

Nutmeg News

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January 2008

Editor: Jim Sidway

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Holidays to everyone!!!!

The New Year is now upon us and we now need to start looking forward to the 2008 soaring season. This coming year will present us with some significant challenges but none that are insurmountable. Our two main goals for 2008 will be increasing our membership and replacement of the Grob 103.

As most of you know we did not increase our membership in 2007 and actually had a net decrease in full members. In 2006 we had a large influx of student pilots and we had to curtail activities that had provided us with a supply of new members. This carried over into 2007 and we now have a need for new full members. Every club member should take any opportunity they have to promote the club to friends and family. In addition we need to provide any new visitors to the airport with as much information as possible about Nutmeg and our operation. Making them feel welcome from the first moment is the best way to get them interested. As the old saying goes... you only have one chance at a first impression.

The reduction in members logically leads to a discussion of club finances. While more details will be presented at the annual meeting about 2007 we must all realize that our club's financial health is directly related to the numbers of members. In addition we need to look not only at our 2008 budget but also think hard about potential long term projects. I am sure with everyone's input and consensus we will be able to balance long and short terms need of the club.

The disposition of the Grob has not been finalized as of this writing but the Board of Directors has endorsed a plan to search for and purchase a replacement as soon as we have settled with the insurance company. Additional details of this plan will be discussed at the annual meeting in January. The Grob is a highly used glider and our best ship for giving rides. From our first day with the club I am sure everyone had the same thought... "I can't wait to fly the Grob!" We hope to find a used Grob in good condition somewhere in the world in 2008.

As part of a longer term plan for the club ships a discussion of the L-23 and the purchase of a second one will be part of the annual meeting. Our L-23 was used last year for many checkouts by glider rated pilots, fun flights and some instruction to our primary students. There has been some discussion by Board Members that the L-23 did not fly as much as it should have in 2007. This is most likely due to several reasons. Students were flying the 2-33's more often since they were more comfortable in those ships and the instructors did not utilize the L-23 as a primary trainer more often. Going into 2008 the L-23 will be our primary trainer. The transition to the L-23 is straight forward. The glider fly's very well and provides more performance along with excellent handling characteristics compared to the 2-33's. Hopefully everyone will be as excited as I am about getting the L-23 into the air as much as possible in 2008.

So while we all wait for the 2008 season to begin please think about what you can do to bring a new member into the club. The sport of soaring is incomparable to any other recreational activity so let's get some new members on the hook in 2008.

Have a great winter and see you at the meetings and banquet.

Bruce Stein

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCED

The Nutmeg Soaring Association Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, January 19, 2008** at the Miry Brook Firehouse in Danbury, CT (directions below). There will be a social hour from 6:00 to 7:00 PM and the meeting will start at 7:00 PM sharp. There are some very important issues to be discussed including replacement of the Grob and other fleet options, membership growth and post-mortgage payoff financial options. This is your chance to shape club policy for the year 2008 and beyond. Come and make your voice heard.

MINUTES DECEMBER BoD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M.

On April 2, 2008 the Nutmeg Soaring Association will make the final payment on Freehold Airport.

The major portion of this meeting was the proposed Annual Budget. This is always a difficult meeting as there are so many items that are projections based on previous years and best guesses as to what is a reasonable expectation for the next twelve months. The Board is confident that they have a good projected budget for 2008 to present at the January Annual Membership meeting.

The second item of business concerned membership which has dropped in the past season and how this impacts the need for club ships.

Should we purchase more ships? Should we sell some of those we have? If we sell, which should go and which should we keep?

These questions require the input of all our members. If you cannot attend the January meeting please contact someone who will attend. **MAKE YOUR THOUGHTS KNOWN.** Every member will be affected by the decisions made at the Annual General Membership meeting in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 P.M.

Attending: Bruce Stein
William Kenyon
Jim Sidway
Marty Opitz
Don McKinlay

Respectfully Submitted
Donald K. McKinlay
Secretary/Treasurer

PARTY THANKS

A big thank you goes out to **Bob and Carol Ward** (and Dexter, too) for hosting the 2007 Nutmeg Holiday Party at their home in New Windsor, NY. After a winter storm forced a postponement from the original December 16th date the gathering took place on the afternoon of

December 30. The word is everyone had a great time and left with smiles and full stomachs!

SOARING MAGAZINES AVAILABLE

Submitted by John Boyce

I have a collection of Soaring magazines dating from the 60's to the mid 90's, boxed and shelved in my hangar (#6). If any one is interested in all or part of them, let me know. Otherwise they go out in the '08 spring cleaning.

There's some interesting reading there, if you're into soaring history.

UPDATE YOUR MEMBER DIRECTORY INFO

Now would be a good time to update your information on Nutmeg's website. Go to <http://nutmegsoaring.org> and first check your existing Member Directory Information by clicking on the 'Admin' link in the upper right quadrant on the home page. You will be asked to enter your name and a password. If you do not know the password please contact Jim Sidway at jsidway@earthlink.net. If your information is correct no further action is required. If any of your information needs to be updated please send an e-mail to Jim Sidway (jsidway@earthlink.net) indicating which items need to be changed including the correct information. It is very important that your address, phone number and e-mail address be up to date. Your cooperation in this matter is much appreciated.

Note: All members are being sent a copy of this newsletter by 'snail mail'. If you are not currently set up receive your newsletter electronically and would like to do so (it comes faster and saves the club \$\$) please send an e-mail to Jim Sidway (jsidway@earthlink.net) indicating you would like to switch to electronic delivery. Be sure to note the e-mail address you would like newsletter notification to be sent to if it is different than the e-mail address you send the notification from.

NUTMEG SOARING ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL BANQUET 2008
Saturday, February 16, 2008
(snow date Sunday, February 17)
THE SOUTHBURY CROWNE PLAZA
Southbury, CT

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

Cheese & Fruit Platter Crudités of Farm Fresh Vegetables
Chef's Choice of Three Hot Hors D'oeuvres

Dinner Buffet 7:00 - 9:00 PM

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

Chef's Choice Dessert Display

Assorted Homemade Cakes, Pies and Pastries
Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Tea

ONLY \$45.00 per person includes tax and gratuity!

***** KUDOS AWARDS & A REVIEW OF THE 2007 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 2008 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 Wednesday, January 30, 2008.

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 8, 2008. 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