

Nutmeg News

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March 2008

Editor: Jim Sidway

MINUTES 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

Miry Brook Firehouse - Called to order 7:05 PM

Item #1: We have a commitment from our insurance company that they will pay for the Grob.

Item #2: There is tax due on the L-23 and tax will also have to be paid on the Grob replacement. This expense can be drawn from our glider buy fund.

Item #3: The Pawnee is currently being restored by a small segment of our members. This is not a simple wire and tape glue together job but a total restoration of the fuselage. Be ready to step forward and help when the request goes out.

Item #4: NO DRIVING ON THE AIRPORT UNTIL OPENING DAY.

Item #5: Last year, 2007, we operated in red ink. Projections are that the same could occur in 2008.

Item #6: The discussion on how to cover expenses covered a wide range of thoughts. A motion was made to leave the current dues at their present level along with a substantial dues break for new members.

This motion was amended as follows: Any over funding be used to reduce Nutmeg debt.

A second amendment called for an increase in the tow fees by five dollars.

This motion was carried.

Item #7: The membership feels that the Board of Directors at their March meeting should put together a plan for a membership drive.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald K. McKinlay, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES FEBRUARY BoD MEETING

February 24, 2008 - Sidway residence, Southbury, CT

In attendance: Bruce Stein, Jim Sidway, Wally Moran, Bill Kenyon, Marty Opitz, Lee Ramsdell, Jeff Driscoll, Don McKinlay, Bob Ward, Bruce Stobbe

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order about 4:00 P.M. following a meeting of the Operations committee.

There was a long discussion on the need to attract new members and some methods of improvement as to how we deal with people who do show interest in Nutmeg.

The Board will be looking towards members Albrecht, Whitbeck and Mays for direction in dealing with local New York organizations. Currently the Greenville Fire Dept. is looking for help with a pancake breakfast. We feel Nutmeg should follow up on this and host the event. It would be a good way to attract local community members to our facility. This could be a fly-in and drive-in affair.

Another potential membership group that was discussed was the fairly large number of people who have retired to the Greenville area.

Also discussed was attempting to get more local newspaper articles written using the success of our scholarship program as a human-interest article.

There is a need for a Membership committee working on those who have come to the field as trial membership applicants. More effort is needed with follow up phone calls and contact to encourage these people to stay with Nutmeg.

Jeff Driscoll will continue to place adds in local publications and distribute informative brochures. In view of the success of the Klein Kill fly-in it seems reasonable for Nutmeg to continue attending local fly-ins where possible.

Making the Administration building more visitor friendly is under consideration. How to inform visitors that they are welcome and getting them out to the operations area without causing any risk must be worked out. Thoughts along these lines are worth bringing to the attention of the Board of Directors.

We have got to give visitors a feeling that we are interested in them. Often they are left standing alone and that is an uncomfortable feeling for most people. Step up, introduce yourself and talk to people. It's not painful at all.

We were also reminded of the upcoming Safety and General meeting to be held at the Miry Brook firehouse on March 29, 2008. This meeting will start at 6:00 P.M. and all members should attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Donald K. McKinlay Secy/Treasurer

MANDATORY SAFETY MEETING SCHEDULED

The first 2008 Safety Meeting will be held at 7:15 PM on **Saturday March 29** at the Miry Brook Firehouse in Danbury, CT, following a general membership meeting that will begin at 6:00 PM. The second Safety Meeting will be held at Freehold, date to be announced. Attendance at one of these Safety Meetings is mandatory for all Nutmeg members. This year's meeting will include a new Mountain, Ridge and Wave flying safety course, updates to the Operating Rules, and review of our Emergency Response Plan. There will also be a discussion of glider accidents from the NTSB and how we can learn from other's mistakes.

Note: Anyone wishing to have their parachute re-packed for the upcoming soaring season should bring it to the safety meeting along with a check in the amount of \$40 made payable to John Spear. Jeff Driscoll will be coordinating this effort.

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

--- HELP WANTED ---

Editor/publisher needed for semi-regular newsletter serving the needs of the Nutmeg Soaring Association. The successful applicant must have a computer, be able to use some form of word processor, have an e-mail account and access to the Internet. No prior experience necessary. Salary guaranteed to double every year. Start immediately. Send e-mail indicating interest to jsidway@earthlink.net.

URGES WRITING LEGISLATORS

Submitted by Bill Kenyon

We submitted applications to New York State for grant money on Feb. 15, 2008. We asked you to write in early 2007 to support our applications, and it worked – we received two grants. One is for gates/fences and culvert; the other is for a Kubota tractor for clearing trees from airport approaches.

So please write again 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 Feb. 15, we know that the Airport Bureau will be putting together their priority list in March.

Here's a sample letter.

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 runway pavement, at a cost of \$12,500. We shareholders paid to start the rehabilitation of the paving with 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 experience with the existing pavement. Freehold is the only paved public-use airport in Greene County.

Application for these funds was made under the Airport Improvement and Revitalization Grant Program.

2. To security tie-downs for airplanes – i.e., tie-downs which can be locked -- for \$3,200.

Application for these funds was made under the General Aviation Airport Security Program.

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. 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.

Representatives for Freehold are:

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

Assemblyman Peter D. Lopez
Legislative Office Building 429
Albany, NY 12248
518-455-5363

Assemblyman Peter Lopez also has an address at
45 Five Mile Woods Rd.
Suite 2
Catskill, NY 12414
518-943-1371

-- this is just off Route 23 about 5 miles east of Cairo, so you can try dropping in and talking to him.

Senator Seward's website says that he has a standing committee assignment on (among others) Transportation.

You can find out your assemblyman's address at <http://assembly.state.ny.us/>, senators' addresses can be found at www.sentate.state.ny.us

CHECK YOUR STUDENT CERTIFICATE

Wally Moran reports this is a good time to check the expiration date on your student certificate. If yours is going to expire soon, call Wally at 203-761-9095.

COMPLACENCY

Submitted by John Boyce

Complacency, like anoxia, is insidious. It creeps into one's attitudes and practices, unbidden and unnoticed, then sits there and waits.

High time professional pilots have to fight it all the time. Nothing ever happens. When something does, the first reaction might be ...Whoa, this ain't the simulator! These things aren't supposed to happen, and thank goodness they rarely do. Therein lies the problem.

If it's a problem for the steely eyed, grizzled veteran who is frequently and rigorously trained to overcome it, how about yourself, who may fly two or three times a month, if that, for a six month season.

As we soon will begin a new season, I ask you to think about the following statement:

When anyone asks me how I can describe my experience in nearly forty years at sea, I merely say, "Uneventful". Of course there have been winter gales, and storms and fog and the like. But in all my experience, I have never been in any accident...or any sort worth speaking about. I have seen but one vessel in distress in all my years at sea. I never saw a wreck and never have been wrecked, nor was I ever in any predicament that threatened to end in disaster of any sort."

That was Captain E. J. Smith, one hundred years ago. He was Captain of the RMS Titanic, five years later.