

# 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](http://SoarBFSS.org)

Airworthy Archive: [SoarBFSS.org/Airworthy](http://SoarBFSS.org/Airworthy)

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

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

Kelly AWOS Cam: [Weather Cams](#)

## FROM THE EDITOR

Winter is just not cooperating. During January the club only managed two flights. Now, as we look at February, it's not looking good for the first half of the month. The snow and cold continue and the lack of melting is preventing us from even thinking of getting the ships out.

We've all been pretty stir crazy. As you'll see below, **Becky** asked the question, "What's your favorite aviation movie?" Check out the results below.

Don't forget the Winter Party, coming up Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at Alpha Charlie's!

But it's February. The days are slowly getting longer and things will start to warm up. The glaciers will retreat and the mammoths will return to the plains. Or something like that. Soaring is not that far away.

Mark Palmer, Editor



*Time to put the skis on the Pawnee.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Bif Huss

Colorado winters typically see snowfall followed by a quick melting and return to normal. Since moving back to Colorado in 2005, I have not seen snow last as long as it has this season. Normally BFSS flies through the winter. This year though, the melting has not occurred and the berms that are so hazardous to glider operations are frustratingly persistent. All we can hope for is a spate of warm weather to knock down the berms so we can get back to flying gliders.

Nevertheless, things have been busy at BFSS. In January, we held a very well attended membership meeting to decide what to do with the Russia. This was combined with an outstanding cleanup day honchoed by Building and Grounds Chairwoman **Becky Kinder**. The next time you visit the club, you'll notice that the burn pit eyesore has been removed and the clubhouse has been cleaned up considerably. Thanks to all who helped and to Becky in particular.

BFSS also has its Winter Party coming up on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February. The Winter Party is always a great time and thanks go to **Deb Ings** for organizing this. The winter parties were put on hold during the Covid-19 period, so it will be great to get together again and engage in some hangar flying. I hope to see you all there.

I'll also mention that the application period is open for the Johnson Youth Scholarship Award. If you're interested in applying for a scholarship, (and you're less than 23 yrs. old), please get your application to me before the February 19<sup>th</sup> deadline.

As a reminder, "A Rate" members' accounts must be brought up to \$1500 prior to March 1<sup>st</sup> to take advantage of the reduced tow/use fees for the 2023 season. The \$1500 gives the club the working capital to operate for the coming year.

Even though the snow is keeping us from flying real gliders, I remind everyone that the club has an excellent Condor 2 simulator. I am available to help club members get started in the simulator. Just send me an email and we'll set up a time. Also, **Vitaliy's** Condor Night races are going strong. I highly encourage you come join the fun.

Looking forward to the soaring season this summer, Region 9 is holding not one, but two regional contests. If you're inclined to try out sailplane racing, entering a regional is a great way to start, not to mention working on your XC skills at an event organized for just that. (For you Condor top guns, you can see how you stack up in the real world.)

Finally, as I mentioned at the January membership meeting, BFSS will have a number of Board of Director slots coming open this year. The election of the new BOD will occur at the 2023 Annual Meeting that is scheduled for Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

BFSS is a volunteer organization, and it is through the efforts of its active volunteers that BFSS can continue to provide the magic of soaring to its members. I think it's every member's responsibility to enter the arena and keep this club going. I also think that it's healthy for any organization to see different members step up and take the reins. As I said at the January meeting, it is time for fresh blood on

the BOD. These last four years have been rewarding for me, but I've made my contribution and will not be running for reelection. BFSS is in great shape, and I look forward to watching a new generation of BOD members take the helm.

See you at cloudbase!  
Bif (H7)



*Icy Launch – photo by Doug Houston*

## CALENDAR

### Board of Directors Meetings

**February 13, 2023 6:30 – 9:00**

Via Zoom **NEW DATE!**

**March 14, 2023 6:30 – 9:00**

Via Zoom

### Winter Party

**Saturday, February 11, 2023**

**5:30 to when the cows come home**

**Alpha Charlie's**

6631 S. Peoria Street, Suite 100

Centennial, CO

**Johnson Youth Scholarship application  
deadline: February 19, 2023**

### SSA Convention

**February 23 – 25, 2023**

Atlantis Hotel, Reno, NV

**(Flight Instructor Revalidation Clinic**

**February 21 – 22, 2023)**

### Senior Soaring Championships

March 11 – 17, 2023

Groveland, FL

### BFSS Annual Membership Meeting

April 15, 2023 9:30 am

Membership meeting followed by potluck

### 1-26 Championships

May 3 – 11, 2023

Caesar Creek Soaring Club

Waynesville, OH

### Region 9 Sports/Club Class Contest

May 28 – June 1, 2023

Tucson Soaring Club

Tucson, AZ

### Region 9 Contest

June 19 – June 23, 2023

Hobbs, NM

### Women's Cross Country Camp

September 3 – 8, 2023

Moriarty, NM

### Downhill Dash

Summer, 2023

### BFSS Saturday Potluck Barbeque (after flying)

Will begin again in the spring

## FLEET UPDATE

**ASK-21 (77)** – Nothing to report

**2-33 (840)** – Nothing to report

**Blanik L-23 (9BA)** – Rebuild continues

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

**PW-5 (1GM)** – Nothing to report

**ASW-19 (Z3)** – Nothing to report

**Pawnee (76S)** – Nothing to report

**Pawnee (41Y)** – Rebuild continues

## 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 February and early March. *[Note: If you have swapped duty dates with someone, please send a note to the editor so we can publish more accurate information. –Ed.]*

Dimick, Scott	02/04/2023
Leonard, Dave/Morgan, Dave	02/05/2023
Gerner, Andy	02/11/2023
Hannon, Donald	02/12/2023
Hitz, Ethan	02/18/2023
Ings, Deb/Krantz, Levi	02/19/2023
Kinder, Julie	02/25/2023
Kuhlke, Lee	02/26/2023
Kinder, Mike	03/04/2023
LaFollette, Kevin/Lewis, S.	03/05/2023

## 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.

## WINTER PARTY — SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>!

Don't forget our annual Winter Party!

**When:** Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM to whenever...!

**Where:** Alpha Charlie's Tap and Tavern  
6631 S Peoria St Suite 100, Centennial, CO 80111 (north side of KAPA at the corner of Arapahoe Road and Peoria Street)

**What:** Food and Cash Bar.

- Buffet includes heavy appetizers:
- Cheeseburger sliders
- Ginger Thai chili chicken lettuce wraps
- Maple Bourbon Brussels
- Bacon and Green chili macaroni and cheese
- Guacamole, salsa, and red pepper hummus (with chips and veggies)

\*\*Note: Restaurant can provide vegan options upon request, such as Portobello mushroom burgers

**Cost:** \$34/person

If you haven't signed up yet, contact [Deb Ings](#) no later than February 5<sup>th</sup>. See you there!

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Patrick Mendonca** – 97% on his Private Pilot Airplane written exam!

### FRIENDLY REMINDER

The winter snow season is here. 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.



*Saturday, January 21, was a no-fly day for us, but an Army Chinook crew took refuge at Kelly when the weather to the south went IMC.*

*Photo by John Gillis*

## THANK YOU!

**Rich Barclay, Dave Allen, Dick Merring, and Jim Norman** – For runway plowing (over and over again!)

**John Gillis, Bill Gerblick, and Bif Huss** – For snow plowing over the New Year's weekend and ongoing snow mitigation after each storm

**Deb Ings** – For organizing the Winter Party

**Alice and Mark Palmer** – For donating new snow shovels and putting them to work on the entryway to the clubhouse

**Kathy Peterman** – For cleaning both bathrooms and cleaning the tables after the member meeting

**Andy Gerner, Joe Gerner, and Terri Gerner –**  
For dismantling the old cinder block fire pit



*Andy, Joe, and Terri Gerner start to disassemble the old cement block fire pit.*

**John Gillis, Bif Huss, Alex Nadein, Mark Palmer, Joshua Abbe, Dave Morgan, and Kip McClain –**  
For cleaning up the last of the fire pit debris



*Dave Morgan and Bif Huss help while John Gillis loads the last of the old firepit in the trailer.*

**Becky Kinder, Mike Kinder, Alice Palmer, Amalia Viveiros-Silberer, Deb Ings, Zsolt Silberer, Quay Snyder, Colin Mead, Bif Huss, Brian Price, Chris Dunmall, Wojtek Tomanek, and Gary Baker –** For cleaning the tool room, vacuuming, cleaning light fixtures, and spiffing up other areas of clubhouse, along with various other work day tasks

**Thank you Everyone** who brought food and drink to the Membership Meeting!

**Todd Hahn, Doug Houston, Scott Dimick, Stan Bissell, Kevin LaFollette, Zsolt Silberer, and Amalia Viveiros-Silberer –** For snow and ice mitigation

**Dave Rolley, John Gillis, and Bif Huss –** For work on ASK-21 microphones

**Doug Curry and Bill Gerblick –** For continued work on hangar doors



*Final results of the fire pit cleanup project!*

## **C BADGE WORKSHOP** by Alice Palmer

For those working on your SSA badges, I encourage you to consider joining us for a C Badge Workshop on Saturday, February 18, at the clubhouse. This workshop will cover the ground training requirements for the C Badge and will also serve as a review for those interested in earning their Bronze Badge and eventually flying cross country.

We already have seven pilots signed up and would love to have more. The workshop will start at 10 AM. We'll break for a potluck lunch and then finish the workshop by mid-afternoon.

You don't need to have your A or B Badge yet to attend this workshop, only a willingness to learn and to enjoy discussion with other club members as we dream of some great spring and summer soaring flights.

If you have questions or want to sign up for the workshop, please reach out to me, [Alice Palmer](#). I am planning to set this up for WINGS credit. I'll hold a follow-on Bronze Badge Workshop later this spring if there is enough interest.



“Let’s get one thing straight. There’s a big difference between a pilot and an aviator. One is a technician; the other is an artist in love with flight.” E. B. Jeppesen

## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP by Brian Price

Our 2023 Annual Meeting will be held at the clubhouse at 9:30 AM, Saturday 15 April 2023. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in club decisions. At this meeting, four of seven seats on the Board of Directors will be up for election to new two-year terms. These are the terms of **Bif Huss**, **Brian Price**, **Vitaliy Aksyonov**, and one open seat. Of these, Bif has announced that he will not be running this year. All members are asked to consider nominating themselves or others prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations can also be offered during the meeting. You will receive official notification 30 days prior to the meeting, with a draft agenda, proxy form, and any supporting documents. Mark your SSA calendar now!



*WSPA Scholarship Deadline: March 15, 2023*

## NOTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP ON JANUARY 14 by Brian Price

This meeting was called for the primary purpose of getting a decision from the membership on the disposition of our damaged AC-4 Russia glider. There was a great turnout. This summary is intended for those who could not participate.

The board has examined the glider and, with the help of **Fidel Ramirez**, determined that fixing the damage likely would cost much more than the glider is worth. The Board presented disposal options and entertained other suggestions. At the instigation of **Zsolt Silberer**, the membership voted to direct the Board to dispose of the AC-4 Russia in such a manner that the club receives maximum overall benefit. This leaves to the Board the task of testing the market for the damaged glider, with fallback strategies to get the most value from the disposal process.

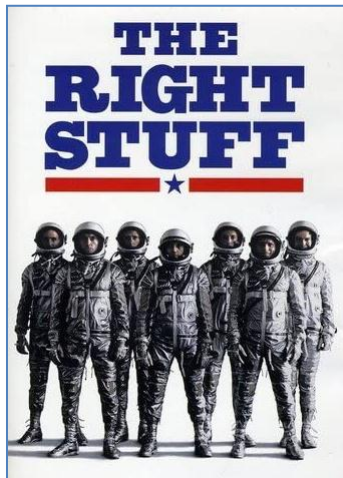
**Lee Kuhlke** reported on progress by the long-range planning committee. He displayed drawings of site build-out options in consideration, and listed priorities for this year, 2 to 3 years, 5 years, and beyond. This presentation was informational only, and members offered many useful comments. The meeting was followed by a terrific potluck lunch—talk about the “groaning board!”—and then several super-productive hours of member work effort that disposed of the old fire pit and much other detritus, and left the clubhouse smelling sweet and clean. Thanks to **Becky Kinder** and to all who bent their efforts in our behalf!

## MOVIE NIGHT! by Mark Palmer

Last week, while we were all bemoaning the fact that the field is snowed in, our VP, **Becky Kinder**, posed the question to the membership: What is your favorite aviation movie? That got a lot of response. We quickly

morphed from “What’s your favorite aviation movie?” to “List all the movies you can think of with an aircraft in them.” There were more than 50 movies mentioned. I volunteered to break down the results. So, the top 10 aviation movies as voted by BFSS are:

1. The Right Stuff
2. The Blue Max
3. The Great Waldo Pepper
4. The Battle of Britain
5. Top Gun: Maverick
6. Strategic Air Command
7. Dr. Strangelove
8. The Battle of Britain
9. Flight of the Phoenix (Jimmy Stewart)  
*(and then the ties)*
10. Top Gun
10. 12 O’Clock High
10. Always
10. Cloudstreet



Now, Becky didn’t specify *soaring* movies, an admittedly smaller field, but a few popped up in there. The most popular soaring movies are:

1. Cloudstreet
2. The Sunship Game
3. A Fine Week of Soaring
4. The Boy Who Flew with Condors
5. Dawn Flight
6. Running on Empty



So there you go. Now you can binge until the snow melts....

## FALCON AEROLAB OPPORTUNITY by Alice Palmer

[Falcon AeroLab](#) is an organization that provides STEM training to young people, with an emphasis on aerospace. Their programs range from introduction to STEM topics for kids as young as nine to flight training programs for teenagers, with glider and power training options.

Falcon AeroLab has contacted BFSS to see if we might be interested in partnering with them to help with their glider program, which is already in full swing at Meadow Lake Airport through High Flights Soaring Club and has expanded some to Boulder through Mile High Gliding.

We’ve had several meetings with their principal officers, and the BFSS Board is now considering whether to implement a trial program this spring through the end of the school year. Our involvement would consist of finishing out the glider training for several of their teenage students, and to complete short introductory rides for a group of younger students. All flying would be done during a weekday and would not interfere with any Friday-through-Sunday club flying.

We’ll have more information in next month’s *Airworthy* if the BFSS Board decides to move forward with this opportunity. If so, we’ll need some help from club members in various capacities. In the meantime, if you have questions, feel free to reach out to me.

## A NEW TOWPLANE – FROM SCHWEIZER? by Mark Palmer

A recent post in the Facebook group, Soaring Forum Group, by **Amresh Pandey** featured a peek at a new towplane prototype being developed by K&L Soaring. Don't expect one anytime soon, if no other reason than it's currently a prototype. From Amresh's post:

*Took a trip to K&L Soaring in Cayuta, NY. This is the direct descendent of the Schweizer Aircraft factory run by **Les and Kyle Schweizer**. Anyone who thinks this company is dormant is mistaken. Although not producing new gliders, they are very active in repair, maintenance and upgrade of their older products, and Les Schweizer recently designed and built this amazing new towplane. It has 200+ hp turning a large 3-bladed prop. The wings are very beefed up, redesigned from the 1-26, and a rudder also beefed up from the 1-34. The elaborate panel has two screens for nav, instruments, and even a rearview camera to watch the glider in tow! See the pics, and even they don't convey the amazing engineering that went into this tow plane.*



Photos by Amresh Pandey via Facebook

## SHIPS FOR SALE

Have a ship you want to sell? Looking for a partnership? We can list it in [Airworthy](#).

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





**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](#).



**FOR SALE:** 1983 LS-4a, very good condition and very well equipped. Cabin fever has me thinking about my next glider, so I'm offering this for sale over the winter. Contact **Bill Patrick** at 303-667-6832.



## PHOTOS



*Tim Krantz and Stan Bissell preparing for launch on a very chilly day (which doesn't seem to bother Stan). Scott Dimick is helping the launch. Photo by Doug Houston*



*A young Doug Curry lands at the old Black Forest Gliderport after test flying "Go Fast," the 1-26E, S/N 606, that he rebuilt from a wreck. (circa 1977)*