



Nutmeg Newsletter



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Proposed Slate for the New Nutmeg Board of Directors

Jeff Driscoll

Last summer Bruce Stein asked me to begin the search for a new slate of officers for Nutmeg. He felt that after 5 years of service and accomplishment of some major goals for Nutmeg, it was time to pass the responsibility to a new team. Finding someone interested in being Nutmeg president is always a challenge, especially with the additional aspects of owning our own airport. I had served as President in '91 and '92 and had a feel for the job, but only at the the "pre-Freehold" level.

In the end I decided to put my name in the hat for President with belief that with the strong support of the board members, the tasks will be manageable and the board members responsive to the general membership. To that end, I began a search for board members willing to assume much of the day to day responsibilities and who would be dedicated to the welfare of our club. A number of people came forward and volunteered to help in any way they could. Some have been asked to serve on the BOD and others will assume leadership of committees.

The proposed BOD is as follows, and will be voted upon at the upcoming membership meeting Saturday, January 24:

- President:** Jeff Driscoll
- Past president:** Bruce Stein
- Vice President:** Len Herman
- Secretary-Treasurer:** Jim Sidway
- Operations Committee Chairman:** Bruce Stobbe
- Member at Large:** Esteban Draganovic
- Member at Large:** Peter Veldcamp

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January General Meeting

Bruce Stein

The next General Meeting of the club will be on Saturday, January 24. It will be held at the Miry Brook Firehouse located on Miry Brook Road in Danbury (next to the Danbury Airport). The meeting will begin at 6:30PM.

See you then and Happy New Year!!!! ◇

Memorable soaring days 2008

Wally Moran

Our editor recently asked us to think about our most memorable soaring day last year. In thinking about this challenge, I decided that I actually need to report on two days.

The first is September 1, the day Alex Pett soloed. Why would that be memorable for me? Because I was able to intimately share the fun and excitement of the day with Alex and his family.

According to my log book, I had not flown with Alex this season until the day prior when the schedule put us together for a flight. My recollection of last season's flights with Alex was that he was working hard but was tentative about making decisions and needed to build his confidence.

What I observed this season was an entirely different person. Alex was making decisions and was now anxious to take more responsibility. So, on September 1, we finished a few requirements, flew 3 more flights just to be sure he was not lucky the day before and I endorsed Alex for solo flight. He of course did an excellent job on his solo flight.

There is great satisfaction for an instructor when they get to see results such as this for their efforts. While the greater credit goes to the other instructors, Alex and his parents, I happen to be lucky enough to be on duty when the time came. To be able to share this moment with Alex, his parents and other Nutmeg members was a high point for me this season. There are only a limited number of these days in an instructor's career.

The other memorable day was October 8.

Some of us were on the annual fall Mifflin ridge trip. This particular day did not hold much promise for a good soaring day. The weather was dark and dreary and the forecast was for more of the same. Wind on the ground was calm and there seemed no hope of any soaring either ridge or thermal. We were all making alternative plans for the day.

Around mid morning, Butch Thompson the tow pilot mentioned that Karl Striedieck had phoned and was on his way over to do some soaring. For those who do not know Karl, he is a world class competition pilot and has won many championships. He lives about 30 miles from Mifflin County on the Bald Eagle Ridge. He has flown these ridges for many years and knows them like the back of his hand. Karl currently flies a Duo Discuss. The Duo is a two place and during competitions Karl offers a day in the back seat for a donation to the USA world soaring team.

Karl soon arrived and while rigging I queried him about soaring possibilities. He confidently said it should be a good backside ridge day. I was skeptical as there was no wind on the ground.

It was my good fortune that Karl invited me along on the flight to see who was correct. Soon Butch was towing us directly toward Jack's Mountain. Karl released just at ridge top. He then dove over to the backside, putting the ridge between us and the airport, turned North and cruised along at 90 knots, a man who believes in his convictions.

For the next 1:15 minutes, we cruised, mostly below ridge top, nearly the entire length of the Jack's Mountain ridge. We chased hawks and buzzards, talked about ridge flying, explored the terrain and in general had a grand flight. To show me there was more to the day than just ridge, after a few tries, Karl found a weak thermal, climbed about 500 feet above the ridge and flew across the valley where we ridge soared the Stone Mountain ridge. This day was truly a highlight of the 2008 season for me as I got to observe a champion at his craft.

I encourage anyone who wants to learn more about cross country soaring to consider purchasing a day of competition flying with Karl. You will get to spend a day with a very pleasant man, learn a lot and contribute to a good cause. For more information about this you can reach him at karls@uplink.net. ◇



Most Important Flight

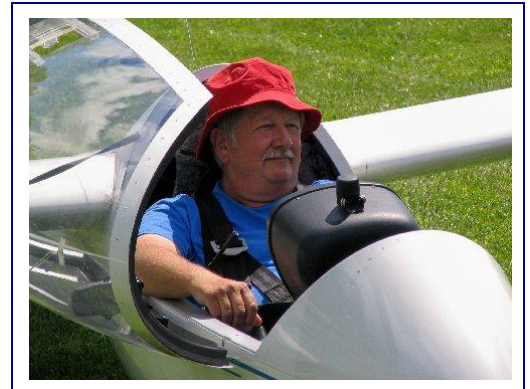
Tom Albrecht

After an abbreviated flying season in 2007 I have to say that probably the most **"important"** flight I have made was on June 21, 2008. That was my first day back in a glider (the club L-23) after my close encounter with Windham High Peak on Nov. 4, 2007. I made my first flight in N293BA (the club L-23) with CFI Jeff Driscoll in the back seat. It was a confidence building event for me.

However, I must also say that the most **"satisfying"** flight that I made in the 2008 season was on August 31. After having previously declared (meaning prepared the Replogle barograph and arranging for Official observers!) a 5 hour flight attempt (for the Silver badge) in the club Blanik L-33 **eight times**, I finally managed a 5 hour and 15 minute flight from time of release from tow!

The long flight took me as high as 6400' msl, not a real high flight, many times. I did however find that at around the 4 hour mark I was losing the generous lift and twice had to save my flight by working a weak thermal over E. Durham very hard. The last 30 minutes of the flight was spent flying near the airport at minimum sink airspeed in order to maximize my time aloft!

I was pleased to find that after landing and slowly getting out of the cockpit I was not all that sore! That was a very satisfying day for me! ◇



NUTMEG SOARING ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL BANQUET 2009

Saturday, February 21, 2009

(snow date Sunday, February 22)

Danbury Plaza Hotel & Conference Center
Danbury, Connecticut 06810

Cocktail Reception

Domestic and Imported Cheese display - Assortment of Crackers and Flat Breads

Chef's selection of Three (3) Hors d'Oeuvres

Dinner Buffet

Mixed Green Salad - Choice of Dressing - Assorted Rolls and Butter

Sliced Roast Beef, Burgundy Demi Glaze

Chicken Marsala - Penne Ala Vodka - Chef's choice of Starch - Fresh Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert

Chef's Choice of Dessert - Coffee, Tea and Decaffeinated Coffee

ONLY \$45.00 per person includes tax and gratuity!

***** 2008 REVIEW - KUDOS AWARDS *****

A display table will be setup for crafts or pictures, so please bring along whatever you might like to share with everyone.

Directions: http://www.danburyplaza.com/map_and_directions/ - formerly the Danbury Hilton.

NOTE: A special room rate of \$79 per room (single or double occupancy) for Banquet 2009 attendees has been arranged with the Danbury Plaza. You must reserve your room by calling the hotel directly at 203-794-0600. Deadline for making room reservations at this special rate is Friday, February 20th, 2009 (Yes, Friday!).

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 16, 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**

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