

Directions to Miry Brook Firehouse - traveling East or West on RT. 84 towards Danbury:

Exit 3 to RT. 7 South
Second Exit (Danbury Airport)
Left at traffic light at end of ramp
Right at first traffic light onto Miry Brook Rd
0.7 miles to Fire House on right



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

CALENDAR

Membership Meeting: 6:00 to 7:30 PM, Saturday, March 25, 2006 at the Miry Brook firehouse.

Safety Meeting 1: 7:45 PM (after the membership meeting) Saturday, March 25, 2006 at the Miry Brook firehouse.

Opening Day: April 8 or April 15 depending on weather. Check the Nutmeg website at <http://nutmegsoaring.org>.

Safety Meeting 2: 4:00 PM on the Saturday of Opening Day weekend (see above) at Freehold.

Nutmeg News
% Jim Sidway
211 Lum Lot Road
Southbury, CT 06488-1960

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Editor: Jim Sidway

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bruce Stein

We have had a mild winter so far and let's hope there is an early spring to follow. While we wait for the start of the season we need to prepare as we do every year. That means the pre-season safety meetings will be coming up very soon. These are very important for a variety of reasons. The meetings get our minds focused on flying but more importantly doing it in a safe and professional manner. We all fly gliders for fun, the challenge it presents and the adventure. (And of course some of us like to be able to tell the story of our great flight for the day and have at least a small part of it based in fact.) The safety meetings allow us to cover the important aspects of our operation and kick-start our minds into gear while we shake the rust off our skills. Every member needs to attend one of the meetings before getting a spring check out so please make every effort to attend and participate in your preparation for this season's soaring.

Nutmeg Soaring will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2006. As part of the celebration we will be having a party! (A large one!!!) The plan is to have as many current and former members as possible join us at Freehold on July 1-4, 2006 for a weekend of flying, eating, camaraderie and story telling. Winnie Kenyon has volunteered to help with the organizing and Jim Sidway will be the club's representative overseeing the organizing. If you have contact information for any former member please let them know of our celebration plans. It would be great to have retired and former members see Freehold and experience our newfound home. If you have any suggestions or ideas regarding special events for the celebration please contact Jim Sidway. Any and all volunteers willing to help in any capacity should contact Winnie Kenyon. We are working on a logo design for shirts to commemorate the event. If you would like a shirt please let Winnie or Jim know how many and what size(s).

At the last General Meeting Bob Ward gave a brief presentation of an idea he has been working on for more than 6 months. He presented the club with the possibility of leasing a tow plane from him. The benefits are not immediately apparent but the concept presents the club

with some possibilities that are very interesting and well worth pursuing. At the next general meeting I will present an overview of Bob's plan with some details regarding the overall benefits to the club. In addition we will have a discussion about 2008. Why 2008? That is the year we pay off our mortgage and can start working on the more cash intensive facility upgrades. We need to start the planning process now to make the most of our resources in 2008 and beyond.

One of the best days of the year – the day we assemble the club's gliders – will be either April 8 or 15 depending on weather. There will be a safety meeting following glider assembly as this has worked well the past two years. During the assembly process we will be working with Clem Hoovler to clean up any squawks from his inspections and also try to do some cosmetic work to the fleet. We will need as many hands as possible to get all of the work done during the opening weekend at the airport. In addition to glider assembly we will be getting the facilities opened and operating, making up new weak links and tow ropes and cleaning up the debris left over from the winter storms. I hope to see everyone in attendance with lots of enthusiasm and energy!!!

See you at Freehold,

Bruce Stein

MINUTES: NUTMEG ANNUAL MEETING

Called to order January 21, 2006 at 7:03 PM at the Miry Brook fire house in Danbury, CT.

President Bruce Stein reviewed the proposed 2006 budget. Based on the past 2 years it was apparent that we have been drawing more from our treasury than we are acquiring. It was the unanimous decision of those present that we should raise the annual dues from \$600 to \$800. The motion was made, voted on and passed. Your 2006 dues will be \$800.

A second financial decision was made. A new category of Junior Membership will be created. Young people faced with the financial burden of full membership fees before

they have had the opportunity to attempt flights may decide to pass us by.

The Junior Membership will require the novice member to pay annual dues and tow fees only. This new category of membership will require a change in the by-laws and will be addressed at the next general meeting.

New membership being the lifeblood of any organization has to be considered. The current sum to join Nutmeg is rather substantial. A motion was made to drop the initiation fee for the 2006 season. This was voted on and passed. This can be reinstated in the future if our finances require that we do so.

There was a brief discussion of selling the Super Cub and entering into a leaseback agreement with Bob Ward on a Husky. This proposition will need study, careful review and a definite financial plan before we proceed.

Currently April 8th looks like the beginning date for the 2006 season.

The Annual Safety Meetings are planned for March 18th or 25th at Miry Brook Firehouse at 7:00 PM and at Freehold on opening day at 4:00 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Donald McKinlay
Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES: FEBRUARY 2006 BoD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM on February 25, 2006 at the home of Bill Kenyon.

The Board spent a large portion of the meeting time discussing the pros and cons of leasing a tow plane.

The advantages are having a much newer plane capable of pulling all of our current glider fleet. Freeing up a considerable amount of cash that could be used to pay off debts that currently are costing us interest. Also the annual cost would be comparable to what the Cub is currently costing.

It is presumed that fair market value for the Cub is \$55 to 60K. It would take one half of this amount to pay off

debts leaving half to be put into savings that at some future date would be used to advance the development of Nutmeg Soaring's needs.

Keeping in mind that in two years our mortgage obligations will be met leaving us with potentially \$20K each year that added to our savings could improve our airport or our fleet of aging ships. All of this at present is speculation and our president and the Board of Directors will be looking for direction from our membership.

The creation of a purchase fund is currently the direction the Board is looking most seriously at.

Dave Rossetter, our new Operations Chief plans to review our operating rules. It is his hope that he and the Operations Committee can do things that will enhance safety and efficiency of launch times. There was no feeling that our current operations were in error, rather communications among all parties were neglected.

There are 2 safety meetings scheduled 7:00 PM March 25th at the Miry Brook Fire House and April 8th at Freehold with April 15th the alternate in case of adverse weather.

Nutmeg will be Fifty years old this year. Officially established in the fall of 1956. The Board of Directors discussed the best date for an anniversary celebration and agreed that July 1st, Saturday would most likely be the best opportunity for attendance as it is part of a long weekend and coincides with our annual encampment. Labor Day was considered but many families use that weekend as their last of the summer hurrah.

Winnie Kenyon is working on food plans and is also looking for a great design for Anniversary T Shirts for purchase by club members.

Those in attendance were:

President Bruce Stein
Past President Bill Kenyon
Secretary/Treasures. Don McKinlay
Director of Operations Dave Rossitter
Directors at Large Marty Opitz
Bookkeeper Bob Cox

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM

Respectfully submitted

Donald McKinlay
Secretary/Treasurer

ADDENDUM TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

After the Board meeting it was discovered that the Husky Bob Ward had been considering was sold. Currently other Huskys are priced out of range.

STUDENT PILOT ALERT

Submitted by Wally Moran

It is time to pull out that student certificate and have a look at the expiration date. All student certificates are valid for twenty four months. The expiration date can be found on the front of the certificate. If your certificate has or is about to expire, contact Wally Moran at wjmoran@optonline.net to get a new certificate.

ANNUAL BANQUET 2006

By Jim Sidway

The 2006 Annual Banquet was a great success on many fronts. The event was masterfully coordinated by Michelle and Frank Molnar - a great job as usual. The food was excellent and the camaraderie superb. Bruce Stein assembled an extensive and interesting array of statistics from the 2005 season. The Kudos Awards as prepared and delivered by the dynamic duo of Jeff Driscoll and Don McKinlay were the best ever. The video reminiscence of 2005 Nutmeg activities produced by yours truly with contributions from many members was well received. All in all those who attended seemed to have a great time (I know Sue and I did).

But one could not miss the fact that attendance was noticeably down from previous years. I don't know if it was just a bad weekend (we typically have the banquet on the Friday before President's Day) or if there were other reasons folks opted not to attend this year.

I missed seeing former members who have traditionally attended this annual gathering. I hope that their absence was not due to an inability to be with us but was due to a time conflict. I know the passage of time will inevitably shrink the ranks of older members who attend - a sad reality none the less. But again, I wonder if there were other reasons some of these former regulars chose not to be with us.

I also noticed that a large number of able bodied current members were not in attendance. I know there will be conflicts and maybe it was just a coincidence that so many such conflicts existed for the night of February 18, 2006. Or was it something more?

Has the Annual Banquet become too expensive for the enjoyment it provides (it was the same price as last year)? Is it a question of location? Would a different weekend be better? Should the format be changed, e.g. should we have a guest speaker or a dance band? What changes would make it more likely you will attend future Annual Banquets? Please send your thoughts to jsidway@earthlink.net.

Several folks have expressed an interest in obtaining a copy of the multimedia presentation that was shown at the end of the banquet. DVDs can be purchased for the price of \$8 each (the cost of professional duplication). To order please complete the order form below and send it with a check to Jim Sidway by April 1, 2006. Only those requests received by that date will be honored. Any checks received after that date will be shredded.

NUTMEG 2005 DVD ORDER FORM

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Number of DVDs: _____ X \$8 = _____

Send order form to: Jim Sidway, 211 Lum Lot Rd, Southbury, CT 06488 - Deadline for orders is April 1, 2006
DVDs will be delivered to the airport. Media type is DVD +R and may not be compatible with all set top DVD players or PC DVD drives.