

Nutmeg News

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Editor: Jim Sidway

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Submitted by Bill Kenyon

Coming Events:

Take-apart day, Informal Food, and General Meeting -- Freehold Airport, Saturday Nov. 9 (Rain day: Sunday, Nov. 10). The following fun activities are featured: de-rigging gliders; changing oil and putting Stabil in golf carts -- plus many more. Food is by spontaneous preparation, the way we did it on August 30 -- but my wife has made some chili -- it is aging now in oak casks. (Thanks to John Boyce for filling the 2 new propane tanks)

Past Events: Mifflin County Visit

Saturday: good ridge day (NW wind) -- 4 people declared 500 km tasks. But the clouds overdeveloped, and we gave up the task about 3:30 pm, and headed for home. Several people made it to Cumberland, 90 miles away (i.e., a point on the Bald Eagle Ridge just north of the Greater Cumberland Airport) and back.

Sunday: SE wind, a back-of-the-ridge day, with thermals but very few clouds. Most of us flew up and down the back of our 'usual' ridge, Jack's Mountain, with great satisfaction. A daring pilot from Valley Soaring, Ryszard W, was the only one to complete the 300 k task a few of us had declared (Selinsgrove -- Lock Haven -- Orbisonia)

Monday: NW wind, overcast in the morning, then clearing -- with a very distinct boundary visible, cloudy on our side, blue and sunny to the northwest. Todd Smith led in thermaling over to Tussey Mountain, down to Cumberland and back -- Todd jumped over to Nittany Mountain on the way back north, heading for Lock Haven, but stopped half way and came home. Thermals were strong in the afternoon.

Tuesday: Marginal soaring -- everybody stayed near the airport

Wednesday -- overcast; marginal ridge for a few people
Thursday -- rain; Friday -- rain; Saturday -- rain.

Those present (various days): Bruce Stein, John Boyce, Wally Moran, Bill Kenyon, Todd Smith, Chris MacIntyre, Don McKinlay (won the Florence Nightingale award after his knee went out), Linda deMarco, Rudy Szigeti, Jim Sidway, Walter Rogg, Bob Duckworth, Mike Ampela. Thanks to Walter Rogg for trailering the Grob both ways; to Jim Sidway and Bob Duckworth for trailering the Blanik.

Don McKinley's knee problem manifested itself when Mac bent to apply wax to his 1-26. (There's a lesson there for all of us). We picked Mac up and put him in the back of his truck. Linda deMarco very generously drove Mac to the Lewistown Hospital for treatment. I'm sure Todd Smith exaggerated when he said: If Linda had not been there, we probably would have

just tossed Mac a couple of bottles of beer and a blanket, so we could go flying. Mac subsequently made it back to Connecticut with his leg in a brace, and underwent knee surgery.

We gave a Grob ride to Tracy Peters, the head of the Mifflin County Airport Commission; Mifflin County Tow-pilot extraordinaire Butch Thompson contributed a free tow. Tracy helped derig the Grob (Saturday, in the hangar; it was raining outside).

Grass is growing:

Grass is growing pretty nicely on the west half of the 75-foot-wide sub-apron to the south turf. (This grass is the result of the grass seed that Carl Kohrs planted for us in early June). Rudy Szigeti mowed and rolled the west half; the east half is rocky, and still presents a challenge to us.

Handshake deal with Greene County Highway Maintenance Department:

In September, Clem Hoovler and I met informally with Gary Harvey. Gary is a supervisor in the Greene County Highway Department; his office is in Catskill. We made a handshake deal, as follows: the Highway Department will use a 75-100 foot wide strip on our road-frontage land just west of their salt shed, to store piles of materials. In return, they will flatten our road-frontage land, and provide access to the road -- this treatment will make this land suitable for us to park cars and trailers. We also requested help in grading out the transition from turf to blacktop on runway 12, and in doing the prep work for the oil-and-stone treatment of the existing blacktop.

Airport Grant:

The \$20,000 grant we were expecting to receive from New York State seems to have gone missing: the Airport Department of New York State was to write us a letter in August saying that the money was available, but we have not received the letter yet.

Got the urge to write and publish?

We need new members next year (not that there's anything wrong with the old members). Please give me your ideas on where to publish articles. For obvious targets (Soaring, AOPA), we need an angle -- maybe Soaring in the Northern Catskills for Soaring, a tow-pilot angle for AOPA?

How to encourage cross-country flying?

If you have ideas on how we can get more people out flying cross-country, please pass them along to me.

YOUR MONEY IS OUR MONEY !

Submitted by Peter Krebs

This is a short call to get your help and understanding: Our new system of invoicing and collecting tow fees etc. has met with pretty good success and seems to have eased the workload of duty pilots. Nevertheless, the new procedure only works financially if we collect outstanding balances in a timely manner. Chris Hanak spends considerable time inputting the data into the new software generating electronic invoices and account statements which you receive regularly. Your response has been good so far but we still have a considerable amount of balances we need to collect. So PLEASE do us - and your club - a favor and check your invoices and statements and pay your outstanding balances. Please understand that as in any financial environment only money collected can be spent and Nutmeg certainly has a burden to carry in this, our first year at Freehold. We are not talking about major amounts but the list is getting longer. Thanks to all those members who have been prepaying towing fees thereby alleviating our financial burden!

HELP NUTMEG BE GOOD NEIGHBORS

Submitted by John Boyce

If you haven't already pitched in your twenty bucks toward the Freehold Beautification Project, now is the time to do it. We wanted to raise at least a thousand, which is a paltry twenty bucks per member (actually, less).

So far, as of 31 October, twenty-one members have contributed just under five hundred dollars, and I think this is an embarrassment to Nutmeg. We have here a great opportunity to make a significant contribution to the community that tolerates our noisy towplanes with a minimum of complaints..SO FAR!

Freehold is not the sleepy little country village it was just a few years ago. The whole area is changing rapidly, with second-home ownership growing rapidly, too. In one town not far to the west of us (the lawsuits have already started), second-home ownership outnumbers the local home owners by two to one.

The time will come when we'll need all the local support we can get, and hope that it's enough.

If you're not familiar with the Freehold project...it will consist of planting trees, putting in curbs, and rebuilding the bridge on 67 going to the airport, centering on the intersection of Routes 32 and 67. If you've been there, you'll agree it could use some beautification.

Please send a check to Chris Hanak. Make it out to Nutmeg, but make the lower lefthand corner say "Freehold Beautification Project". Chris will add up all the checks and send one for the entire amount to the project.