thompson, 510-223-4259, dale_rsmry@sinewave.com

April 22: Spring Regular Meeting of the ASI Board of Trustees – Ty White, 510-490-6765, tylerwhite@earthlink.net

May 28–June 1: 13th Annual Thermaling – Rolf Peterson, 2618 Tahoe Drive, Livermore, CA 94550, 925-447-5620, 925-447-4255, rolfpete@aol.com.

June 3–8: 21st Air Sailing Cross-Country Camp – David Prather, 3179 Boeing Road, Cameron Park, CA 95682, 530-748-7275, dwprather68@yahoo.com.

June 15-19: NSA Lone Pine Camp – Bob Spielman, 775-345-0410, thudpilot1@msn.com

July 23–28: Air Sailing Sports Class Regionals. Practice Day July 22. Contact JJ Sinclair, 4070 Glider Rd, Placerville, CA, 95667, (530) 622-4991 or john.sinclair@worldnet.att.net

August 4-5: Gerlach Dash – Bob Spielman, 775-345-0410, thudpilot1@msn.com

September 29: Fall Regular Meeting of the ASI Board of Trustees – Ty White, 510-490-6765, tylerwhite@earthlink.net

September 29: Air Sailing Awards Banquet and Silent Auction. Historic Fourth Ward School Museum, Virginia City Nevada.

AIR SAILING NEWS

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