

Airworthy

The Official Journal of the Black Forest Soaring Society

24566 David C. Johnson Loop
Elbert, CO 80106



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Club Web Page: SoarBFSS.org

Airworthy Archive: SoarBFSS.org/Airworthy

Facebook Group Page: [BFSS Member Only Page](#)

Facebook External Page: [BFSS Public Page](#)

Kelly AWOS Cam: [Weather Cams](#)

FROM THE EDITOR

The calendar says spring but it's still acting like winter. We're all tired of the cold and snow. But spring is trying—March produced a few of those early spring wonders with cold temperatures but low cloudbases, 10+ knot lift, and cloud streets to the horizon. Then back to cold and snow. Soaring season is coming. Really.

Saturday, April 15th, is the Annual Membership Meeting. I urge you all to attend. There are a number of important issues that will be discussed. And please consider running for the Board. The club runs on dedication, enthusiasm, and volunteerism. Please consider stepping up and contributing your experience to the Board.

Mark Palmer, Editor



*No Cockpit for Old Men
The Editor struggles to get out of the PW-5
cockpit on a cold spring day.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Bif Huss

This is my last President's message. The last four years have been very rewarding, but I plan to take a break from serving on the BFSS BOD and devote my time to my duties as the SSA's Contest Committee Chairman and spend more time with my family and gliders. I volunteered to serve on the BFSS BOD as the President because I wanted to have a say in the direction of the club. I am proud of the things we were able to accomplish over the last four years. These include:

- Purchasing a second towplane, 41Y.
- Purchasing the ASW-19 to allow members to transition to cross country flying.
- Purchasing the PW-5.
- Extending the service life of the ASK-21.
- Greatly expanding the standardization of the club's CFIGs.
- Upgrading the clubhouse.
- Expanding the ramp area in front of Hangar 2.
- Enabling the runway turnoff and staging areas to be included in the KAP runway improvement program.
- Green lighting Patrick Mendonca's Eagle Scout walkway project.
- Establishing the club's Safety Officer position.

- Establishing the Steve Johnson Youth Scholarship.
- Establishing the club's potluck gatherings during the summer season.

We've accomplished a substantial amount, but there is still much to do. I encourage a new group of volunteers to step up and carry on the task of making BFSS into one of the SSA's premier chapters.

It's been a pleasure to serve you all!

See you at Cloudbase!
Bif "H7"



Sunrise at the Seniors. Photo by Bif Huss

CALENDAR

Board of Directors Meetings

April 11, 2023 6:30 – 9:00
Via Zoom

May 9, 2023 6:30 – 9:00
Via Zoom

BFSS Annual Membership Meeting

April 15, 2023, 9:30 am at the clubhouse
Membership meeting followed by potluck

1-26 Championships

May 3 – 11, 2023
Caesar Creek Soaring Club
Waynesville, OH

20-Meter Multiplace/Standard Class Nationals
May 20 – 30, 2023
Reedsville, PA

Region 9 Sports/Club Class Contest
May 26 – June 1, 2023
Tucson Soaring Club
Tucson, AZ

BFSS Downhill Dash
June 10 and 17, 2023

Region 9 Standard/15m/18m Contest
June 18 – 23, 2023
Hobbs, NM

Women's Cross Country Camp
September 3 – 8, 2023
Moriarty, NM

BFSS Saturday Potluck Barbeque (after flying)
Will begin again in the spring

FLEET UPDATE

ASK-21 (77) – New radio and back seat radio head installed; new microphones installed; vario is working in the correct direction now (!)

2-33 (840) – Transponder installed

Blanik L-23 (9BA) – Repair continues

Blanik L-13AC (2BA) – Nothing to report

PW-5 (1GM) – Nothing to report

ASW-19 (Z3) – Annual complete except awaiting transponder check

Pawnee (76S) – Inspections, parts replacements, new brakes, rebuilt tailwheel

Pawnee (41Y) – Rebuild continues

KAP/BFSS OPS TEST DUE!

For those few who still have not completed the test for this year, please do so ASAP. After the March 31 deadline, we'll be going through the membership list to make sure all members have accomplished this requirement. Be sure you're current on this test so you're ready to fly when

the great soaring weather hits in April. Tow pilot members must also complete this requirement. THANKS!

OPS SHEETS

Don't Forget: After you have finished flying, be sure to submit your flight information within 24 hours to [Carrie Commerford](#) via the flight ops app. After you submit your flight, if you do not receive a confirmation email, follow up with Carrie to confirm her receipt of the information. **Remember, submitting flight information is your responsibility!** Not only does it help keep the club finances in order, but this is how we track flight time for each club aircraft.

OPS DUTY CALENDAR

Here is the Ops Duty schedule for April and early May. . *[Note: If you have swapped duty dates with someone, please send a note to the editor so we can publish more accurate information. -Ed.]*

DeBacker, Frank	03/31/2023
Patrick, Bill	04/01/2023
Penkhus, Bob	04/02/2023
Franzmann, Mike	04/07/2023
Rolley, Dave	04/08/2023
Abbe, Joshua	04/09/2023
Kinder, Becky	04/14/2023
Silberer, Zsolt	04/15/2023
Tomanek, Wojtek	04/16/2023
Price, Brian	04/21/2023
Urschel, Pete	04/22/2023
Buist, Mark	04/23/2023
Baker, Gary	04/28/2023
Culbertson, Rick	04/29/2023
Dean, Val	04/30/2023

Boerner, Raul	05/05/2023
Dimick, Scott/Cole, Dennis	05/06/2023
Dunmall, Chris	05/07/2023

PLEASE REVIEW THE LAUNCH PROCEDURES BEFORE YOUR DUTY DAY!

Every flying member (except tow pilots and instructors on a regular teaching schedule) is on the schedule for line duty. If you are either a pre-solo student or have never performed this duty, Joshua will pair you with someone who has experience. Please check this list carefully to see when you're on duty and if you're working with someone. **Reach out to Joshua if you feel you need to be paired with someone for more training.** **Be sure to go to the calendar page on the website and put yourself down in the Line Volunteer column for the day you're assigned.**

Remember, if you can't make your duty assignment, you must find a replacement. Once that is done, contact [Joshua Abbe](#) and let him know so he is aware of the change. Include [Mark Palmer](#) so he can get it in *Airworthy!*

If you see **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** listed on the schedule, that indicates that no one is scheduled for that day and that volunteers are appreciated. Please contact Joshua if you are available.



It was a cold St. Patrick's Day! Jon Stark, Rick Culbertson, Raul Boerner, and Brandon Kolk

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Spring is here. There could be snow or rain but in any event please, DO NOT drive the golf carts on the grass. Driving on the grass could result in deep ruts and a lot of headaches for the club and airpark users. Also, please be careful of the runway shoulders while the new grass is taking hold.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Todd Hahn – PW-5 checkout

Doug Houston – PW-5 checkout

Becky Kinder – First flight in Blue Jay!



*Becky Kinder launches in 1-26E, Blue Jay.
Photo by Julie Kinder*

First Flights with Quay Snyder:

- **Bill Gerblick**
- **John Gillis**
- **Todd Hahn**
- **Jeff Maki**
- **Becky Kinder**
- **Raul Boerner** — First Flight and WINGS Flight Review
- **Nathan Jordan** — First Flight and club checkout in ASK-21 front and back seat (ground work assisted by **Raul Boerner**)

First Flights with Mark Palmer:

- **Mike Kinder**
- **Donald Hannon**

First Flights with Raul Boerner:

- **Patrick Mendonca**
- **Quay Snyder**
- **Dave Rolley**
- **Rick Culbertson** — First Flight and WINGS Flight Review
- **Pete Urschel** — First Flight and WINGS Flight Review

First Flights with Stan Bissell:

- **Julie Kinder**
- **Zach Paluch**
- **Berea Boerrigter**
- **Tim Krantz**
- **Levi Krantz** (first lesson in L-13)

First Flight with Brandon Kolk:

- **Mike Franzmann**

First Flight with Doug Houston:

- **Scott Dimick**

First Flight with Alice Palmer:

- **Dave Morgan** — First Flight and ASK-21 back seat checkout

First Flights with Vitaliy Aksyonov:

- **David Crabb**
- **Kevin LaFollette**
- **Roland Laning**

Steve Johnson Youth Scholarship Recipients:
Patrick Mendonca, Julie Kinder, Ethan Hitz

THANK YOU!

Doug Curry and **Bill Gerblick** – For lots of work on towplane 76S, and the L-23, and 41Y, and pretty much all of the fleet every month

Doug Curry, Bill Gerblick, and John Gillis – For 840 transponder work

Harold Wood and **Rick Culbertson** – For furnace check and filter change, and **Kayce Harmsen** (Harold's SO) for buying filters

Bill Gerblick – For constructing a 6-foot and 9-foot snow blade for the tractor

Gary Baker, Todd Hahn, Becky Kinder, Stan Bissell, Bill Gerblick, Mark Palmer, Jon Stark, Levi Krantz, Tim Krantz, Alice Palmer, Mike Kinder, Roland Laning – For extra GOD duty

Dave Morgan – For cleaning out the ASK-21 cockpit

John Gillis – For stepping in to tow while Doug Houston got glider current

Alice Palmer – For conducting the Bronze Badge Workshop

Everyone – For helping to clean up after the Bronze Badge workshop!

Mark and Alice Palmer – For donating a new folding table for the clubhouse meeting room

Rich Barclay – For taking **Levi Krantz** for a flight in the C210

Dave Rolley – For assessing Buildings and Grounds options

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Dennis Cole – Dennis a current airline pilot and flew gliders some years ago. He will be working with **Raul Boerner** to get current in gliders again. We hope to have a picture of Dennis next month. Welcome Dennis!

DOWNHILL DASH – JUNE 2023 by Mark Palmer

We skipped the Downhill last year but we're going to try again this year. To change things up we're going to try June instead of late August/early September. Currently, I'm aiming for the weekends of June 10 and June 17. This gives us a backup for weather and multiple

weekends for partners or club members to try their hand.

The rules for the Downhill are simple:

1. Take off.
2. Fly somewhere.
3. Land.

Note 1: You cannot land back at Kelly.

Note 2: Motorgliders are welcome, but see Note 1. If you start your motor, that is considered your finish point.

If you want to fly or crew, please contact [me!](#) We're especially looking for retrieve crew. Crewing can be a lot of fun! If you've never crewed before, we'll try to pair you with a more experienced member. Those who have participated in the past can tell you how much fun can be had!



*A Few Past Downhill Dash Retrieves:
Wojtek Tomanek and Brandon Kolk retrieve
Dave Rolley at Limon (above).*

*Donald Hannon retrieves 2021 winner
Vitaliy Aksyonov at Colby, Kansas (below).*



BRONZE BADGE WORKSHOP by Alice Palmer

We had a very well attended Bronze Badge Workshop on March 11. We reviewed some performance calculations and spent lots of time discussing preflight planning and looking at airfields using Google Earth and the FAA's interactive map, among other tools. We even did some planning for a couple of Silver Distance routes. We all enjoyed a potluck lunch that gave us a good break in between sessions. WINGS credit was awarded to 20 members. Thank you all for devoting your Saturday to learning and preparation for the coming soaring season!



Bronze Badge Workshop

SENIORS 2023 by Bif Huss

While Kelly Airpark's runways were again shut down due to winter conditions, I made my annual pilgrimage to Seminole Lake Glider Port to participate in the Seniors Contest. Admittedly it's a long drive and is always an adventure, but the effort is always worth it.

I arrived at Seminole on March 3rd. It was great to return to the fresh cut grass runways and palm trees of Seminole. More important was the presence of those wonderful cumulus clouds that have disappeared from Colorado in the last few months. The Seniors is the largest soaring contest in the US and has consistently drawn 65 pilots year after year. Even though it is considered an Old Farts contest (you have to be 55 or older to compete), it is also one of the most competitive contests, with numerous

former National Champions and World Champions attending.



Pilot's Meeting

Even though the official age is 55, there were several youngsters flying as guests. It turns out the Seniors is an excellent training ground to prepare to compete for both National and World Championship contests. It's not just for pilots chasing the US Team though. Most of the pilots attend to have fun and share in the magic of cross county soaring.

The flying was great. Most flights saw good cu with 5000-foot bases. There are plenty of airfields in the task area, so most landouts got an aero retrieve back to Seminole. By contest's end, on March 17th, I had flown 10 flights, accruing 32 hours of cross county flight time. New BFSS member, **Jerome Wade**, visited for a few days and had a chance to fly back seat with former World Champion, **Doug Jacobs** [see *Romey's article below*. -Ed.]. What a great lesson in cross county soaring! That's one of the great attractions to flying in the Seniors, a chance to interact with a who's who of the U.S soaring community. I highly recommend anyone wanting to get a jump on the flying season to try out the Seniors.



The Grid

WHAT I LEARNED FROM THE SENIOR SOARING NATIONALS 2023

by Jerome "Romey" Wade

It was as if I just entered the gates of heaven when I arrived at Seminole Lake Glider Port. Imagine 65 high-performance gliders gridding up and more than 65 champion pilots all making ready for the day's competition. **Bif** had forewarned me that my experience would be beyond anything I could imagine, and he was right. As a new glider pilot and one with the desire to compete, I found my new happy place.

As I savored every minute of my multiday experience I was captivated by the spectacular qualities of each glider and their designs, along with numerous conversations with different competitors and their tactics. Overhearing the chatter with some of the legends of our sport while assisting Bif as ground crew served to fuel my fervor for being a cross-country and competitive pilot. Every moment offered value, meaning, and inspiration.

Bif took me under his wing to train me on the ins and outs of competition soaring: Preflight consideration. Course and task strategies. Glider performance. Weather and wind conditions. He even went so far as to educate me on the elimination system, much appreciated, but I'll spare you the details. ;)



Launch Line at the Seniors

The icing on the cake was to fly three days in the back seat with World Champion **Doug Jacobs** in a Duo Discus X. The first day I was to ride with Doug was canceled due to rain (UGH!). Day two wasn't much better and was also canceled; however, Doug and I were able to get airborne along with a few other pilots.



Doug Jacobs and Romey

Doug allowed me to fly most of the flight and coached me on competition strategies while we were airborne—this was a mind-blowing master-level course. The highlight of this flight was that I flew in my first gaggle as PIC. Doug showed me how to enter, thermal, and then exit the gaggle safely. Not gonna lie, it was a rush that I want more of.

My final day with Doug proved to be fruitful. The competition was on—a totally blue sky day with a challenging task. My job from the back seat was to be Doug's eyes to identify where others were thermalling and where the gaggles were and, if needed, to find a suitable landout, preferably an airport.



Doug Jacobs and Romey on task

Once airborne, we quickly joined our first gaggle of 12 gliders. It was a magical moment that is quite intoxicating—gliders below and above, soaring in symmetry along with a few eagles, hawks, and vultures. The beauty of the gaggle is surreal, true poetry in motion.

As the task started the game was on. Gliders began darting to the starting line while capturing every ounce of energy available. We climbed to 4000 feet AGL and were off to the races. Doug would share his experience on how to take advantage of lift, lift lines, gaggles, and more. This was a blue sky day so there was ZERO visible indication of lift other than the other gliders thermalling or gagging.

After our second turnpoint completion we headed for the third. Enroute we found nothing but sink and were quickly losing altitude, so much so that Doug asked me to find a suitable nearby airfield. As we dropped below 2000 feet we found lift at a small field and it took us back up to over 4000 feet. Whew, game changer!

We then completed our third and final turnpoint as we headed home with plenty of altitude. On our final glide, Doug put the thrusters on and we flew at 120 kts all the way to the finish line.

The last thrill of the day was to be in a line of 6 gliders in the pattern to land. One after another landed like a well-oiled machine. Our final was a rush as we cleared 100-foot tall pine trees to land on a perfectly mowed grass field and then rolled to a gentle stop.

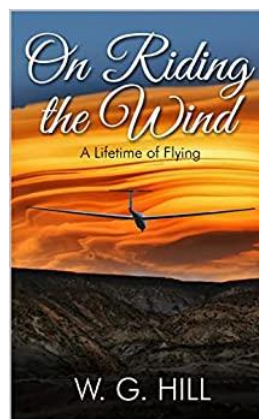
Everything about my Senior Soaring Nationals experience was spectacular. Time with Bif, new friends, lots of lessons learned, an amazing flight experience with a World Champion, and falling further in love with this sport, #PRICELESS!

LAST YEAR FOR RENO RACES! by Mark Palmer

If the Reno Air Races have been on your bucket list, you'd better hurry as this year is your last chance. The last Reno Air Races will be held this year, September 13 to 17, 2023. The Air Race Committee announced in mid-March that this is the last year at Reno-Stead. They hope to hold the races at another location in the future. Tickets are on sale now.

NEW BOOK FROM BILL HILL

Noted cross country pilot, former air traffic controller and airline pilot, poet, and author Bill Hill has a new book, "*On Riding The Wind: A Lifetime of Flying*." Available on Amazon as a Kindle book or a paperback. If you enjoy Bill's stories and poetry, it's a must read.



BLUE THERMAL

"A wind that, if caught, brings happiness"

Blue Thermal is not what you would expect from a film about soaring. It's Japanese anime, not a genre you would normally think of. It's in Japanese with English subtitles. The story is about a young Japanese girl who goes off to college in Tokyo. Once there she gets involved in the college glider club. Young romance, a love triangle, and some fairly accurate soaring action keeps the story moving. Even if that's not your usual thing, it's an enjoyable hour and a half. Check it out. Available to rent on Prime Video

for \$5.99 or to buy Blu-Ray/DVD for \$19.99.
Mark and Alice give it two thumbs up.



NEW PAPER PLANE WORLD RECORD!

Our *Airworthy* Northern Colorado correspondent, **Curt Cole**, forwarded this link about a new world record paper airplane flight. 292 feet! Cool article and video!

<https://generalaviationnews.com/2023/03/21/paper-airplane-sets-world-record/>

SHIPS FOR SALE

Have a ship you want to sell? Looking for a partnership? We can list it in *Airworthy*.

FOR SALE: AC-4C Russia, S/N 26. Fuselage was damaged in off-field landing. Wings and tail are fine, trailer is good. Should make a great project glider. \$4000. Contact [John Gillis](#).



FOR SALE: 1/3 share in ASW-26E motorglider D2D. Based at CO15. If interested, contact [Gerald Peaslee](#).



PARTNERSHIP AVAILABLE: 1977 PIK 20D. 2101 hours total time. Mountain High O2, S80 Club, Flarm Core, transponder. Enclosed trailer. \$28,000. Contact [John Gillis](#).



FOR SALE: 1-26B S/N 212. 1732.5 hours TT. All logbooks on hand. Ailerons need to be recovered. Trailer built 2019. Converted to straight tail. \$8000 delivered to KAP! Located at Moriarty, NM. Contact [Ridge Moreland](#).



Doug Curry installing the transponder antenna in 840. Photo by Bill Gerblich



Stan Bissell prepares to turn final in 9BA. Photo by Todd Hahn

PHOTOS



840 now has a transponder!



Grass Men – Dave Allen, Jim Norman, and Jamie Treat seeding taxiway edges. 3/15/23



Dave Morgan brings 77 home after a spring soaring flight. Look at those clouds! 3/24/2023



*Becky before takeoff
Photo by Stan Bissell*



Brandon Kolk and Alice Palmer evaluate the crosswind. 3/15/23



*Another view of the Seniors grid
Photo by Bif Huss*



Alice Palmer got current on a cold Friday in March (along with four other instructors). After over three months on the ground due to snow, cold, wind, and mud, we'll take it!



*Seniors competitor Robin Clark on final
Photo by Romey Wade*