

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

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Kelly AWOS Cam: [Weather Cams](#)

FROM THE EDITOR

Well, February is done. The winter doldrums continued, with snow and cold temperatures all of February, and some especially brutal temperatures mid-month. We did very little flying in February, which is frustrating for all of us. But the long-term forecast is trending up, so we all should be planning to get out to the club and get some flying in soon. As fun as Condor can be, I need some real-life stick time!

Mark Palmer, Editor



BFSS alumni Tom Serkowski finishing a flight at Inyokern, CA, June 2, 2019. From a video by Karen Serkowski and Britton Bluedorn.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Bif Huss

It's still cold outside and there's snow on the ground, but the days are definitely getting longer. That means it's just a matter of time before we see the beginnings of cumulus building over Kelly and the start of the 2021 season. Some of us have been having a lot fun flying Condor during these winter days. It will be great to soon be able to fly for real.

As for me, as I write this, I am on my way to Seminole Lake Gliderport in Florida to fly in the Seniors contest. The "Seniors" is the first U.S. soaring contest of the season. To be a contestant, you have to be at least 55 years old.

Even though it's a bunch of old guys having fun soaring in the March Florida sun, the Seniors is one of the most competitive contests in the country, attracting numerous former and current national champions as well as novices. It's one of the few contests that consistently has a waiting list. What makes it unique is that all 60 pilots compete against each other by flying the same task. Most other contests are broken up into separate classes, so it's rare to get more than 30 gliders together in the same race. Not so at the Seniors. If you have the time and want to get an early start on the soaring season, I highly encourage you to journey to Florida and give the Seniors a try.

Early February saw the Building and Grounds Committee, headed up by **Becky Kinder**, hold a very successful cleanup day. Thanks to a great turnout, the clubhouse and hangars look better than they have in years.

It's hard to believe that we are still dealing with Covid-19. Hopefully, as the vaccine becomes readily available, we will see the ability to get back to some semblance of normal operations as a club. When that day comes, we plan on having an all-club Committee Day to continue the work the Building and Grounds Committee started and to give the club's other committees a chance to get together and meet each other. Stay tuned.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate our first Steve Johnson Youth Scholarship recipients, **Julie Kinder** and **Patrick Mendonca**. In recognition of their outstanding volunteerism and enthusiastic desire to learn to fly gliders, both these deserving young people received \$500 to be used toward flight charges.

See you at cloudbase!
Bif "H7"



H7 leaves for the Seniors.

CALENDAR

Board of Directors Meetings

March 9, 2021 6:30 – 9:00

Via Zoom

April 13, 2021 6:30 – 9:00

Via Zoom

Senior Soaring Championship

March 13 – 19, 2021

Groveland, FL (*Go Bif!*)

20-Meter and Standard Class Championships

June 14 – 22, 2021

Montague, CA (*Go Team H7!*)

1-26 Championships and Low Performance Contest

June 24-July 1, 2021

Sunflower Soaring, Hutchinson, KS

Women's Soaring Pilots Association Seminar

August, 2021 (tentative)

Springfield, Vermont

Downhill Dash

Summer, 2021

FLEET UPDATE

ASK-21 – Nothing to report

2-33 – Getting even closer! See Alice's report below.

AC-4C Russia – Awaiting completion of gear door and belly work

PW-5 – Nothing to report

Blanik L-23 – Nothing to report

Pawnee – Nothing to report

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES

info@soarbfss.org is the main and only email contact address for club information inquiries. It is monitored on a daily basis. Thank you—

Brandon Kolk, Membership Director

OPS DUTY CALENDAR

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

Palmer, Alice	03/06/2021
Palmer, Mark	03/07/2021
Paluch, Zach	03/13/2021
Paluch, Henry	03/14/2021
Rolley, Dave	03/20/2021
Sherrard, Jeff	03/21/2021

Tomanek, Wojciech	03/27/2021
Urschel, Peter	03/28/2021.
OPEN	04/03/2021
Franz, Chappy	04/04/2021

(Note: Chappy is new and could use an experienced helper that day.)

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.

2021 KAP TEST

Chief CFI **Raul Boerner** is planning on releasing the updated 2021 KAP test in early March. Keep an eye out on your emails. The KAP test is mandatory for BFSS members. Plan on completing it soon after it is available. **Note:** You must retake the test as many times as necessary to achieve 100%.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Bill Gerblich – Flight Review completed

Pete Urschel – Flight Review completed

Julie Kinder and **Patrick Mendonca** – Steve Johnson Youth Scholarship recipients

THANK YOU!

Becky Kinder, Mike Kinder, Vitaliy Aksyonov, Alice Palmer, Mark Palmer, Gary Baker, Bill Gerblich, Wojciech Tomanek, Zygmunt "Ziggy" Tomanek, Andy Gerner, Terri Gerner, Bif Huss, John Gillis – For hard work during club Cleanup Day

John Gillis – For installing the Open Glider Network antenna and for making a run to the dump with the discards

Vitaliy Aksyonov – For hosting weekly Condor races

Brian Price – For hosting twice-weekly Proving Ground Condor sessions

Dave Rolley – For presenting his cross country seminar series (attended nationwide by SSA members) and for cross country tutoring during Proving Ground Condor sessions



Looking north from a Gerblich/Palmer flight on February 20. Despite what looked like convergence lines, no lift was found.



ROAD TRIP! AIRFIELDS #1 by Alice Palmer

During our Proving Ground Condor training and badge workshops, we've been talking about the local airfields that we can use for landing out if necessary. You can get a boost in confidence by actually driving out and looking at a field from the ground. So we're planning a field trip to go look at some of the fields to the east of Kelly. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Date: Saturday, March 13, starting at KAP (weather permitting)

Time: Arrive by 0845 and we'll depart KAP at 0900. Plan on an all-day trip.

Here's the tentative plan:

We'll head east through the town of Elbert to see where the high school is (one of our racetrack turnpoints). From there, head to **Flying G**, then on to **Stewart** and **Aero Bear** fields, then south to **Calhan Airport**. From there we'll head northeast along Highway 24 through Simla to look over **Flying Cloud** field, and continue on to **Limon Airport**. We'll catch a quick lunch at Limon, then head back west along Highway 86 to **Schantz** field. If there is time, we'll look at a few fields near Elizabeth, but we want to end up driving by **DBarD**, which is another turnpoint on the racetrack.



If this sounds like fun, email me (aliceandmark669@earthlink.net) and I'll add you to the growing list of participants. We should have enough vehicles to carpool for anyone who wants to.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

The winter/spring mud 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.

BFSS STEVE JOHNSON YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS

I would like to announce that the first annual BFSS Steve Johnson Youth Scholarships have been awarded to **Julie Kinder** and **Patrick Mendonca**. These \$500 scholarships are in recognition of Julie's and Patrick's outstanding volunteerism and their enthusiastic pursuit of learning the art of soaring.

Please join me in congratulating our deserving awardees!

Bif Huss
President, BFSS



Julie Kinder

Patrick Mendonca

CLUB CLEANUP DAY by Becky Kinder

The Steve Johnson Clubhouse got some much needed attention during the 2021 Cleanup Day as 13 dedicated, kind souls compared notes, tossed trash, and uncovered long unseen surfaces!

Alice and Mark Palmer came early and stayed long, fielding rapid-fire questions that all

seemed to boil down to, "What is this?" or "Should we keep...?" Somehow they still managed to clean and sort most of the stuff in the battery room in the process.

Andy and Terri Gerner brought their own vacuum and used it enthusiastically for hours, but only after cleaning all the light fixtures out first.



*Andy cleans fixtures.
Photo by Becky Kinder*



*Before and after.
Now how many decades of bugs is that?
Photos by Terri Gerner*

Wojciech Tomanek came and brought the added bonus of his charming father, "**Ziggy**," a former CFG who flew years ago in Poland. It was easy to see where Wojciech learned his excellent work ethic and kind ways. The walls and windows look great!

Vitaliy Aksyonov moved file cabinets and cleaned energetically while keeping his smile.

Bif Huss, Gary Baker, John Gillis, and **Bill Gerblich** cleared Hangar 1 of junk! Thanks to their efforts, John Gillis was able to haul away a full trailer load!



*Bill and Gary clean out stuff.
Photo by Becky Kinder*

Mike Kinder cleaned out closets until noon, when he donned the chef's cap and handled lunch. Then he resumed work, mostly hanging pictures along with Gary Baker and Wojciech Tomanek.

- The medical oxygen is now in the center closet of the computer room.
- The vacuum cleaners are in the hall closet. (Grounds crew: Don't be shy!)
- The rolling mop pail is in the closet in Raul's classroom.
- There is a useable desk in the battery room!
- The barograph area is recognizable!
- There are tie downs in a bucket under the battery counter near the entrance to the battery room.

Together we counted, organized, cleared, and planned. I learned that we don't need the barograph chimney to smoke a barograph. Those present learned that the wire plane hanging in the entry room was made by **Quay Snyder** for a class at the AFA as a senior and donated to the BFSS after he got the grade for it. Additional projects were quantified and will be distributed to our excellent grounds

crew in the near future. A good day was had by all.



*Mark, Vitaliy, and Alice clean out more stuff.
Photo by Becky Kinder*

PROVING GROUND UPDATE by Brian Price

Dave Rolley continues to lead cross country training sessions in Condor each Monday and Thursday evening, and participation has been great. We have “flown” Proving Ground courses, a Silver Distance flight to Limon, and flights into the mountains. It has been fun, unpressured, and very helpful to practice route-finding, weather-reading, gagging, and risk assessment.

We will continue for several weeks, while we await spring! Thanks to Dave, and to our participants (sometimes as many as 11 in one session): **Becky Kinder, Joe Bankoff** (from Georgia), **Donald Hannon, Brandon Kolk, Joshua Abbe, Frank DeBacker, Jeff Maki, Brian Price, Vitaliy Aksyonov, Raul Boerner, Scott Dimick, Bill Gerblich, and Alice Palmer.** Thanks to all for participating, and special thanks to Vitaliy for helping with the set-up of Condor and TeamSpeak servers.



2021 SPRING TRAINING SEMINARS by Dave Rolley

The XC series of seminars is continuing and will be held at 7 PM every other Friday through May 21st. The sessions are online. Look for your WINGS notices for more info.

The sessions will be 1 to 3 hours in duration. Most sessions should be about 2 hours.

Our FAAST Team members (**Quay Snyder, Alice Palmer, and Mark Palmer**) are working to get these seminars approved for FAA WINGS credit. The tentative schedule is as follows. **Quay’s presentation has been placed last as a placeholder.** As his schedule firms up for the next few months we will adjust to meet his needs. His presentation may need to be given on a Saturday.

The remaining schedule is below.

Session 4: March 12, Speed to Fly

- Presenter: Dave Rolley
- Description: Modern approach for Speed to Fly

Session 5: March 26, Collision Avoidance Technology

- Presenter: Dave Rolley
- Description: Transponders and FLARM, types of units, usage, what they can, and what they cannot do.

Session 6: April 9, Model based weather forecasting:

- Presenter: Dave Rolley
- Description: Examples using the Front Range RASP tool

Session 7: April 23, Flight Tracking

- Presenter: Dave Rolley
- Description: Satellite based (SPOT, InReach), Smart Phone based (GlideTrack), FLARM based

Session 8: May 7, Online Soaring Contest

- Presenter: Dave Rolley
- Description: It's all for fun but if it isn't on the OLC it didn't happen.

Session 9: May 21, Physiological Considerations for Soaring Pilots (**tentative date only**)

- Presenter: Dr. Quay Snyder
- Topic: Physiological considerations for safety and optimum performance in soaring operations
- Description: For all sailplane pilots looking to begin XC soaring or improve their knowledge and skill. Dr. Quay Snyder, CFI, will discuss hydration, nutrition, elimination, oxygenation, thermal regulation and vision issues for sailplane pilots planning long distance XC flights.

SSB GROUND SCHOOL SERIES by Mark Palmer

The Soaring Society of Boulder is continuing to hold ground school talks over the next few months. The talks are held on Zoom every Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM Mountain Time through April 27. All BFSS pilots are invited.

Armand Charbonneau is the contact for this, and every Sunday he will send me an email with the Zoom link. I will then forward the link to the membership. There are a number of interesting topics and many are hosted by well-known local soaring pilots. If you have any questions, please contact me. Below is the list of the remaining topics. Sessions are recorded so you can watch later if you miss the live session.

SSB Ground School Schedule:

Mar 2: Cross Country – Bob Caldwell

Mar 9: OLC and Speed Weekends – Bob Faris

Mar 16: Tow Plane Maintenance – Gary Steube

Mar 23: Landout Database – Open forum including all Colorado cross-country pilots

Mar 30: FLARM, ADS-B, and Collision Avoidance – Bill Kaewert

Apr 6: Launch to Soar: How to Get Up and Connect with the Good Lift on Typical Boulder Convergence Days – Clemens Ceipek

Apr 13: Electronic Technology for Gliders or TBD – Allistair Moses

Apr 20: To be Announced

Apr 27: To be Announced

BIF'S WAVE FLIGHT by Bif Huss

Today (January 29), I definitely had a "bucket list" flight. On Monday, SkySight forecast the high potential for the wave to set up on Friday. I've been watching Skysight's wave forecasts for awhile, but what made this forecast especially interesting was the proximity of the wave to Kelly Airpark. By Friday morning, the forecast was still holding and I decided to try and see if the famous Black Forest Wave would really set up and be accessible from Kelly.

We had a pretty good crosswind, 230@ 17 with gusts to 23 kts, but John Gillis did a fantastic job of running my wing and I was able to self launch with no problem. I almost immediately encountered lift after takeoff, but wanted to climb to the west until I was certain I'd found it. I was using SkySight's cockpit display of the forecasted wave/convergence line on my onboard LX 9070 computer (see below).



The forecast proved to be right on. About half way to Perry Park I started to encounter very smooth 1 to 2 kt lift. I secured my engine and didn't turn again until 2 hours later when I came in for a landing. The lift was super smooth, mostly 1 to 2 kts, but increased to 5 to 7 kts in spots. The sky was blue, but there were indications of lenticular clouds high and to the east.

I remembered to don my O2 this time, which was fortunate since I reached 18,000 feet several times and could have gone much higher as the lift got quite strong at the higher altitudes. The wave ran unbroken from north of Perry Park to just south of Pikes Peak. I was expecting to encounter huge sink at some point or strong turbulence, but neither materialized. Winds were 250 @ 60 kts at altitude. At one point, my ground speed was 18 kts!

I can see why the Black Forest Wave was world renowned back in the day. It's still here and I think it is accessible by club gliders from Kelly, maybe more often than we realize!



Bif in the wave, January 2021

NEIL ARMSTRONG DIAMOND BADGE by Becky Kinder

The Purdue University Archives and Special Collections has granted BFSS a limited license to display authorized reproductions of **Neil Armstrong's** Diamond Altitude Badge confirmation letter and the accompanying barogram! These will go up next to our picture of Neil Armstrong taken at the old Black Forest Gliderport. Neil made his Diamond climb there on December 29th, 1965.



Neil's Diamond Flight. On the left is "Big John" Brittingham. Center pilot unknown.

N65840 TANKER 2-33 REFURB by Alice Palmer

After delays with very cold weather this month, we were finally able to get the wiring completed. **Gary Baker** and **Mark Palmer** helped me install the rear microphone, and **Dave Rolley** and **Doug Curry** combined forces to get all the rest of the circuits and connectors completed.



Dave and Gary work on the instrument panel electrical connections.

After completing the wiring behind the rear panel, Doug installed the rear seat panels and top window.



Doug installs the top window.



New rear speaker and the connector for the battery charger (charging cord hooked up in photo).

The electrical system tested OK, although there is a bit of a hum in the radio that needs further investigation when the ship is outside the hangar. There may be a few other adjustments needed, but things work!

We now have a new speaker in the rear for us old-fogey-instructor types who can't hear, and we have push-to-talk switches and panel-mounted/rear-seat mounted microphones.

Thanks go to **John Gillis** who has wrestled with trying to powder coat, then strip, and then paint the second wingtip wheel spring. Who knew this could be such a challenge just to get white color on the thing!

Mark has taken on the task of rescuing the little "840" training aid and fixing it. This little glider has been a training aid used by the Black Forest flight school for probably as long as 840 has been with us, more than 45 years. We do not know for sure who made it (although, our friend and Black Forest instructor from the old days, **Stan McGrew** is a likely possibility). We are looking forward to its refurbishment and use in the training program!



The tail-less 840 training aid



Mark works on a new horizontal stabilizer and rudder for the little bird.

We are getting closer! Thanks for the work this month, guys:

Doug Curry
Dave Rolley
Gary Baker
Mark Palmer
John Gillis

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 KAP. If interested, contact [Gerald Peaslee](#).



HANS WERNER GROSSE FLIES WEST

Hans Werner Grosse, pioneering German glider pilot, passed away February 18, 2021. He was 98.

Grosse burst on the soaring scene on April 25, 1972, when he set a World Distance record of 1460.8 kilometers (907.7 miles) from his start point in Lübeck, Germany to Biarritz, France, in an ASW-12. During his soaring career, Grosse held over 50 FAI world records.

Good Finish, Hotel Whiskey.



*Hans Werner Grosse in 2010.
Photo by Sergio di Fusco*

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 brake, but not so hard that you put the ship on its nose!
"Stop before the drop!"

PHOTOS



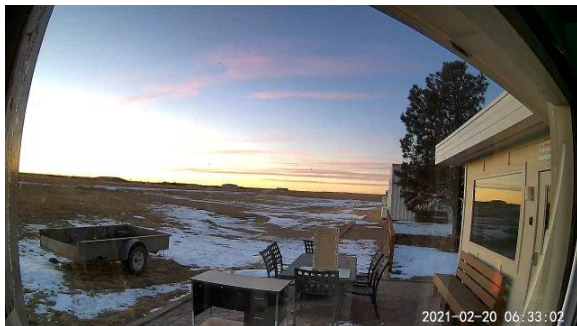
Our Northern Correspondent, Mike Cavanagh, took this picture of lennies over the Wind River Range on February 25th.



John Gillis installs the new antenna for the Open Glider Network (OGN), while Kip McClain supervises



John Gillis took this picture of lenticulars over Mt. Terror in Antarctica last year.



Nice sunrise

Weather observations for the past three days
Elbert Mountain - Monument Pass

Enter Your "City, ST" or zip code Go

Date	Time (mst)	Wind (mph)	Vis. (mi.)	Weather	Sky Cond.	Temperature (°F)			Relative Humidity	Wind Chill (°F)	Heat Index (°F)	Pressure (in)
						Air	Dwpt	6 hour Max. Min.				
15	07:55	SW 6	10.00	Fair	CLR	5	-4		66%	-6	NA	29.77
15	07:35	SW 3	10.00	Mostly Cloudy	BKN080	5	-4		66%	NA	NA	29.75
15	07:15	SW 5	10.00	Overcast	OVC090	3	-6		66%	-7	NA	29.75
15	06:55	SW 6	10.00	Overcast	BKN100 OVC120	-0	-8		71%	-12	NA	29.75
15	06:35	S 6	10.00	Mostly Cloudy	BKN120	-0	-8		71%	-12	NA	29.75
15	06:15	Calm	10.00	Partly Cloudy	SCT120	-0	-8		71%	NA	NA	29.74
15	05:55	Calm	10.00	Partly Cloudy	SCT110	-4	-9		77%	NA	NA	29.75
15	05:35	SW 3	10.00	Partly Cloudy	SCT110	-4	-9		77%	NA	NA	29.75
15	05:15	SW 6	10.00	Fair	CLR	-6	-13		70%	-19	NA	29.75
15	04:55	SW 7	10.00	Fair	CLR	-4	-11		71%	-18	NA	29.75
15	04:35	SW 8	10.00	Fair	CLR	-6	-13		70%	-21	NA	29.76
15	04:15	S 8	10.00	Fair	CLR	-9	-17		70%	-25	NA	29.75
15	03:55	SW 6	10.00	Fair	CLR	-8	-15		70%	-21	NA	29.77
15	03:35	SW 6	10.00	Fair	CLR	-11	-17		76%	-25	NA	29.77
15	03:15	S 7	10.00	Fair	CLR	-13	-18		76%	-29	NA	29.77
15	02:55	S 7	10.00	Fair	CLR	-13	-18		76%	-29	NA	29.78
15	02:35	S 7	10.00	Fair	CLR	-15	-20		76%	-31	NA	29.78
15	02:15	S 8	10.00	Fair	CLR	-17	-22		76%	-35	NA	29.79
15	01:55	S 8	10.00	Fair	CLR	-15	-22		69%	-32	NA	29.80
15	01:35	S 9	10.00	Fair	CLR	-17	-22		76%	-36	NA	29.81
15	01:15	S 7	10.00	Fair	CLR	-15	-22		69%	-31	NA	29.82
15	00:55	S 8	10.00	Fair	CLR	-17	-22		76%	-35	NA	29.83
15	00:35	S 8	10.00	Fair	CLR	-15	-22		69%	-32	NA	29.85
15	00:15	S 7	10.00	Fair	CLR	-15	-18		83%	-31	NA	29.85
14	23:55	S 7	10.00	Fair	CLR	-15	-20		76%	-31	NA	29.86
14	23:35	S 7	10.00	Fair	CLR	-15	-20		76%	-31	NA	29.87
14	23:15	S 5	10.00	Fair	CLR	-15	-20		76%	-28	NA	29.87
14	22:55	S 5	10.00	Fair	CLR	-15	-18		83%	-28	NA	29.86
									76%	-32	NA	29.87
									76%	-30	NA	29.88
									69%	-30	NA	29.88
									83%	-31	NA	29.88
									83%	-30	NA	29.87
									83%	-31	NA	29.87
									83%	-32	NA	29.87

Kelly Airpark AWOS for February 14-15 overnight. Lowest temperature, -17°F. Lowest wind chill, -36°F!