

Now Available on our Web Site

- ✓ Check out the improved Proficiency section.
- ✓ See photos of Banquet 2003.
- ✓ Freehold weather forecast.
- ✓ 2003 Duty Pilot Schedule: Please check to see if you are scheduled. Arrange for a substitute if you can't serve.

For these features and MUCH more point your browser to:

<http://nutmegsoaring.org>

CALENDAR

Put Together Day and Safety Meeting: Saturday, April 5 at Freehold. Details inside.

General Membership Meeting: Saturday, April 26 at the field. Approximately 6:00 PM.

Freehold Fly-In: Saturday, May 17 - details inside.



SAFE SOARING

The 2002 soaring season, our first year in our new home, was completed without aircraft incident or accident. Constant vigilance and concern for safety will allow us to do it again in 2003. Please, fly and perform all ground operations safely. It's a habit we can all live with.

Nutmeg News is the official publication of the Nutmeg Soaring Association, Inc. Edited by Jim Sidway, 211 Lum Lot Road, Southbury, CT 06488-1960 203.264.6170 jsidway@earthlink.net

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Nutmeg News

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Editor: Jim Sidway

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Submitted by Bill Kenyon

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 5: Put-together day, plus make-up safety meeting (late afternoon/evening), and probably an impromptu food event. If you didn't get the word about the safety meeting on March 8, we apologize.

Saturday, April 26: Nutmeg General Meeting - At Freehold Airport, approximately 6 PM. This is the weekend after Easter weekend.

Saturday, May 17: Freehold Fly-in

This will be similar to the Oct. 12, 2002 fly-in, for which the impetus and most of the motive power came from the Freehold Aviation Association. I think that we (all of us airport users) benefited from improved community relations. The Fr.A.A. has proposed to do a fly-in on May 17, and we are looking for Nutmeggers willing to help.

Saturday, June 28 - Sunday July 6: Encampment at Freehold. If you want to be there earlier than June 28, or later than Sunday, July 6, you'll probably find some other people interested in being there too. Instruction will very likely be available. (Last year, John Buraceski went from zero to solo during this week.)

August 15 -17: Greenville Balloon Festival.

Saturday, Oct. 11 - Sunday, Oct. 19: Mifflin County Trip. Fly the ridges of Pennsylvania; get a ridge checkout with an instructor. (Date is subject to change by popular demand. We avoid Penn State homecoming, which is Oct. 4 2003.)

INTERESTING THINGS FOR THIS YEAR

A new instructional syllabus, by Wally Moran. This covers not just beginner-to-solo, but also solo-to-license. For those of you who don't have your license yet: we want you to get it. The instructors are there to help, and Wally is a tough but fair Designated Examiner.

More support for getting into cross-country soaring. There is new material on the Nutmeg website, aimed mostly at people who are flying club gliders. It includes a suggested methodical approach, a suggested cross-country route, aerial photos and other aids to navigating, and directions for a driving tour. We will offer mentoring, with post-flight debriefing Saturday evening with one or more of our many accomplished cross-country pilots. The website also includes information useful to more advanced pilots – e.g., how to find Maben Airport.

An increased width on turf runways. At the end of last season, the western end of the additional 75 feet of south turf was just on the verge of getting usable, which will make the width of the south turf there about 190 feet. The eastern end of the 75-foot strip still has a lot of rocks in it. On the north side next to the pickerel pond, we plan to widen the north turf by 50 feet, and to claim also all of the eastern 200 feet of the alfalfa.

A field telephone that will operate at either north or south launch line. The Board of Directors has approved the expenditure of \$475, for a phone with an advertised range of some 8 miles. This field telephone will make landing-out less of a hassle, and is an important ingredient of our safety plan – e.g., how to handle power plane disasters, cat bites, etc. This telephone will be connected to the wire in the workshop (518-634-7346), so our 911 calls will go to the State Police barracks on Route 23 in Cairo (at the Ross Ruland crossroad).

Safety improvements: The phone mentioned above is part of the plan; we also plan to mount fire extinguishers on all Nutmeg golf carts.

Trailer sites: Trailer sites will be expanded by 6 sites; 3 of them are already 'spoken for.' Talk to Lee Ramsdell.

Contact with Greenville Zoning: Freehold Airport is in a town with zoning (Greenville). Nan Jackson and Clem Hoovler met with Greenville Town personnel on February 5 for constructive and useful talks. We now have a clearer idea of where we stand on zoning bylaws, campers, potential future hangar construction, and increased real-estate taxes. Talk to Nan if you have a question.

Spring checkout flights: This year as in previous years, each club member not current in gliders will be required to take a spring check-out flight with an instructor. For the first operating weekend or two, these checkout flights will take priority over other glider flights (except for instructors taking short flights to get current).

Instruction: We plan to do instruction much like last year: Each weekend morning, there was usually 1, very often 2, and less often 3 instructors available, for our high-quality but low-cost instruction. All instructors tend to disappear in the afternoon to fly their own gliders; the better the lift, the earlier they are likely to disappear. This suggests that people who need an instructional flight should aim to do so in the morning. It suggests that people who want to fly a club ship without an instructor should have a good shot in the afternoon.

Weekday soaring: Friday soaring: we expect to continue Friday soaring on the same basis as last year – i.e., by arrangement a day or two before. The web-based e-mail facility (send an e-mail to Discussion@NutmegSoaring.org, such as

'anybody else planning to fly this Friday') was quite useful for this last year; our thanks to Lincoln Stoller for setting up this facility. I (Bill Kenyon) can usually be available for Friday instructional flights via some prior arrangement, and if the weather is likely to be better than marginal. Greg Squires has indicated that he will be available to tow, but please make a prior arrangement with him.

Wednesday Soaring: Bruce Stein now owns a Cessna 172, so the chance for Wednesday soaring is greater this year.

Bunkhouse, etc.: The bunkhouse works this way: first come, first served, no charge. Both bathrooms are unisex. Bring your own sleeping gear, because there aren't actually any bunks in there. The Administration building can also be used for bunking, but please remove your camping stuff by 9 AM so it look respectable to visitors. For those who haven't noticed: we have a semi-tradition of showing videos of wide interest -- e.g. Lord of the Rings, or whatever someone might have brought along -- on Saturday evening. In fact, Saturday evenings can be pretty social; try it, you might find that you like it.

Duty Pilots and Flight Logging: Duty Pilot assignments are on the web-site, and **please please please** either be there or find someone else to swap with. Logging flights is a very important job, and in 2002 we got our bookkeeper so frustrated with incomplete records that he turned in his green eyeshade. Please -- everybody, not just duty pilots, be very conscientious about logging flights.

Attracting new members: The Board of Directors discussed this issue at length, recognizing that bringing in new members is an important goal for this year. We plan to do the following: 1). Add 'Nutmeg Soaring ...' to Freehold Airport signs already in the area. 2) Have a Nutmeg sign outside the Admin. building, and additional materials inside it, including a sign suggesting using the office phone to call the flight line. 3). Holding a free flying-gliders chalk talk at (say) 4:30 PM on selected Saturdays, to be listed in a 'things-to-do' column in the Albany newspaper (if there is such a column). 4. Having Nutmeg business cards in the office. 5. A mailing to power pilots and glider pilots in the Albany area, those pilots to be found by searching FAA databases. 6. Articles in the Atlantic Flyer (already well underway for 2003 by Wally Moran) and an entry in the Atlantic Flyer calendar listing. 7. Make better use of the Nutmegsoaring website to attract potential members. **Your help and suggestions are requested.** (See later article by Jeff Driscoll)

Proposal for financial aid from New York State: Bill Kenyon and Randol Webb participated in a meeting at Freehold Airport, Friday March 14, with Chuck Kaiser. Chuck is the chief staff man for newly-elected NYS Assemblyman Dan Hooker, and the meeting was arranged by Bill Alfeld and attended by several Fr.A.A. members. Chuck suggested we submit a 5-year proposal for airport improvements. To make such a proposal requires us to get sensible estimates from contractors, and we would appreciate your help here.

Proposed NYS legislation: 'Recently a bill was reintroduced to NY State Legislature to prohibit solo pilots under the age of 17. Read documents below and contact your legislators!' (see www.harrishillsoaring.org).

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Freehold Aviation Association: Bill Alfeld 518-622-9669
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Freehold Airport LLC: Bruce A. Stein, 203-426-4555
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NUTMEG EXPECTS NEW ARTICLES IN LOCAL & REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Submitted by Jeff Driscoll

Jeff Driscoll and Lincoln Stoller report a growing interest on the part of area publications, and a number have committed to sending reporters and photographers to Freehold this Spring. Lincoln has been actively contacting both Richard Bleezard at the Greenville Local and Linda Fenoff, Editor of the Greenville Press. At this time, he is working with them to set up demo

flight dates and a tour of the operations. Both expect to commit to dates within two weeks.

I have a commitment from the Catskill Mountain Region Guide that they will assign a writer to cover our story also within two weeks. We are hoping for a May or June article. This is the premier regional guide for the Catskills and a very high quality publication.

I also have a commitment from the Catskill Daily Mail for an article and have a demo ride date set for Sunday, April 27 with the Chris Smith, reporter.

There is an opportunity to join the Greene County Tourism Board for \$100 per year and get listed on their website:

www.thecatkills.com. Even though our target for new members is not tourists per se, it seems to be an attractive site for people looking for things to do. We can place a description of Nutmeg Soaring activities and provide a link to our own site for those interested in more detail.

Hopefully, this and all the other marketing and PR events will bring people seriously interested in potential memberships. That means we all need to gear up to take that 10-15 minutes out of our action-packed day to talk with people. Brochures and temporary membership kits will be available in the equipment trailer. Payment is expected before they fly.

Who should be taking them for a no-cost-to-the-pilot ride? If you're qualified in the 2-33 or Grob to take passengers, you should! The duty pilot should get them on the flight list, just like a full member, and find a qualified pilot to take them for a ride. The instructors may well be busy with ground or air instruction, so let's try to get other qualified pilots to have the fun of giving an introductory ride!

SAFETY & MAINTENANCE FEST 2003

Submitted by Wally Moran

This annual event will be held on May 17, 2003 at the Pratt & Whitney Customer Training Center, East Hartford, CT. from 0830 to 1530. Featured speaker is Aviation Hall of Famer Dick Rutan, in addition to Mr. Rutan there will be Workshops, aviation vendors, EAA "hands on" learn a skill area and static aircraft displays.

There is an opportunity for Nutmeg members to participate in this event either by manning a booth to tell people about soaring and Nutmeg or to bring a glider for static display. If any members are interested in helping Nutmeg get the word out and working at this event, please contact Wally Moran: *WJMoran@optonline.net* or 203-761-9095.

NEW NUTMEG MAILING ADDRESS

Submitted by Bob Cox

All snail mail correspondences, checks (especially checks), duty logs, etc., should now be sent to:

Nutmeg Soaring Association
PO Box 248
Shelton, CT 06484

2003 MEMBERSHIP DUES

All members should have received statements for 2003 Nutmeg Soaring Association and SSA Membership dues. Please send your payment in as soon as possible (see the following article for the address). If you did not receive your statement please contact Bob Cox at *cox_robert_m@sbcglobal.net* or 203-929-0798. Remember, you are required to pay your dues before you can fly club aircraft or receive tows from club tow planes.

2003 DUTY SCHEDULE

A Duty Pilot Schedule has been posted on the Nutmeg web site. Please review and make other arrangements if you can not act as Duty Pilot on your assigned day. It is the responsibility of each member to find a replacement. Do not wait until the last moment to find someone to work at the airport for you.

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED!

Do you know someone who might enjoy soaring? Bring them to the field this spring for a first hand look at what soaring with Nutmeg is all about! We need everyone to actively contribute to membership growth to ensure a stable and affordable future for the club at our new home in Freehold, NY. And for all of you who do not already own a share in Freehold LLC consider the advantages of purchasing one. Benefits include a \$500 discount on annual dues, access to improved creek side campsites, and a stake in the future of the Nutmeg Soaring Association!

UPDATE YOUR WEB SITE MEMBERSHIP INFO

Please take the time to log onto <http://nutmegsoaring.org> and go to the Membership Directory (if you are prompted for the Pawnee call sign it is "81Z" and the Nutmeg Trailer combo is "1203") to update your personal information. It is very important that your address, phone number and e-mail address be up to date. Thank you for your cooperation.