

# Airworthy

The Official Journal of the Black Forest Soaring Society

24566 David C. Johnson Loop  
Elbert, CO 80106



Volume 32 Number 3

March 2020

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](#)

## FROM THE EDITOR

So much to talk about this month and so little time to put it all together! Early February we had our Winter Party. It was well attended and we had a number of award winners. See the article below.

Then it was off to Little Rock for the SSA Convention. Alice and I went out a couple of days early for the Soaring Safety Foundation's Flight Instructor Revalidation Course, held just before the Convention itself. We also took a day to investigate Little Rock, which turns out to be a pretty nice town. Lots of museums and places of historical interest.

The Convention had a number of good seminars, and there were lots of cool ships on display. More on the convention later in this issue.

As the weather warms up in March, we should be seeing the club ships returning home and coming back online, just in time for the beginning of soaring season. I'm going to be down for maintenance for a bit with another knee replacement, but that gives Alice plenty of time to get some time in our DG-300, Foxy. See you out there!

Mark Palmer, Editor



*Alice, Bif, Mark, Jeff, Dave, Brenell, and Raul in front of H7 at the SSA 2020 Convention.*

*Photo by Garret Willat.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Bif Huss

I'm writing this from the road on the way to the first U.S. soaring competition of the season, the Seniors Soaring Championship. The "Seniors" is held annually at the Seminole Lake Gliderport in Groveland, Florida. It's one of the most popular and competitive gliding competitions in the country, usually drawing over 60 pilots, many of whom are former National Champions. It's a long drive, but the soaring conditions, racing, and camaraderie amongst the pilots and crews makes the drive well worth it. I'm really looking forward to putting some time on my new Ventus and seeing how it competes against other racing sailplanes. If you have the time, I highly recommend attending.

On the way to the Seniors, Ceil and I had the chance to stop off at the SSA Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas. The SSA Convention is held every other year and is a great place to get caught up on all the latest developments in the soaring world. BFSS had a great turnout with **Ceil and me**, the **Palmers**, **Boerners**, **Dave Rolley**, and **Jeff Maki** all showing up.

At the Convention, I had the chance to talk in person with the folks from Williams Soaring about the status of our ASK-21. They are still awaiting parts from the manufacturer in Germany. As soon as the parts arrive, they should be able to quickly wrap up the ASK's inspection and get it back to us. That's the great thing about the Convention: you can visit with people in person instead of through email or messages, a nice change. If you have a chance to attend an SSA Convention in the future, it's a fantastic event.



*The 1-26 Association always has a nice ship on display. Here's Kristin Farry's 1-26D.*

The Colorado soaring season is just around the corner. There are a number of events planned to get ready for flying season. On April 4th, we will be holding a first time ever "Member Day." This will be a no flying day. All members should plan to attend. **Chris Dunmall** has volunteered to be the point man for the day's events. This will be a day to meet with your fellow committee members and get the club ready for summer operations.

As per the BFSS Bylaws, every member needs to participate on a club committee. Currently, **Ed Anderson** is taking member preferences for committee assignments. If you haven't signed up for a committee, please do so before April 4th. Members not volunteering for a committee will be assigned one (I hear there are lots of openings for the weed-pulling team of the Building and Grounds Committee!). We will also use April 4th to conduct some training and will top the day off with a BBQ, so it should be a fun day.

Another issue that needs to be discussed is pilot currency. Remember, every licensed active pilot needs to have completed a Flight Review within the last two years to fly at BFSS. Furthermore, the Flight Review needs to be submitted to **John Mann** so he can enter it into the club's database. Additionally, every flying member has to pass the Annual KAP course rules test. The 2020 test is online now.

Finally, "A Rate" membership funds are due at the end of February. If you plan on exercising "A" membership rates this season, please make sure that you get your funds into **Carrie** by the end of February.

Hope to see you again soon at cloudbase!

Bif Huss  
President, BFSS

## CALENDAR

### Board of Directors Meetings

**March 10, 2020 6:30 – 8:45**

Castle Rock Library

100 S. Wilcox St.

Castle Rock, CO

<https://www.dcl.org/castle-rock/>

**April 14, 2020 6:30 – 8:45**

Castle Rock Library

100 S. Wilcox St.

Castle Rock, CO

<https://www.dcl.org/castle-rock/>

**Upcoming Cross Country Seminars  
by Dave Rolley**

**Session 4: February 29**  
Portable Gliding Computers

**Session 5: March 14**  
Speed To Fly

**Session 6: March 28**  
Collision Avoidance Technology

**Session 7: April 11**  
Model-Based Weather Forecasting

**Spring Club Maintenance Day and Barbeque  
April 4, 2020  
NO FLYING DAY**

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

**1-26 Championships and Low Performance  
Contest  
June 16-25, 2020  
Sunflower Soaring, Hutchinson, KS**

**Women's Soaring Pilots Association Seminar  
August 24-28, 2020  
Springfield, Vermont**

**Downhill Dash  
Summer, 2020**

**FLEET UPDATE**

**ASK-21** – At Williams for refurbishment;  
awaiting parts from factory

**2-33** – See Alice's report below.

**AC-4C Russia** – Currently down for axle  
replacement; higher gross weight limit letter  
received from Aviastroitel

**PW-5** – Nothing to report

**Blanik L-23** – Awaiting parts

**Pawnee** – Nothing to report

**FRIENDLY REMINDER**  
The winter snow and mud season is here. Please, under any circumstances, **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.

**OPS DUTY CALENDAR**

Here is the Ops Duty schedule for March and early April 2020:

Culbertson, Rick	02/29/2020
Hannon, Donald	03/01/2020
Hatch, John	03/07/2020
Houston, Doug	03/08/2020
Kinder, Julie	03/14/2020
Kinder, Becky	03/15/2020
<b>OPEN</b>	03/21/2020
Kolk, Brandon	03/22/2020
Le Fevre, Russell	03/28/2020
Leonard, David	03/29/2020
Luke, Alan	04/04/2020
Maki, Jeff	04/05/2020

Every flying member who does not have other duties in the club, such as instructor or towpilot, is on the schedule for line duty. If you are either a pre-solo student or have never performed this duty, Joshua has paired 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.

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. Be sure to go to the calendar page on the website and put yourself down for the day you're assigned.

If you see **OPEN** 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.

## WARNING! DON'T BE ON THE NO-FLY LIST!

It's that time of year again. Club rules mandate that all active members take the KAP/BFSS Ops Knowledge test every year. Failure to do so will result in you being placed on the no-fly/no-tow list. The test is on the club website, in the Members Only area. Take it now, take it today!

You must score 100% on the test to pass. The test is auto-scored and you'll receive results immediately. If you scored less than 100% on the first try, retake the test to achieve 100%.

Remember: If you don't take the test, you don't get to fly.

## THANK YOU!

**Frank DeBacker** – For cleaning out the club refrigerator

**Ceil Huff** – For trudging through the snow to supervise the fuel delivery

**John Gillis** – For plowing and weather updates

**Raul Boerner** – For Winter Party planning—a big job!

**Julie Kinder** – For funds collecting for the Winter Party

**Becky, Julie, and Mike Kinder** – For coming early to arrange all the seating at the Winter Party

**Terri Gerner** – For saving the slideshow at the Winter Party by bringing the right video connector

**Mike Kinder** – For technical help on the slideshow at the Winter Party

**Dave Rolley** – For research on the Russia axle

**Vitaliy Aksyonov** – For working with Aviastroitel in Moscow on the Russia W&B issue

## WINTER PARTY by Mark Palmer

The BFSS Winter Party was held on February 8<sup>th</sup> at the 105 Social Club in Monument. It was our third year there, and they didn't disappoint. There was a great turnout, and fortunately we didn't have to fight nasty weather as in previous years. Great food and great company.

I put together a slideshow of the year's events that ran through the evening. A special note of thanks goes to **Terri Gerner** for having the right kind of video connector to the big monitor!

**Alice Palmer** hosted the awards presentation (see below) and **Raul Boerner** organized the evening's word game entertainment. Thank you to all who helped put this together!



*Beth Snyder, Quay Snyder, Val Dean, Jenn Kolk, Brandon Kolk and Craig Brown*



*Patrick Mendonca, Vitaliy Aksyonov, and Donald Hannon*



*Andy Gerner, Terri Gerner, Chris Dunmall,  
Sharon Dunmall, Liz Stark, Jon Stark,  
and Julie Leonard*



### **BFSS Awards 2019 by Alice Palmer**

One of the most enjoyable parts of the Winter Party is having the opportunity to recognize some of our club members for their volunteerism and achievements. The club has had perpetual awards for this purpose since its early years. If you want to find out more details about each of the different awards, check out the article that describes them in the [February, 2019, issue of Airworthy](#).

### **Junior Member of the Year**

This year we celebrate the Eagle Scout project achievement by **Henry Paluch**, our **Junior Member of the Year**. As you know, Henry designed and led the team that built the wonderful raised walkway that leads from the clubhouse to Hangar 1. Not only does this benefit the club, it makes it safer and easier for our Craig Hospital visitors to get around. Thank you Henry!



*Henry Paluch*

### **Volunteer of the Year**

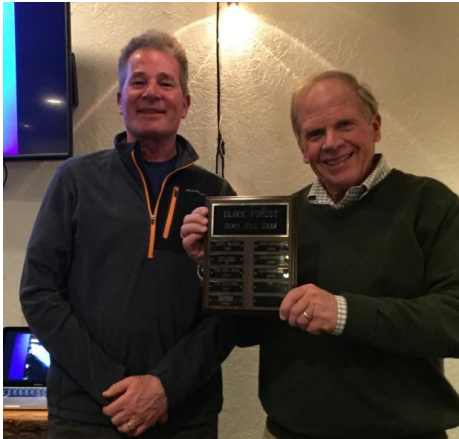
In a volunteer-run club, all members must contribute their time to ensure our success as an organization. Some members stand out as those who are always ready step in to fill a need. This year, our **Volunteer of the Year** is **John Gillis**. From towing, to flying commercial rides, to plowing snow, grading dirt, writing articles for *Airworthy*, and keeping us informed with his PIREPS from Ice Station Kelly, John has been there every step of the way in 2019. Thank you, John. We could not have made it through the year without you!



*John Gillis*

### Downhill Dash

This was the year we resurrected the Downhill Dash, and it's safe to say that everyone who participated had a great time. This year's winner was **Bill Gerblich**, who landed at Flagler. Congratulations Bill, and also to his crew, **Jeff Sherrard**!



*Bill Gerblich, with presenter Mark Palmer*

We also caught up on the engraving for a few past years, including winners **Quay Snyder** and **Rick Ranson** (2004) and **Dave Leonard** (2006 and 2007). Congratulations all!

### Steve Willey Student of the Year

The Student of the Year is selected by the instructor staff. **Chief CFI Raul Boerner** polls the instructors, who give their recommendation for the student who best exemplifies the spirit of learning and volunteerism, along with their achievements as a pilot. This year's **Student of the Year** is **Becky Kinder**. Congratulations Becky!



*Becky Kinder*

### Robert Knapp Service Award

The Robert Knapp Service Award is given to a member who contributes extensive service to the club over a period of years. This year we recognize the many contributions of **Dave Rolley**, who has dedicated significant time and effort to facilities projects, fleet maintenance, has served multiple terms on the Board of Directors and committees, and over the last two years, has presented his excellent cross country lecture series. Thank you for your many years of dedication and service to BFSS, Dave!



*Dave Rolley*

### Soaring Free Award

The Soaring Free Award is given to a club member with significant cross country achievement during the year. This year the award goes to **Steve Johnson** for his First Place in the 2019 BFSS OLC competition in the Pilots with Less Than Gold Distance category. In 13 OLC flights, Steve flew for over 31 hours, with an average OLC speed of 45.75 Km/hour, earning 1951.13 points.

The Soaring Free Trophy is a traveling trophy that the winner takes home for the year. Since Steve's second home was the newly named

**Steve Johnson Clubhouse**, the Soaring Free will be displayed in our glass case there, along with his picture, during 2020.



*Steve Johnson, Soaring Free*

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Dylan Brown** – New Cadet Commander of CAP Valkyrie Squadron. Congratulations Dylan!



*Our own Dylan Brown (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) is honored as a new CAP Cadet Commander. Change of command ceremony at Wings Over the Rockies Museum. Photo by Craig Brown.*

**Alice and Mark Palmer** – New FAASTeam Representatives

**Alice Palmer** – Awarded by the SSA at the Little Rock Convention as Most Active SSA Instructor for the A,B,C, & Bronze Badge Program in Region 9, and First Place overall in America



*Alice says:* The SSA Badge program in our club would not be a success without the help and support of all of our instructors, and for the hard work of our members who earn badges each year. Thanks to all of you!

## STEVE JOHNSON YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

At the January BOD meeting it was voted to create the **Steve Johnson Youth Scholarship** fund. The scholarship will be awarded to young club pilots in recognition of outstanding club volunteerism. The scholarship can be used to pay for tows and flight time for the awardees. Donations to the fund are tax deductible and can be made via the flight sheets or check. Donations of \$100 or more to the scholarship fund will enable members to schedule a cross country soaring lesson with **Bif Huss** in the Duo Discus. Bif has volunteered to oversee the fund so contact him for details.

## A NOTE FROM RANDY ROTHE

**Randy Rothe** here. I just wanted to drop you all a note to say that 2BA, the Blanik L-13AC you are borrowing, is NOT my glider. It belongs to Soaring Eagle Foundation ([www.soaringeaglefoundationusa.org](http://www.soaringeaglefoundationusa.org)). We are

a 501c3 organization formed to teach wounded warriors to fly gliders.

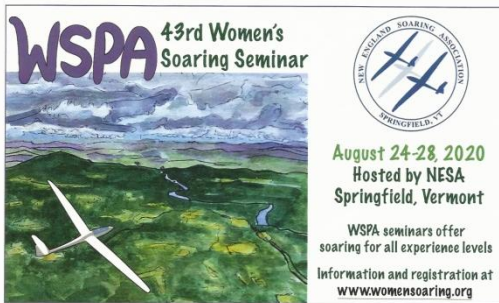
We are starting a glider ground school on 20 February at the Embassy Suites in north Colorado Springs for wounded warriors. You are welcome to attend. It will be for 10 Thursday evenings from 6-8 pm. Just shoot me an email if you'd like to attend. *(Contact Mark Palmer if you're interested and need Randy's email.)*

The funds we get from lending you the glider will help pay for insurance and maintenance of the L-13. Any donations you would like to contribute in addition will directly go to Wounded Warrior flying. We're glad you are using our glider. It's a great machine!

Randy Rothe  
President, Soaring Eagle Foundation

**FRIENDLY REMINDER:  
STOP BEFORE THE DROP!**

During the landing roll, assure that the glider's wing does not scrape across the rocks on the runway edges. Before the wing drops, apply the wheel brakes, but not so hard that you put the ship on its nose! "Stop before the drop!"



## MORE AIRFIELDS

After our Adventures on the Eastern Plains from last month, Chief CFI **Raul Boerner** provided us with a couple of pictures taken from the air. He took these last summer while flying with **Rick Haehnel** in Rick's two-seat LSA.



*Schantz*

Chaparral is a strip that we tried to find last fall but couldn't, at least from the ground. Raul's photos show that it is there after all.



*Chaparral*

And here's a new strip that **Chris Dunmall** came across. It's about one mile west of the Highway 83 and Greenland Road, so it's not too far away. Chris stopped and knocked on the owner's door but no one was home.



*Greenland Strip*



## N65840 TANKER 2-33 REFURB by Alice Palmer

February was another cold month that held up work on our tanker. We hope to have more progress to report in the coming months as things start to warm up enough to tackle work on the wings and to finish up the painting.

## SSA CONVENTION LITTLE ROCK by Mark Palmer

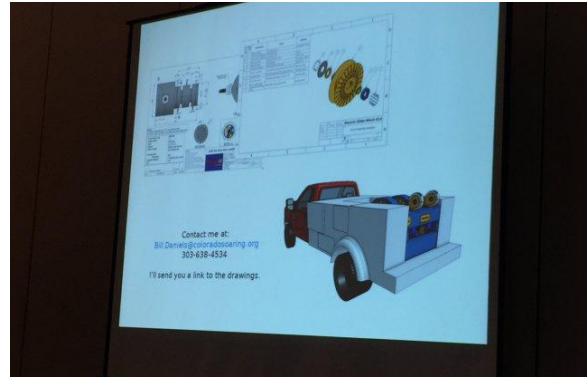
The SSA Convention at Little Rock was fun and informative, as most conventions are. Little Rock is a fun town it turns out, with plenty of places to visit and great places to eat. It has a lot of history, both old and new.

As has become the usual standard the last few conventions, the show floor was dominated by motorgliders. In fact, the only pure sailplanes on the floor were an SH-1 Austria and a 1-26D. Our Pres, **Bif Huss**, displayed his Ventus 3M. (Given the number of people pushing and prodding and jumping in and out of H7, I'm sure Bif was a bit nervous.)



*Dave Rolley had to be restrained from buying one of these.*

The seminars were varied and interesting. Just a few we visited were "Electric Winch Update," "Dehydration without Thirst," "Reading the Sky," and "How to talk to ATC." **Tony Condon** of Kansas Soaring Association had a nice presentation on improvements at Sunflower, near Hutchinson in Kansas.

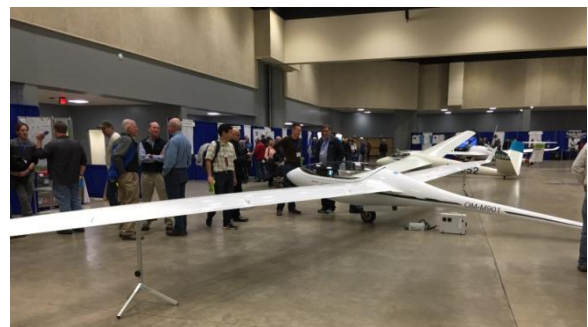


*Bill Daniels gave a presentation on the progress of the electric winch concept.*

Most of the big manufacturers were well represented, as well as Wings and Wheels and Cumulus Soaring. The Skylaunch folks from England were there but did not bring one of their massive multi-drum winches. The highlight though was the banquet on Saturday night. The guests of honor were the Women's World Gliding Championship pilots, **Kathy Fosha**, **Sylvia Grandstaff**, and of course, Gold winner **Sarah Arnold**. They gave a fantastic presentation and were treated with several standing ovations.



*A big banquet crowd*



*Raul Boener should have one of these by summer.*



*Alice snatched the checkbook from Mark's hands before he could put down a deposit on the Silent 2.*

**FOR SALE: ASW-27b**

Competition and XC ready. 2002 ASW-27B for sale, 830 hour TT. Very pleasant handling high-performance 15m ship. Glider is located at Kelly Airpark. If interested please contact **Nikola Gradinski**.



**SHIPS FOR SALE**

**FOR SALE: Lak 17 AT**

SN 163, 1070 hours, sustainer motor, excellent condition \$70,000. Contact **Clay Thomas**.



**FOR SALE: Ventus bT**

Contact **Dave Rolley**, 303-809-2785



**PHOTOS**



*Thunderstorm near McLean, TX, February 23, 2020*



*Condor Racing: Bill Gerblich sets up to land at Lesce-Bled, Slovakia, after a Condor task, with Raul Boerner right behind. Screenshot by Mark Palmer.*