

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

CALENDAR

January 20, 2007: Annual Meeting at the Miry Brook Firehouse, 57 Miry Brook Road in Danbury, CT - 7:00 PM Sharp (social hour 6:00 - 7:00 PM)! Directions in box at left.

February 17, 2007: Banquet 2007 - Details and reservation form inside.



Member E-mail Address Update!

Many of you have different e-mail addresses than the one associated with your membership record on the Nutmeg Soaring Website at <http://nutmegsoaring.org>. This prevents you from receiving many important correspondences including notification of newsletter publication. If you have changed your e-mail address (or any other personal information such as phone number or mailing address) please send me your current info (jsidway@earthlink.net) and I will update your record accordingly (I will also send you instructions on how to do it yourself in the future). It is very important that your record be current so please do this today!

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

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

Nutmeg News

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Editor: Jim Sidway

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Usually at this time of year I am writing to everyone about the cold, snowy weather and that the start of the season is just around the corner. Trying to stay positive and optimistic that spring will be here soon can be so difficult when there is 2 feet of snow on the ground. But so far we have had one of the best winters on record as long as you do not want to ski. While we have not been spending our weekends at the airport flying gliders the warm weather has certainly made this winter season much easier to take. But as we know it's not over yet.....

We have left the Husky up and ready to fly if anyone wants to try soaring this winter. The L-33 is the only club ship available to fly. All you need is a couple of people to make the day worthwhile. Getting a tow pilot will be one of the easiest parts of the task. Hopefully the good weather we have had this winter will get some interest going along with the end of the holiday season.

We have two very important events coming up this month and next. The first is the Annual Meeting of the club. This will take place on Jan 20, 2007 at the Miry Brook Firehouse in Danbury. We will have a social hour from 6-7 PM and then start the meeting promptly at 7:00 PM. This meeting will have the 2006 Annual Report and the budget proposal for 2007. We will discuss the current situations in the club and at the airport. Also we will begin to plan out the 2007 season starting with the safety meetings, opening day, encampment and other important events for the year.

The second upcoming event is our Banquet in February. In this edition of the newsletter there is a registration form for the banquet. Please send one in as soon as possible so we can have a good head count for the facility. The Banquet has always been a great time to see club members dressed in something other than shorts, T-shirt, hat and sunglasses. The kudos awards are getting prepared as I write this. If you witnessed a funny faux pas or other event of significance by one of your friends in the club now is the time to let Jeff and Mac know the inside scoop. The Kudos Awards continue to be a highlight of the Banquet and I am sure Jeff and Mac will be funnier than ever.

The beginning of the 2007 will be here before we know it. All of us should take a moment to review our personal flying and set a goal for 2007. The goal can be difficult or simple but having one is the important part. A goal will focus us and keep our flying interesting and challenging. The Badge system is a great method of improving your soaring skills and keeping a challenging goal ahead of you. There are plenty of resources available to learn more about the SSA and FAI badges and you can always ask an instructor. - Bruce Stein

SEEK LEGISLATORS' SUPPORT FOR AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS

Submitted by Bill Kenyon

We submitted applications to New York State for grant money a month ago. Please write to the elected representatives and ask for their help in getting some of the budgeted funds. If you reside in New York State, write first to your own representatives, and secondarily to the representatives from the Freehold area. If you reside in another state, please write to the Freehold representatives. The time to write is *now*; the application deadline was December 15, and 2 years ago, when we last submitted applications, we got the answer ("no") by about mid-March.

Here's a sample letter. It incorporates some facts from the recent newspaper article about the closing of Griswold Airport in CT:

Dear Representative:

I am writing to ask for your support in obtaining some New York State grant money for Freehold Airport. I'm a user and shareholder of Freehold Airport, and I know that the airport brings a lot of business into the area, and is an important community resource.

The airport most needs funds for the following two proposals:

- 1. To perform a second oil-and-stone treatment for the blacktop runway, at a cost of \$14,000. We shareholders paid for the first oil-and-stone treatment in 2006; with the second treatment, we expect the runway will be stabilized for at least 10 years, based on our airport history. Freehold is the only public-use, blacktop airport in Greene County.*

Application for these funds was made under the Airport Improvement and Revitalization Grant Program, budgeted for about \$5 million in 2007.

- 2. To install gates and chain link fencing to control vehicle access to the airport – which we can't do at present -- for \$8000.*

Application for these funds was made under the General Aviation Airport Security Program, also budgeted for about \$5 million in 2007.

As I said, Freehold Airport is an important community resource; it's a privately owned, public-use airport, and it is not a moneymaking venture for us shareholders; it costs us about \$14,000 a year in property taxes and insurance just to keep it open. The danger for such airports is illustrated by the closing a few weeks ago of Griswold Airport in Connecticut. The

newspaper article mentions that state officials are looking for ways to help keep such airports in operation by financial support. Nationwide, there are about 950 privately-owned, public use airports, and about 25 of them close each year.

Please help us keep our airport economically viable, so it can continue its useful role in the community.

Note: The Griswold Airport article is visible at <http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/local/state/hc-30085538.apds.m0111.bc-ct--airpdec30,0,4959959.story?coll=hc-headlines-local-wire> (thank you, Dave Page).

Representatives for Freehold are:

Senator James L. Seward
Room 917 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247
(518) 455-3131

Assemblyman Daniel L. Hooker
45 Five Mile Woods Rd. - Suite 2
Catskill, NY 12414
518-943-1371

Find your assemblyman's address: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/>

Find your senator's address: www.senate.state.ny.us

MINUTES DECEMBER 2006 BoD MEETING

December 17, 2006 - Kenyon Residence, Ridgefield, CT

Called to order at 11:00 AM - Adjourned at 2:35 PM

Attending: Bruce Stein Marty Opitz, Jim Sidway, Lee Ramsdell
Bill Kenyon, Bob Cox, Don McKinlay

President Stein stated that he intended to ask Robin McNamara to serve as the liaison between Nutmeg Soaring and Blanik America and arrange for delivery etc.

He also would request Tom Albrecht to write letters to State and County representatives asking their support of Nutmegs grant requests.

There was a discussion pertaining to help for Bob Cox with the bookkeeping task. Sue Neal has offered her services and the details will be worked out prior to flight operations in the spring of 2007.

It was the opinion of several of the board members that they would prefer to receive a statement of money owed and not require an invoice for each day of activity.

The issue of restricting gas sales was discussed again. The apparent method of keeping gas available to those having the need for this service is to set up a pre-purchase arrangement.

This will be accomplished by those requiring gas to pay in advance of fuel delivery. They then in fact are buying their gas from our fuel supplier and storing it in our tank as a Nutmeg provided service only. This means they are not purchasing fuel from Nutmeg but from the supplier.

Lee Ramsdell and Don McKinlay will arrange for signs and fuel specifications to be painted on the fuel tank.

Owning an airport requires that we keep an eye on our facilities and to plan on replacement or repairs as part of our budget. A new item will appear in future budgets to cover maintenance and upkeep.

The electric bill took a substantial jump in November. The heaters used in the trailers is the suspected culprit. The electric panel used in the parking area is metered to the hanger. A method of billing the users will be developed.

The culvert beneath the driveway will need replacing. Members of the board will look into the most economical way to achieve this.

In the interim moving the dumpster might be a way of avoiding the heavy garbage truck from having to cross it.

Marty Opitz has been requested to contact Nan Jackson on the possibility of setting up a holding company for the protection of Nutmeg's assets in the event of law suits etc.

Planning for this years Safety meetings has begun. One of the concerns of the board is the lack of participation in this years meeting. If you are not already aware, attendance at one of these meetings is mandatory. Failure to attend could cost you the right to fly with Nutmeg Soaring. Currently under consideration is that a log book entry may be required as proof of attendance. IT'S ALL ABOUT YOUR SAFETY FOLKS.

A major portion of this years safety meeting will be a review of our new Safety Operations Manual.

The majority of this meeting was dedicated to putting together a realistic budget for 2007. This budget will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting to be held at the Miry Brook fire house on January 20th. There will be a social hour starting at 6:00 PM. The business meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Don McKinlay - Secretary/Treasurer

LAST CALL FOR 2006 PHOTOS

Annual Banquet 2007 will take place in just over a month from now and preparations for this year's multimedia recap of last year's soaring season are under way. If you have any digital photos or video from the 2006 soaring season please put them on a CD and mail them to: Jim Sidway, 211 Lum Lot Rd., Southbury, CT 06488. You can also bring your discs to the Annual Meeting but if you could mail them sooner that would be appreciated. Thanks.

NUTMEG SOARING ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL BANQUET 2007

Saturday, February 17, 2007

(snow date Sunday, February 18)

THE SOUTHBURY CROWNE PLAZA
(Formerly the Southbury Hilton) Southbury, CT

Reception & Cash Bar 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Cheese & Fruit Platter Crudite of Farm Fresh Vegetables Assorted Mini Quiche
Sesame Chicken w/honey mustard Stuffed Mushroom Caps Bruschetta

Dinner Buffet 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Tossed Garden Salad Chicken Southbury Sliced Tenderloin Au Jus
Poached Atlantic Salmon w/Citrus Butter Sauce Garlic Basil Mashed Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetable Medley Rolls & Butter

Heavenly Dessert Display

Assorted Cakes Homemade Pies Mini Italian Pastries and Cookies
Flavored Mousse Brownies and Blondies
Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Tea

ONLY \$45.00 per person includes tax and gratuity!

***** KUDOS AWARDS & MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION FROM 2006 SOARING SEASON *****

Directions to the Southbury Crowne Plaza: Route 84 - Exit 16: Exiting from Route 84 Westbound or Eastbound turn right at the end of the ramp, proceed to hotel on right just past Mobil station. This is the same location as the last several Banquets.

NOTE: A special room rate of \$99 per room (single or double occupancy) for Banquet 2007 attendees has been arranged with the Crowne Plaza. You must reserve your room by calling the hotel directly at 203-598-7600. Deadline for making room reservations at this special rate is Tuesday, February 6, 2007.

Cut and Mail

Names: _____ **No. of attendees:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ **Phone:** _____

Total Enclosed @ \$45.00 per person: _____ (checks payable to Nutmeg Soaring Association)

NOTE: All banquet reservations must be prepaid and received no later than **February 11, 2007**. Tickets will be held for pick up at the door. **NO** phone reservations accepted. **NO** refunds.

Please Return with Full Payment to:

Michelle Molnar
175 Old Highway
Southbury, CT 06488