

V A R I O M E T E R



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

Editor: Tony Condon

Volume LV

March 2014

Number 3

PRESIDENT – ANDREW PETERS (2013-2014)

SECRETARY/TREASURER – NEALE EYLER (2013-2014)

VICE PRESIDENT EAST – BOB BLANTON (2013-2014)

VICE PRESIDENT WEST – BOB HINSON (2013-2014)

TOW PLANE MANAGER – STEVE LEONARD (2013-2014)

DIRECTORS:

TONY CONDON (2013-2014)

MATT GONITZKE (2013-2014)

DON JONES (2014-2015)

RAY GIRARDO (PAST PRESIDENT)



Gavin Smith launches his hang glider off Mt. Nebo in Arkansas

Notes from the President

Greetings, out the window as I write this the temps are in the teens, the snow is falling, and the winds are blowing. I am trying to capture this memory so I can recall it in August when its dead calm, there's not a cloud in the sky, and its 100F in the towplane.

Couple of things I want to point out.

First, we are going to have to change our April meeting, we will slide it back 1 week, to the third Saturday of the month. We will be meeting at Cabela's, at 7:30 and the topic will be our annual Safety meeting.

Second, May through September, on the second Saturday of the month, KSA will be providing steaks on the grill for members, family, and future members to eat at the conclusion of flying activities. The meal is always better if we bring side dishes to share. Please keep this social activity in mind and invite a friend up for a glider ride.

Third, we have had to say goodbye to some very valuable members of the organization: **Bob Hall, Lauren Rezac,** and **Sarah Wildman,** to name a few. Our goal is to recruit and accept 10 new members into KSA in 2014. And we need your help to do it. We need to invite people up to the field for a ride. We need to welcome visitors to the field, and offer them a ride. And we need to collect contact information from visitors and friends to follow up with them. Once new members join, we need to get them into the air, we need to encourage them as they learn the difficult task of flying without an engine. And we need to celebrate with them as they achieve success along the journey.

I am looking forward to the heat the generates the thermals that we all enjoy circling in, see you at the field.

Andrew Peters, 3T

SSA Convention

KSA Members attending the SSA Convention in Reno included **Neal Pfeiffer, Steve Leonard,** and **Tony & Leah Condon.** 3 rooms of speaker presentations were going all day each day as well as the displays on the convention hall floor. Probably the most attended talk was the one given by Gordon Boettger, Hugh Bennett, and Walt Rogers about Gordon and Hugh's flight from Minden, NV to Casper, WY in mid February. On display was a Jonker JS-1C featuring its 21 meter wingtips and Jet engine sustainer. 3 Jet engines were in the hall with the JS-1, Bob Carltons BonusJet 2 seater from Moriarty and Williams Soaring from Williams, CA had a small jet on display that could be retrofitted to almost any glider. A second source of motoring interest was the Alisport Silent 2 Electro with an electric motor incorporated into the nose and a pair of folding propellers it can self launch and climb to altitude. Windward Performance had a Duckhawk and the new Sparrowhawk R (13.5 meter racer) on display and there was eye candy from Germany too, including an Arcus (with motor) from Schempp-Hirth and an ASH 31 from Schleicher. For those with a vintage interest, Dean Gradwell had his uncovered LK-10 on display in front of the Vintage Sailplane Association booth, the 1-26 on display was fresh off an excellent restoration. There was something for everyone. At the General Membership meeting the SSA's new Sponsor a Member program was introduced. At the Awards Banquet, **Tony Condon,** earned the Henry Combs Trophy for the most straight out Diamond Distance flights in the Central Zone. Pictures will be elsewhere in this *Variometer* edition.

KSA CALENDAR

March 8th - KSA Meeting - Soaring Weather - Cabela's
April 19th - KSA Meeting - Annual Safety Meeting - Cabela's
May 10th - KSA Meeting - Cookout at Sunflower
June 10th-19th - 18 Meter Nationals - Minden, NV
June 12th - 21st - 1-26 Championships - Waynesville, OH
June 14th - KSA Meeting - Cookout at Sunflower
June 23rd - 30th - Region 9 - Moriarty, NM
June 24th-July 3rd - 15 Meter/Open Nationals - Montague, CA
June 25th-July 4th - Standard Class Nationals - Hobbs, NM
July 5th - July 11th - Region 10 North - Sunflower
July 12th - KSA Meeting - Cookout at Sunflower
July 15th-24th - Sports Class Nationals - Midlothian, TX
July 19th - 52nd Kansas Kowbell Klassic - Sunflower
August 4th - 8th - Region 10 South - Waller, TX
August 9th - KSA Meeting - Cookout at Sunflower
September 13th - KSA Meeting - Cookout at Sunflower
September 25th - 28th - Great Plains Vintage Rally - Wichita Gliderport

Sponsor A Member



This year select someone you know - a club member, a new glider pilot or a student pilot - and sponsor them into the SSA for one year. Offer them an SSA membership and help them discover the world of soaring.

The impact of this simple act of giving cannot be overstated. It says you care about the person and believe strongly in the SSA. While person-to-person sponsorship is most effective, you may sponsor a membership in your name, for a recipient to be determined by the SSA. You may also sponsor a membership anonymously.

While the concept is simple, the potential of this program is staggering. If each SSA member sponsored just one other person into the organization, our membership would double.

Your gift will make a difference in a pilot's career!

More info at www.ssa.org



KSA Financial Statement

By **Andrew Peters**

According to the KSA constitution, the secretary-treasurer is responsible for publishing a financial statement and membership roster annually. As president, I have not held Neale to this requirement, and will attempt to rectify this oversight in this issue of the Variometer.

The state of our club is strong. As of December 31, 2013, we had 89 dues paying members. We added 7 new members during the year. Our total assets were \$37,485. Our income was \$28,302 and our expenses totaled \$22,281. Closing the books on 2013 shows that we still owe SSA \$1,060 and the Sunflower Soaring Foundation \$3,101. This will bring total expenses to \$26,443, for a net increase of \$1,859 for the year.

The towplanes operate out of a separate account and are intended to be self-sustaining. In 2013, we flew 51 days and provided 475 tows. Income was approximately \$13075, and expenses totaled \$9322, a net increase of \$4,753. The towplane account finished the year with a balance of \$17,039.

2014 will be bringing several changes to our club's business model. With the creation of the Sunflower Soaring Foundation, KSA will no longer be receiving income from hangar rental or land use. We will also pick up the expense of paying hangar rent for the Grob and two towplanes. Income streams will be limited to membership, Grob operations, and tow operations. Expenses will decrease, we are no longer paying for utilities, facility maintenance, and other expenses associated with Sunflower.

We do face some challenges ahead. Several very valuable members have left, including tow pilots, line managers, and instructors. New members are the life blood of our organization, and we need to do more to recruit people to our organization. The Grob is not breaking even, given it's current level of activity. In 2014, **Tony Condon** and **Bob Hinson** are pursuing opportunities to use it to give more rides and to fly more hours. And the expenses and time required to maintain two towplanes continues to make the Towplane Manager's task interesting.

Finally, I'd like to point out one number from above, \$1,859, and talk about what this means to the club. This number was the amount of money available to grow the organization. It comes up to just shy of \$21 per member. This is how much the club can invest in itself, for new equipment, marketing material, attracting new members, and complete its mission of promoting soaring in Kansas. I think we can do better, and I think we should want to do better. As your president, I will work to develop and implement plans that further the sport of soaring in Kansas. And I look forward to your help along the way.

KSA Grob

By **Tony Condon**

The KSA Grob is a great asset for helping pilots progress on their journey in soaring. It makes for a great stepping stone between the 2-33 and 2-22 trainers before getting into a medium or high performance single seater. For the last few years it has been under-utilized for one reason or another and our club dues have disproportionately been supporting it financially. We all need to think about what can be done to help the Grob pay its own way and be more of an asset to every KSA member. Some thoughts that we've had include:

- Giving rides at 2 or 3 local fly-ins. A good showing at each could pay nearly all the annual fixed costs
- Selling rides at Sunflower. This would have to be done in a way not to interfere with member use
- Dual XC training. Including flying in Kowbell and Contests

If you have more ideas or want to help, talk to **Bob Hinson** and I at the KSA meeting on March 8th.

The Bill Seed Soaring Scholarship

By **John Wells**

The Sunflower Soaring Foundation provides scholarships to support soaring as part of its actions as a non-profit activity. The scholarships provide training at Sunflower Gliderport and Aerodrome so that qualified youth are given the opportunity to obtain glider pilot licenses that permit participation toward growth and development in all phases of soaring flight.

Bill Seed is the original owner and operator of the Sunflower Gliderport and Aerodrome. **Bill** has supported soaring at the local, regional, and national level since the creation of the Sunflower Gliderport. This scholarship is created in the spirit of selflessness demonstrated over the many years by **Bill**.

The scholarship is awarded yearly to 14-22 year old non-pilot full time student with a minimum 2.5 GPA. The application requires an essay. The essay must present a convincing argument that the applicant desires to participate in soaring and has an appreciation for the nature of the sport and the effort required to obtain proficiency. The essay must be of a high quality that demonstrates communication skill. Applications must be received not later than April 1st 2014. The award will be announced by April 30th. The recipient may not reach their 23rd birthday prior to September 30th 2015.

The award will consist of one year membership in SSA, KSA, & WSA, KSA aerotows, WSA glider rental, and WSA instructor fees. The scholarship will be extended one year if the student has demonstrated consistent progress toward the glider pilot license goal.

The winner must participate in the SSA ABC badge program as they progress.

Applications may be obtained from and returned to the Sunflower Soaring Foundation Secretary;

Tony Condon
911 N Gilman
Wichita, Kansas 67203

Sunflower Soaring Foundation
Bill Seed Soaring Scholarship Application

Date_____

Name_____ Age_____

Address_____ Street _____ DOB_____

_____ City _____ Gender_____

_____ State _____ Zip _____ E-Mail_____

School of enrollment_____ Grade_____ GPA_____

Expand answers onto separate pages if necessary. Attach Essay to this application.

Flying Experience

Experience associated with soaring

Soaring Goals

Other related Aviation Activities

Other activities, honors, and awards

Financial Need (why do you need this scholarship?)

Recommended by_____SSA#(not req'd) _____Date_____

The Michael Wallace Memorial Scholarship



An opportunity for a young student interested in aviation to begin or further his or her flight training in sailplanes.

This year, the amount of the scholarship grant is \$1,000.

You must be between the ages of 14-22, be a full-time student and have at least a 2.5 grade point average.

You must also show a strong desire to learn to fly.

This grant may give you a start on the road to becoming a glider pilot, and beyond.

The deadline for receipt of applications for this grant is March 15. The grant will be awarded by April 30.

For an application, call or write today.

Or download an application from www.cypresssoaring.org. Click on the "Scholarship" button.



Michael Wallace was a young man who was always interested in airplanes.

He set his career goal at becoming an airline pilot.

He soloed in sailplanes at age 16, and earned his private pilot glider rating at age 18.

He was proud to be a glider pilot.

This scholarship is offered in Michael's memory.

SSA Convention Photos



Silent 2 Electro



MDM Fox for the Aerobatically inclined



Tony & Leah with the Henry Combs Trophy



LK-10, uncovered. Beauty!

Ground Launch Projects

By Mike Logback

Here's a few photos of my winter projects , first one is a ground lunch rope retriever. I wasn't able to find a spool that was the right size or strength, ended up using a freon bottle for the center, and 5/8 plywood for the sides. Already had a 2hp gas engine that I wasn't using. The prototype had a 10 inch pulley on the spool which ended up being too high. Ended up with about 20 inch pulley. Which seems to be about the right speed. Next Project involved making tow pulleys for reverse ground launch. With the option of a double pulley launch , which can significantly reduce the tow vehicle speed. While at the same time increasing the power and speed at the glider. The pulleys have not been tested yet so I have nothing to report on how they work.

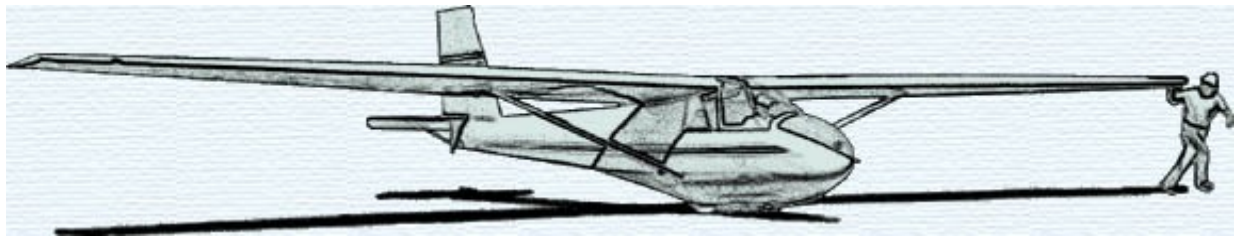


KSA VARIOMETER

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KSA MEETING

Soaring Weather - John Wells

Saturday March 8th, 2014, 7:30 PM

Wichita Cabela's, K-96 & Greenwich