

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

Well, the wild ride of 2022 is finally over! What a year! **Bif** and **Alice** have nice summaries of what was accomplished in the club this year, so check out their articles below. We also welcomed a number of new members.

Mother Nature decided to give us a slap in the back of the head at the end of December. First, the arctic cold snap before Christmas (when, briefly, KAP (-18) was colder than Antarctica (-14)). Then a big snowstorm the last Wednesday of the year. Hope she gets it all out of her system before soaring season!

And finally, the staff here at *Airworthy* would like to thank all of you who submitted pictures, articles, and poetry during the year. It was greatly appreciated and helps make AW the fun publication we hope it is. Thank you!

Mark Palmer, Editor



Yes, I think ops are canceled for today.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Bif Huss

Happy New Year everyone! As I write this, we have just experienced the coldest temperatures seen in Colorado in the last 35 years. Last night, the temperature dropped at Kelly from 32 degrees to 10 degrees in fifteen minutes. It continued down to a low of -18 degrees. That's Colorado weather for you. Needless to say, the soaring conditions haven't been great the last few days. However, 2022 was a very busy year for BFSS. Here's a list of 2022's significant happenings at BFSS:

- We took delivery of our second towplane, 41Y, and our high-performance single place glider, Z3.
- Kelly's runway was resurfaced and widened to 44 feet. This included the addition of a turnoff taxiway.
- The ramp area in front of Hangar 2 was substantially widened.
- The clubhouse was extensively modernized and new carpet installed.
- BFSS club members were actively involved with running the 2022 Club Class Nationals in Moriarty, NM.
- The club welcomed 15 new glider members and 3 new towpilot members.

- **Deb Ings's** beautiful Libelle was featured in the SSA's 2023 Calendar.
- **Bif Huss's** V3M was featured in the *Soaring* magazine centerfold.
- **Lee Kuhlke's** long-term planning committee made significant progress toward developing a long-term plan for the club's lot.

We also have some announcements for the club going forward. I'd like to remind everyone of the new maintenance policy the BOD enacted at the December meeting. The new policy requires that maintenance on club aircraft be only accomplished by individuals authorized by the BOD and coordinated through **John Mann**, the Maintenance Committee Chairman.

We are planning on holding an all-membership meeting on January 14th to discuss the dispensation of the Russia and to also hold a club cleanup day.

Deb Ings is in the process of organizing the club's Winter Party. We're hoping to hold it in early February. Stay tuned for details.

Finally, I'm happy to announce that due to the reduction in the fuel price at our last fuel delivery, we are able to reduce the fuel index from \$1.20 to \$1.10 for A members and from \$1.80 to \$1.62 for B members. Those charges have already been reflected in the JOT Form Ops Sheets.

See you at Cloudbase!

Bif "H7"



Bif running the Palmer Divide convergence line, 12-6-22

CALENDAR

Board of Directors Meetings

January 10, 2023 6:30 – 9:00

At the Clubhouse

February 14, 2023 6:30 – 9:00

Via Zoom (and Happy Valentines Day!)

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

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

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) – New skid plate installed

Blanik L-23 (9BA) – Airbrakes adjusted

Blanik L-13AC (2BA) – Repair work continues

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

Penkus, Bob	12/31/2022
Rolley, Dave/Krantz, Tim	01/01/2023
Silberer, Zsolt	01/07/2023
Tomanek, W/Peterman, K	01/08/2023
Urschel, Pete	01/14/2023
Abbe, Joshua/Mannion, Chris	01/15/2023
Baker, Gary/Hahn, Todd	01/21/2023
Buist, Mark	01/22/2023
Culbertson, Rick	01/28/2023
Dean, Val	01/29/2023
Dimick, Scott	02/04/2022
Dunmall, Chris/Morgan, Dave	02/05/2022

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.



Kathy Peterman took this lovely photo of sunset over the Sangre de Christos near her home in Westcliffe.

NOTICE OF MEMBERSHIP MEETING by Brian Price

A meeting of the BFSS membership will be held at the clubhouse on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 10 AM. The primary purpose of this meeting is to discuss and decide on the disposition of the club's AC-4 glider. Per the bylaws, any decision to purchase or dispose of aircraft,

hangars, or land, requires prior approval of the membership. Such a decision can be made by majority vote of members entitled to vote and present at a properly announced membership meeting. As a basis for discussion, the board of directors will describe the damage to the glider and will report on expert opinion as to the cost and feasibility of repair. The decision belongs to the membership.

At the conclusion of that meeting, at about 11:30 AM, we will share a potluck lunch, and then turn all hands to important club maintenance work. **Becky Kinder**, Buildings and Grounds Officer, has arranged for hauling away the remnants of the old fire pit. For that, we will need to pitch in to load a trailer (bring gloves!). Other tasks will be set for us, such as cleaning out the tool room, general dusting and cleaning, and some clearing of leftover stuff in the hangars. In just several hours we should be able to accomplish a great deal.

More information about the membership meeting, the potluck, and the work day will be forthcoming as we get closer to January 14. Please mark this date on your new 2023 SSA Calendar! Thanks very much.

Brian Price, Secretary
Black Forest Soaring Society

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Amalia Viveiros-Silberer – First solo!



Dave Morgan – ASK-21 checkout

Todd Hahn – ASK-21 checkout

Alice Palmer – Completed WINGS Phase

OLC ACCOMPLISHMENTS by Bif Huss

I did a study of the 2022 OLC season and came up with the following:

BFSS had a strong showing in the Online Contest. We had **27 pilots** who posted to the OLC with many posting long cross-country flights.

Pilots who posted flights in excess of:

- **250K**: Bill Gerblick (QS), John Gillis (2M), Raul Boerner (DM), and Quay Snyder (QS)
- **300K**: Vitaliy Aksyonov (Z3), Rick Culbertson (FG), Jeff Maki (21), and Val Dean (D2D)
- **500K**: Clay Thomas (VH) and Lee Kuhlke (H1)
- **750K**: The “Iron Man,” Dave Leonard (ZL), with **22 flights over 500K** and a long of **767K**
- **800K**: Bif Huss (H7), with 2 flights over **800K** and a long of **828K**

MEMBER ROSTER UPDATES by Vitaliy Aksyonov

Hi members,

I'd like to remind you that you're responsible to keep your information up to date on the membership roster. It's available by this link: <https://soarbfss.org/members/private/scgi-bin/RosterAll.cgi>

Please review your profile, including Flight Review date, all contact information (especially emergency contact), and if you don't have a picture there, please upload one or send it to me and I'll do it for you.

You may edit your profile using this link: <https://soarbfss.org/~bfss/scgi-bin/Locked/manage.cgi>

Thank you in advance,
Vitaliy Aksyonov, IT Officer

THANK YOU!

Doug Curry and **Bill Gerblick** – For major work on our hangar doors!



Bill and Doug, always fixing something big and important to keep us flying

Mike Kinder, Mark Palmer, John Gillis, Harold Wood, Todd Hahn – For assisting with the hangar door work

Dave Rolley – For updating the club OGN trackers

Doug Houston – For replacing batteries in Golf Cart 1 and other golf cart maintenance



Doug keeps the carts running.

Bif Huss and **John Gillis** – For winterizing the clubhouse before the Big Freeze

John Gillis and other **KAP Elves** – For plowing snow after the Big Dump

Chris Dunmall – For extra GOD duty

Kathy Peterman – For clubhouse cleaning

Doug Curry – For installing a new skid plate on 840, working on 2BA's airbrakes and a buncha other stuff



*Doug Curry adjusts the dive brakes on 2BA.
Photo by Stan Bissell*

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Mike Kinder – For duty above and beyond, helping with the hangar doors. Hope the wrist heals quickly Mike!

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.

BEHIND THE SCENES, MAKING THE CLUB THRIVE—A SPECIAL THANK YOU by Alice Palmer

If you read *Airworthy* regularly, you may have noticed that many of the same names appear over and over in the Thank You column. I'd like to acknowledge additional members who perform behind-the-scenes services to the club. You are aware of our **instructors** and **towpilots**, to whom we are always grateful. We also appreciate our **commercial ride pilots**, who introduce newcomers to our sport.

Here are some additional members who devote many hours, week after week, to keep the club running:

Board Members meet monthly or more often and conduct additional business via email regularly. Some of this business involves very difficult and critical decisions for our club, managing club finances and assets.

Bif Huss, President
Becky Kinder, Vice President
John Gillis, Treasurer
Brian Price, Secretary
Vitaliy Aksyonov
Bill Patrick

Were you aware the following people also fill important roles that keep us flying?

Bill Gerblich, Chief Towpilot
Doug Curry, Chief of Fleet Maintenance
John Mann, Maintenance Officer
Zsolt Silberer, Membership Coordinator
Mark Palmer, Safety Officer and *Airworthy* Editor
Joshua Abbe, Ground Operations Duty Coordinator
Vitaliy Aksyonov, Webmaster
Clay Thomas, Oxygen Delivery Coordinator
Lee Kuhlke, Chairman of Strategic Planning Committee
Brian Price, KAP Association Liaison

Becky Kinder, Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair
John Gillis, OGN Manager
Doug Houston, Golf Cart Guru
Quay Snyder, Designated Pilot Examiner

The duties of each of those people are extensive. They often involve hours of work to schedule, monitor, and deal with challenges and, need I say, aggravations, that we members rarely see. There are other members who often show up to accomplish various projects large and small and we may not even know all the work they do. Some folks that come to mind are **Frank Debacker**, **Dave Rolley**, **John Gillis**, **Bif Huss**, **Bill Gerblich**, and **Doug Curry**.

When you see these folks, please recognize them for their critical roles to help us keep operating year round. There may be others I've left out and if so, please let me know and I'll acknowledge them in the next *Airworthy*.

If you don't see your name above or in the Thank Yous frequently, we know that isn't because you don't want to help. Life challenges sometimes make it hard to devote extra time beyond our scheduled GOD duty.

But still, I pose this challenge to you. Call it a New Year's Resolution if you're into those.

Can you, at least once per month:

1. Come to KAP and FLY. Flying keeps you current and engaged, helps you better understand the needs of the club, lets you get to know other members, and helps our club thrive.
2. Devote an extra hour or two to a project or ongoing need of some sort. Some examples:
 - Clean bathrooms
 - Sweep the gravel from the carpet, then vacuum the clubhouse
 - Gather up the trash and take it home to put out with your household trash
 - Clean out the refrigerator or freezer

- Clean a glider or the towplane
- In the summer, mow grass or spray/pull weeds
- Help organize a club BBQ when they start up again in April

If nothing else, the daily GOD can always use extra help on the line during the busy part of any flying day.

Usually, if you see something that needs to be done, it is probably because no one has (yet) stepped forward to lead the project. Can you take the lead on a project and recruit others to help? Or can you devote a few hours to help with ongoing projects led by others?

Reach out to a Board member or other project leader and offer your help. If you're not sure who to ask, contact me and I'll help get you to the right person. Even an hour or two a month will be a great benefit to the club. Thank you!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Harold Wood is a new pre-member awaiting a training slot. Harold has soloed elsewhere and we hope to get him back flying soon.



Harold Wood

Jerome "Romey" Wade – Romey is an accomplished pilot and owner of an AC-4B Russia. We hope to have his picture to publish soon.

BADGE COUNT 2022 by Alice Palmer

It's been a bit of a lean year for badges in 2022, but hopefully this will inspire all of us to keep moving onward and upward in our soaring goals in 2023! Congratulations to all of you for your hard work on badges, and to everyone for all of your many long OLC flights this year.

Badge/Record	Number Earned 2022
A	5 (Kevin LaFollette, Dave Morgan, Berea Boerrigter, Wojtek Tomanek, Tim Krantz, <i>plus Amalia Viveiros-Silberer's A badge to be issued soon, after her recent solo</i>)
B	3 (Patrick Mendonca, Kevin LaFollette, Dave Morgan)
C	None in 2022, so we hope you will set these goals for 2023!
Bronze	
Wing Runner Badge	4 (Dylan Brown, Patrick Mendonca, Bill Patrick, Dave Morgan)
Diamond Goal Flight	Vitaliy Aksyonov
Longest OLC Flight in the Club	Bif Huss 828 km

PROPER HANGAR DOOR CLOSING PROCEDURE by Bill Gerblick

Proper hangar door closing means the bottom of the door should NOT touch the cement. Never continue to press the "DOWN" button once the door is down. A 1-mm gap between the bottom of the door and the cement is the goal. Be sure the pins are engaged in the holes in the cement to prevent the door from being sucked outward by strong winds.

CHRISTMAS AT KELLY

by Clay Thomas

(with apology to Clement Clark Moore)

'Twas the day of Christmas, when all through Kelly
Airpark,
Not a creature was stirring except Joe and Andy
Gerner, looking for a tow.

The tow rope was strung by the runway with care
In hopes that our tow pilot would soon be there;
The homeowners were nestled all snug in their beds,
While a quiet Christmas morning danced in their
heads;

The Sun on the crest of the new-fallen snow,
Gave the luster of mid-day to the hangers below,
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But our intrepid Tow Pilot, and eight empty beers,

He spoke not a word but went straight to his work,
And pre-flighted the towplane, then turned with a
jerk,
And laying his headset aside of his ears,
And giving a nod, up to the cockpit he rose;

He sprang to the throttle, to the glider gave a
whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he flew out of sight,
HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD-
FLIGHT!

SOUP NIGHT PARTY by Raul Boerner

Our club is made up of many members: young,
old, recent, semi-recent, and long time. This
photo was taken at a January 1, First-Flight-of-
the-Year party; this flying and eating tradition
was brought to us from Germany by **Oliver** and
Annette Schmelzer. We did a bunch of pattern
tows that day.

Newer members have these supporters, plus
those who came before, to thank for keeping
our club alive and healthy, and for providing, to
current membership, a club where there is
camaraderie, cheap access to gliders and
training, and good facilities.

There are notable members missing from this
photo—for example: **Dave Leonard**,
Bill Gerblich, **Doug Curry**, **Rick Culberston**,
Quay Snyder, and more. We also have some
earlier members—able to provide additional
historic club background—who left the club and
fortunately returned after years of absence.

There were financial, growth, and legal
challenges along the way. Still, here we are.
Also, one day you, too, will be in a group photo.

Raul



LEFT TO RIGHT

FRONT ROW: Tom Serkowski, Sean Bradbury (Raul's
first contest crewman), Oliver Schmelzer

MIDDLE ROW: Raul Boerner, Jenn (daughter) and
Dave Rolley, Bruce Carter

BACK ROW: Karen Serkowski, Andy Baker (Jenn's
husband), Jim Pilkington, Annette Schmelzer, Bill
Howe, Hans Arnold

PS: For the life of me, I can't remember who took
the photo. (Possibly 2001)

OLD BLACK FOREST MEMORIES

Bif was sent a link to old Colorado airports by
his old squadron mate and long-time Black
Forest pilot **Ralph Kolstad**. About halfway down
are some pictures and comments, many from
the late **Jim Foreman** and BFSS member
Kevin Shaw. Take a look at the hangars in the
pictures—they're the same ones we use today!

[http://www.airfields-
freeman.com/co/Airfields_CO_ColoradoSprings.
htm](http://www.airfields-freeman.com/co/Airfields_CO_ColoradoSprings.htm)

As one of the “Black Forest Gliderport Old Timers” (we can say this because we are oldies too), **Doug Houston** dug up an old *Birdseed* newsletter of his dad’s. *Birdseed* was an epic newsletter of the Colorado Soaring Association, long-based at Black Forest Gliderport (BFGP) (now at Owl Canyon), and edited by the incomparable Sam (Shirley Ann Marshall). Not only did Sam edit the newsletter, but she was our daily meteorologist, talking to weather service every morning to get the soaring forecast for the day, and accomplished many other tasks for CSA and Wave Flights, Inc., the commercial operation.



We realize that many of you weren’t even born in 1977. This was the heyday of soaring in the U.S., as evidenced by the soaring events planned for summer, 1977, just in Colorado:

SOARING CALENDAR FOR SUMMER 1977	
Apr 15-17	Cuerno Verde Soaring Camp
May 14-16	Westcliffe Soaring Camp BBQ on the 14th
May 14-15	3rd Annual Balloon Fiesta Black Forest Glider Port
May 28-31	Waverly West (Fort Collins) Memorial Day Contest
June 6-12	NATIONAL SOARING WEEK
June 11-19	Taos, NM Soaring Camp Alternate: 18-19 Granby, CO
June 20-30	12th Annual North American 1-26 Championships Black Forest Glider Port
July 2-4	Saratoga, WY Soaring Camp
Aug 6-8	Granby, CO Soaring Camp
Sept 3-5	Rocky Mountain Soaring Contest Black Forest Glider Port
Sometime in July or August, a camp at Baca Grande	
The Governor's Planning Meeting has really planned a summer for you...Now if you only didn't have to earn a living, you could play from April to September!	

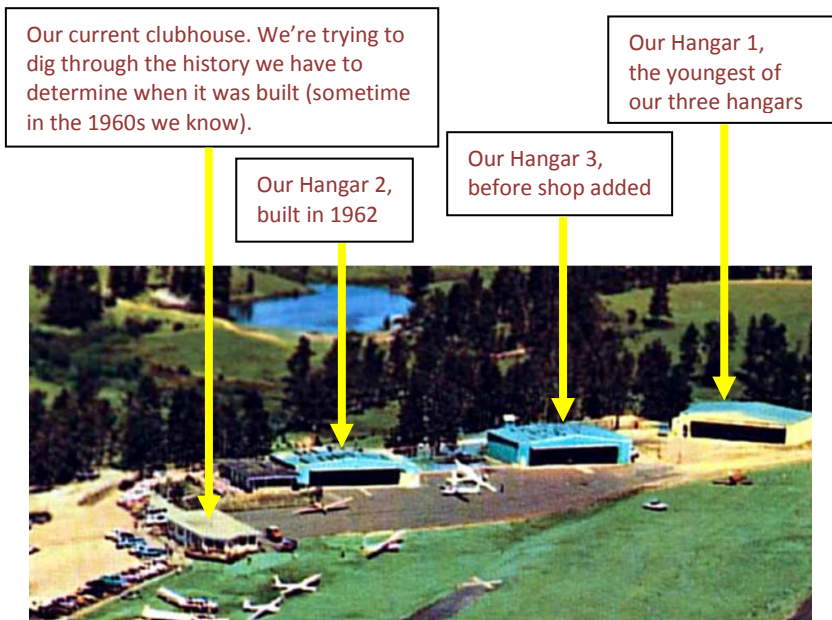
Wouldn’t it be fun to have this many events to choose from so close to home?

This was also the heyday of flying the Pikes Peak wave out of Black Forest Gliderport. Here’s an accounting of the altitudes achieved for one spring wave day:

FLIGHTS OF INTEREST	
<u>March 8</u>	
Steve Boersma, BFGP - 1-26,	30,900
DIAMOND	
Hank Schmitt, TX - 1-34,	27,800
Gold, 1 Lennie	
Carl Barth, CO - 1-35,	27,900,
Gold, 1 Lennie	
Siegrun Barth, CO - 1-34,	28,000
Gold, 1 Lennie	
Cliff Richards, TX - 1-34,	29,100
Gold, 1 Lennie	
Merrill Hastings, CO - 1-34,	28,200
Gold, 1 Lennie	
Bernie Fairfield, CA - 1-26,	28,000
Gold, 1 Lennie	
Richard Tuttle, WDC - 2-32,	28,300
Gold, 1 Lennie	
Ben Hanson, CA - 1-26,	27,100,
Gold, 1 Lennie	
Tony Kelly, Australia - 2-32,	27,000
Gold, 1 Lennie	
Sandy Stutzman, BFGP - 2-32,	26,100
1 Lennie	

Five more diamond altitudes, including Doug’s dad’s (**Doug Houston, Jr.** of Texas, in a 1-35), and an assortment of Lennie pins were awarded that same March within the following two weeks.

Finally, **Mark** and **Alice** dug into the history and made our best guess about our hangars:



FIRST FLIGHTS by Alice Palmer

Are you itching to get flying in the new year? Once again in 2023, our BFSS instructors are offering to fly with club members for First Flights of the Year between January 1 and March 31 at no cost to you for the instructor. Take advantage of their time and expertise to shake the rust off and get ready to meet your soaring goals this year. You can even complete a WINGS flight activity to get you that much closer to your WINGS phase.

LARRY ROSE

Larry Rose, Colorado Soaring Association member who flew at the old Black Forest and at Owl Canyon, passed away on December 21st. His health had been declining for some time. His wife, JJ, passed away in 2021.

Larry was a hard working and generous club member. For a time he owned a Grob 102, C6. Larry donated an air compressor to BFSS during the 2-33 restoration project.

Soaring has lost another great pilot and we have lost another great friend.



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](#).





*Team 182's crackerjack ground support team, helping to derig 182.
Dave Rolley, Jon Stark, Donald Hannon*

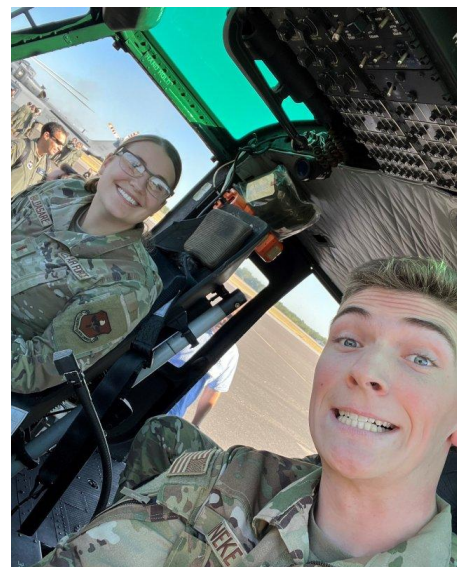
PHOTOS



*This has been making the rounds on the Internet lately: Kelvin-Helmholtz clouds in the Big Horn Mountains. 12/6/22. Photo by Rachel Gordon.
K-H clouds indicate severe turbulence*



Doug Houston took this shot of Mark Palmer in 182, 11-20-2022



BFSS pilot 2nd Lt. Jacob Beineke and his fiancé Julia Baldasare check out a UH-1 Huey. In the background is a new MH-139 Gray Wolf. Jacob and Julia are awaiting helicopter flight school slots later in 2023. And they're getting married!



Stan Bissell caught this photo of towpilot Kyle Kendall with his magnometer-equipped Cessna 206. Kyle is building time flying the grid for an oil company.