

VARIOMETER



PUBLISHED TO RECORD THE UPS AND DOWNS OF THE KANSAS SOARING ASSOCIATION

February 2010

Editor: Andrew Peters

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NEAL PFEIFFER (2009-2010)
FRANK O'DONNELL (2010-2011)

DAVE WILKUS (2009-2010)
DAVE WOODY (2010-2011)

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had a great meeting last month with quite the rundown on the 2010 SSA convention. Those that were there enjoyed it immensely. Thanks to Steve Leonard, Neal Pfeiffer and all others involved for providing this program.

I was listening to the local weather and here we go! Thunderstorms are back in the forecast for the first time in quite awhile and with it comes instability (I could go a lot further with this one, but won't). After the winter we've had it's about time. The season really is just around the corner. In preparation for this, have you thought about safety? Currency and proficiency? Do you need a BFR?

This month is the KSA Annual Safety Meeting, and all those questions plus more will be on the table. Please try to attend; it really is important to be there for this one. The program

will begin immediately after the WSA Annual meeting.

Also please put on your calendar that Saturday March 27 is the Annual Spring Cleanup Day at Sunflower. We'll start at 900AM and stay as late as needed. Remember, the more that are there, the faster it goes. Please bring gloves, saws, rakes, brooms, mowers, etc., to help in this effort. More detail will be reviewed at the KSA meeting.

The Launch Line Manager will start mid April. This meeting will be your last chance to try and sign up for the dates you want. Otherwise yours truly will follow the usual scientific method and pull the names out of a hat.

The season is almost here, hope to see at Sunflower.

-R

KSA Calendar

2010

March 13th – 7:30 pm KSA/WSA Safety Meeting at NIAR

March 27th – 9:00 am Sunflower Work Day

March 31st – PAPER PILOT CERTIFICATES EXPIRE!

April 10th – 7:30 pm KSA Meeting at NIAR

April 17th – Resume Scheduled Duty for Flight Operations at Sunflower

May 15th – Evening KSA Cookout Meeting at Sunflower

May 31st – Pay your KSA 2010 dues!

June 12th – Evening KSA Cookout Meeting at Sunflower

June 15th-24th – Sports Class Nationals, Parowan, UT

June 29th- July 8th – Open/Standard Class Nationals, Hobbs, NM

July 3rd – 2010 Kansas Kowbell Klassic

July 10th – Evening KSA Cookout Meeting at Sunflower

August 3rd-12th – 15-meter Nationals, Uvalde, TX

August 14th – Evening KSA Cookout Meeting at Sunflower

September 11th – KSA Cookout Meeting at Sunflower

September 23-26th – Vintage/Classic Sailplane Regatta at Wichita Glider Port

October 9th – 7:30 pm KSA Meeting at NIAR - ELECTIONS!

November 13th – 7:30 pm KSA Meeting at NIAR

December 11th – 7:30 pm KSA Meeting at NIAR

The contests are included because several of your fellow members plan on competing in them this year. You can see the results on SSA.org and our flights are often posted on the OLC. This year, two members have SPOT GPS tracking devices. Most contests have a web page to view near real time the day's task. Stay tuned for the specific websites in future issues.

If anyone is planning to fly at a different contest, please let your editor know. – 3T

Comments from the Editor

I have heard that several members are still not receiving the Variometer. Please help! Send me email addresses or snail mail addresses of your friends/fellow members that you know are not up to speed on the happenings at KSA.

Email me at apsoars@yahoo.com if you know I am missing someone.

The cupboards are still bare. We all have a lesson to teach, a story to tell, an experience worth sharing. And don't forget the photos! You can use the same email address to submit articles (or even outlines if you want me to write something.)

3T is standing by....

PAPER PILOT CERTIFICATES

As seen in SOARING, March 2010

14 CFR 61.91(h) explains the duration of pilot certificates. It concludes, “*the holder of a paper pilot certificate issued under this part may not exercise the privileges of that certificate after March 31, 2010.*”

This means that you cannot fly as PIC with a paper certificate in your possession (this does not apply to temporary and student certificates.)

For online processing, go to http://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/
Go to www.faa.gov for USPS mail processing instructions.

There is a fee for the new plastic certificate. However, explore the links about having your certificate number changed from your SSN to some other number. That's free and replaces your paper certificate.

Still confused? Ask a CFGI.

Congratulations!

There's life outside of soaring – hard to believe I know. Here's what some of our members have been up to, when the soaring hasn't been so good.

Ed Niedert passed his CFI checkride this month. Now he can charge for all the time he spends teaching some of us about flying!

Keith Smith's Salina South Boys High School swim team won the 5-1A State Championship Swim Meet this past weekend. Keith was also voted Coach of the Year by his peers.

Congratulations Ed and Keith!



Photos by ANN WILLIAMSON / The Topeka Capital-Journal
Salina South swimmers surround coach Keith Smith, who holds the state championship trophy after the Cougars generated 268½ points to top the Class 5-1A field Saturday at Topeka's Hummer Natatorium.

Support WSPA and Stay Warm Next Winter

This picture shows the quilt that will be raffled off for the Women Soaring Pilot Association's (WSPA) 2010 main fund raiser.

This quilt (the first of two) made by Arleen Coleson, will be raffled off. The dimensions are 50x80 and it can be either used as a wall hanging or to snuggle under it in front of the TV. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each and are available now from:

Frauke Elber
213 Anne Burras Lane
Newport News, VA 23606-3637
e-mail : fandw_elber@cox.net

Please make check out to WSPA. The drawing will be held at the WSPA seminar in Reno, NV in July.



SSA Badge Program

By Tony Condon

Exciting news for the upcoming season at Sunflower! Thanks to a little prodding from Andrew I am now an official SSA Instructor. What does this mean for you? It means that I now have the power to issue A, B, C, and Bronze badges! We've all seen the list of A, B, and C badges issued in the back of Soaring but I've noticed a lack of people in Kansas making that list. Let's change that this season!

A little history lesson

The badge tradition goes back to the 1920's in Germany. Original requirements for an A badge were two flights of at least 45 seconds and a flight with two S turns lasting at least 60 seconds. Keep in mind this was likely done in a primary glider after a bungee launch. The first B Badge required a figure eight pattern of two 360 degree turns, one left and one right, to be accomplished after a bungee launch. The original C badge was the first soaring award and required a flight of 5 minutes after launch. Doesn't sound like much but keep in mind that through most of the 1920's the world record for duration was less than 10 minutes!

The SSA introduced the ABC Badge program in the US in 1962 as a way to encourage students by setting goals for them to achieve.

Present day

Current A Badge requirements are as follows:

Applicant has an FAA Pilot Certificate and a Logbook

- Applicant demonstrates knowledge of: Sailplane nomenclature
- Handling procedures
- Pre-flight check
- Airport rules and FAR's
- Tow equipment, signals, and procedures
- Hook up of towline, launch signals and pilot responsibilities.

Applicant has completed the following training:

- Familiarization flight
- Cockpit check
- Effects of controls

- Takeoff procedures including crosswind takeoffs
- Flight during tow
- Straight glides
- Shallow turns
- Landing patterns
- Landing procedures including downwind and crosswind landings
- Moderate and steep banked turns
- Stall recognition and recovery
- Conditions of spin entry and recovery
- Effective use of spoilers/flaps/slips
- Emergency procedures
- Pass an oral exam on FAR's
- Complete their first solo flight

Achieving the A Badge completes the Preflight and Presolo phase of training and any pilot who wears an A Badge tells the world that they have soloed!

The B Badge motivates the pilot to start practicing soaring flight. The requirement to achieve the B Badge is to complete a 30 minute solo flight after release from a 2000 foot tow. This shows that you have basic soaring ability. If you take a tow higher than 2000 feet, add 1.5 minutes for each extra 100 feet.

The next phase in the soaring pilot's training is pre-cross country. This is where we really learn to soar. To earn the C Badge, the pilot must complete the following:

- Take dual soaring practice, including instruction in techniques for soaring thermals, ridge, and wave.
- Have knowledge of cross country procedures, Sailplane assembly, disassembly, and retrieves, and the hazards of cross country flying.
- Log 2 hours of solo flight time
- Soar for 60 minutes after release from a 2000 foot tow. Like the B Badge, add 1.5 minutes for each extra 100 feet.
- While accompanied by an SSA Instructor, make a simulated off field

landing without reference to an altimeter and perform an accuracy landing coming to a complete stop within an area no greater than 500 feet in length.

By the time you have passed your private pilot checkride, you should have completed all the requirements for the A, B, and C badge!

The next badge, the Bronze Badge, is the highest badge awarded by the SSA and indicates that the pilot is ready to go cross country to work on the FAI badges (Silver, Gold, and Diamond). Requirements for the Bronze Badge are as follows:

- Complete the ABC program
- Log 15 hours solo in glider, including 30 solo flights and at least 10 of those flights in a single place glider
- Log 2 flights, each having a duration of two hours or more
- Perform three solo spot landings, witnessed by an SSA Instructor.
- Log dual time with an instructor and perform two accuracy landings without reference to an altimeter
- Pass a closed book written exam on cross country techniques and knowledge.

I'm really excited about being an SSA Instructor and I'm hoping to give out a lot of badges this season. One thing to note, even if you are not a student pilot you still can earn your A, B, C, and Bronze badges! If you've accomplished the required tasks you deserve to be recognized for it! I'm happy to give a Bronze Badge written test anytime that is convenient and actually wouldn't mind putting together some sort of Bronze Badge training class sometime. Maybe we could spend an afternoon studying and then everyone could take the test. If we did it out at Sunflower we could do the required flight training then too. This is starting to sound like fun!

For me, the best thing about the badge program is that it is graduated and gives you something to keep working towards. In fact,

that is really my favorite part about the sport of soaring. No matter how high or far or fast you fly, there is always another level of achievement out there to try to achieve. A quick note to the other instructors in the club:

You too should become an SSA Instructor. This way any of the club students can fly with any of the club instructors to achieve the requirements for the badges. Its easy to do, you just need to be an SSA member, have a minimum 50 hours of glider time in 100 flights, and have earned a Bronze Badge or higher.

My email address is abcondon@gmail.com and I'm always happy to answer any badge questions. My goal is to get everyone who qualifies the badges they deserve.

I'd like to recognize the following KSA members who have earned badges recently:

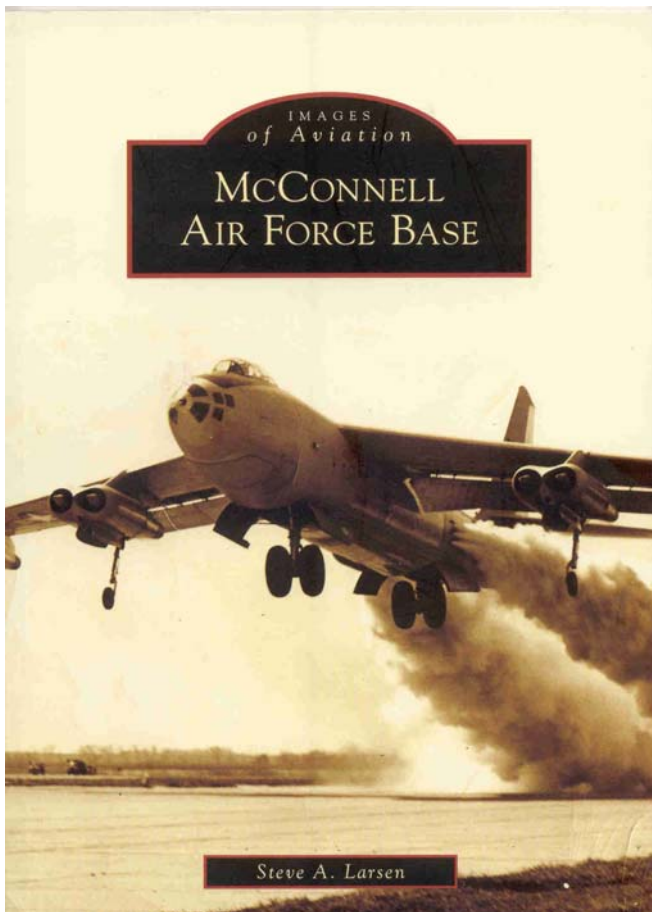
- Shea Zuckerman – A, B, C
- Keith Smith – A, B, C
- Jerry Boone – A, B, C, Bronze
- Summer Gajewski – A
- Scott Dimick – A, B, C

The Kolstad Scholarship

Help your younger pilots with a chance to achieve more in their lives. Nominate your young pilots for the Kolstad Youth Scholarship. The scholarship is open to students ages 14-20, to soaring pilots with flying experience of at least a C badge, open to USA citizen SSA members who show a commitment to the USA soaring committee. The prize is a \$1,500 check co-written to the winner and an academic institution. The entry deadline is September 30. The judging will be completed by the Kolstad Scholarship committee within SSA Youth committee. Please send completed applications to the SSA at P.O. Box 2100, Hobbs, NM 88241.

Curt McNay's Memory Flies On

Contributed by Bill Brown



"I recently found a book titled "McConnell Air Force Base" by Steve Larsen, ISBN 978-0-7385-6183-7 and on the cover is a B-47 making a JATO assisted take off from McConnell AFB. Since Curt McNay flew those tests at Boeing at that time I am positive that is Curt in the Cockpit. All the old timers I have talked to say that has to be Curt. Curt was almost killed in these tests when the rockets burned all the skin off the bottom of the aft fuselage, when he landed only the stringers were holding the tail on."

Some of us only knew Curt as the gentleman glider pilot. But he had a long, distinguished flying career long before sharing his company with us at Sunflower – and some harrowing experiences too. - 3T

Tow Tickets

The last page of the Variometer contains Tow Tickets. Now there's no reason for anyone to show up to Sunflower without some.

Please use the tickets as printed in the Variometer.

Please cut them out so that they are all the same size.

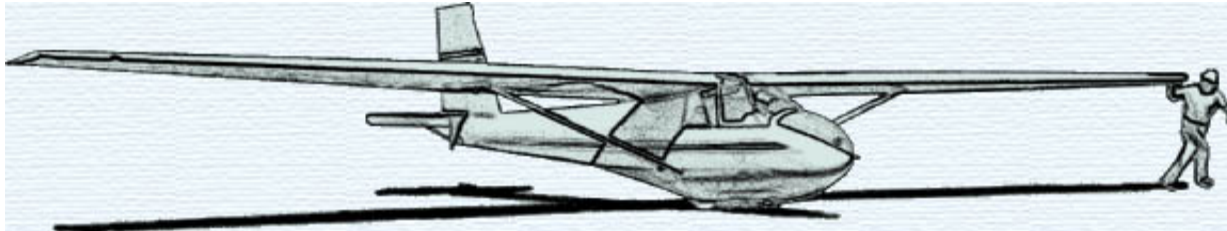
The Tow Pilot's and Tow Plane Manager's jobs are easier if they can be neatly stacked. Winter is a great time to cut them out and get a stack ready for the summer's flying.

<p style="text-align: center;">KSA TOWCARD</p> <p>TOW NUMBER START TACH TIME</p> <p>_____</p> <p>TOW PILOT _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">KSA TOWCARD</p> <p>TOW NUMBER START TACH TIME</p> <p>_____</p> <p>TOW PILOT _____</p>
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KSA VARIOMETER
5101 E27TH STREET N
WICHITA, KS 67220
apsoars@yahoo.com



MONTHLY KSA MEETING

Saturday March 13, 2010

AT NIAR

Wichita State University

7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

WSA Annual Meeting

KSA Safety Meeting

By Andrew Peters, CFG
