

Airworthy

The Official Journal of the Black Forest Soaring Society

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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

For a month that we didn't fly, February ended up being very busy away from the field. First was the well-attended Winter Party at Alpha Charlie's. **Alice** held a C Badge class the weekend after. Then a couple of weeks later, the SSA Convention in Reno.

Reno was a lot fun, with lots of interesting gliders, vendors, presentations, and new friends. The attendance was down since it coincided with a major winter storm that shut the Reno airport down for a day or so (sorry **John Gillis** and **Wojtek Tomanek**, we missed you!). Alice and I managed to get in and out between storms. See pictures below.

We've been shut down for months now, first with snow and cold and now mud. Fingers crossed that things will start to dry out and we can get back to flying soon.

By the time we get back in the air, most of us will be out of currency. Please keep that in mind as you return to flight. Instructors are available for First Flights in March (and some are willing to stretch that into April). Also, remember that your Kelly Airpark/BFSS Ops test requirement is due by the end of March!

Mark Palmer, Editor



John Wahl's retractable gear 1-26 at Reno

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Bif Huss

Winter has set its teeth into Kelly this year. We lost most of January and now all of February to swirling, drifting snow. The snow is starting melt now, but that has just resulted in turning Kelly into a muddy swamp. Flying season is just on the horizon though, and I'm confident March will see BFSS back in the business of actually flying gliders.

I'm just getting back from the SSA Convention in Reno. It was a great time to see all the latest gliders and equipment and to reconnect with old friends. We had a great turnout from BFSS members. If you've never been to one, I highly recommend attending.

One of the really cool new products is WeGlide. WeGlide (weglide.org) is the Online Contest, OLC, on steroids. WeGlide has become the

standard flight posting website in Europe. Used in conjunction with the OGN system that **John Gillis** has set up for us, members will be able to track, in real time, BFSS gliders and take advantage of numerous interesting features including a robust social media function. Check it out!

The long layoff has resulted in many pilots dropping out of currency. When we start flying again, please ensure that you are current; landings, flight review, updated medical, if needed, Kelly Airpark test, etc. The club highly recommends flying with a flight instructor for your First Flight of the year.

Our Region, Region 9, is hosting two Regional Contests this summer. El Tiro in Tucson, Arizona is hosting a contest in late May, and Hobbs, New Mexico is hosting one in mid-June. If you want to work on your cross-country skills at an event all set up for that, I highly recommend you throw your hat in the ring and register. You can find out more information about these events on the SSA website under "Racing."

Finally, there will be four open BFSS Board of Directors slots this spring. They will be filled at the April Membership Meeting. I highly encourage members who truly want to influence the direction of the club to run for the BOD.

See You at Cloudbase!
Bif

CALENDAR

Board of Directors Meetings

March 14, 2023 6:30 – 9:00
at the BFSS clubhouse

April 11, 2023 6:30 – 9:00
Via Zoom

Bronze Badge Workshop

March 11, 10:00 – 2:00 (approx.)
at the clubhouse (potluck!)

Senior Soaring Championships

March 11 – 17, 2023
Groveland, FL

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

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

June (?), 2023

BFSS Saturday Potluck Barbeque (after flying)

Will begin again in the spring

FLEET UPDATE

ASK-21 (77) – Dual radio heads being installed

2-33 (840) – Undergoing transponder installation

Blanik L-23 (9BA) – Making progress on repairs

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. New wiring installed, TOST reel to be installed soon. Fabric work and engine work yet to be completed.

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

Kinder, Mike	03/04/2023
LaFollette, Kevin/Lewis, Lewie	03/05/2023
Dunmall, Chris	03/11/2023
Maki, Jeff	03/12/2023
Palmer, Alice	03/17/2023
McClain, Kip	03/18/2023
Mead, Colin	03/19/2023
Boerner, Raul	03/24/2023
Nadein, Alex	03/25/2023
Palmer, Mark/Jordan, Nathan	03/26/2023
DeBacker, Frank	03/31/2023
Patrick, Bill	04/01/2023
Penkhus, Robert	04/02/2023

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. [This is especially true this spring, since many earlier "training" days have been missed due to weather.]**

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.

KAP/BFSS OPS TEST DUE!

Don't forget the annual Kelly Airpark/BFSS Operations test must be completed by all members by March 31st! You must complete the test to 100%, but you can take it multiple times to achieve that score. New members and students, please don't hesitate to reach out for instructor help. We want you to understand the procedures, not just achieve the desired score.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Deb Ings – A and B Badges awarded

Patrick Mendonca – Power plane solo

Joe Gerner – Second place, US Advanced Glider Aerobatics Competition (see article below)

THANK YOU!

Bill Gerblich, John Gillis, and Kelly Airpark Residents – For snow plowing

Deb Ings – For arranging and pulling off a great Winter Party, and for obtaining the tablecloth and banner with the BFSS logo



Deb Ings finally gets to relax as the Winter Party gets underway.

Mark and Alice Palmer – For compiling pictures for the slideshow for the Winter Party

John Gillis – For snow shoveling and plowing and the ongoing PIREPS that keep us informed

Alice Palmer – For conducting the C Badge class

Everyone – For cleaning up the clubhouse after the class

Brandon Kolk – For conducting online training webinars for students pursuing their Private Pilot certificates

Vitaliy Aksyonov – For setting up and running the weekly Condor Nights

Brian Price and Mark Palmer – For setting up and running the Thursday 1-26 Condor Nights

Doug Curry, John Gillis, Bif Huss, Dave Rolley, and Bill Gerblich – For work on club aircraft

Mark Palmer, David Crabb, Bill Gerblich, and John Gillis – For shoveling snow

Frank DeBacker – For repairs to the men's room plumbing

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Romey Wade

Jerome "Romey" Wade – We introduced Romey in the January issue, but didn't have a picture. We caught up with him at the Winter Party.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

The 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. Also, please be careful of the runway shoulders while the new grass is taking hold.

If you drive through MUD, please get out a rake and smooth over any ruts made by the golf carts and glider wheels. These will turn to concrete when things dry out, so please smooth them out when they are still damp.

C and BRONZE BADGE WORKSHOPS by Alice Palmer

We had a fun and well-attended C Badge Workshop on February 18. A dozen members reviewed basic cross country concepts. We all enjoyed a potluck lunch that gave us a good break in between sessions. WINGS credit was awarded to all those who attended. Thank you to **Gary Baker**, who gave an impromptu presentation on the care and feeding of parachutes, after the workshop.

Many of these pilots will also be attending the **Bronze Badge Workshop, planned for 10 AM on March 11 at the clubhouse**. It will be the same format, with classroom sessions for a couple of hours before our potluck lunch, and another session after with the goal of wrapping up by mid-afternoon. This is a hands-on workshop. Please bring a Denver Sectional if you have one (it does not have to be current). Also, a plotter can be helpful.

Everyone is welcome, even if you are not working on your Bronze Badge. For those who hope to fly club ships cross country, a Bronze Badge or higher is required. To sign up, please reach out to [Alice Palmer](#).

WINTER PARTY by Mark Palmer

We finally had our first Winter Party in three years! Saturday night, February 11th, a good number of club members met up at Alpha Charlie's, just off of Centennial Airport. We all had a great time socializing and it was wonderful to catch up/meet a number of significant others we don't often see. Many thanks to **Deb Ings**, who put the event together, along with making a club banner and club tablecloth!



Wojtek Tomanek and Doug Houston enjoy dinner. Brian Price and Jane Schmitz behind.

Chief CFI and Chief Awards Officer **Alice Palmer** presented some of the past year's awards, while a slideshow of the highlights of the last two years plus some BFSS historical photos, ran in the background. A great time, I think!



Donald Hannon, Vitaliy Aksyonov, Kip McClain



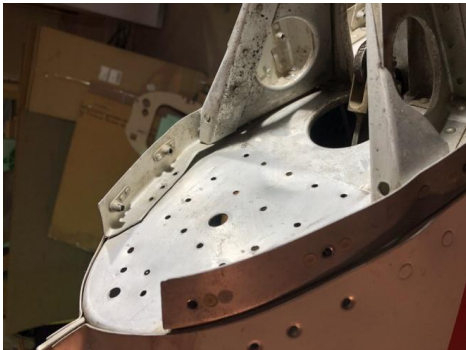
Mike Kinder, Nancy Patrick, Bill Patrick, Becky Kinder



Team Fox: Andy, Teri, Joe, and Andre Gerner

L-23 FIN SPAR REPAIR

Doug Curry has been working diligently on repairing the landing damage to the L-23. While the main gear repair is essentially done, Doug later found damage to the fin spar assembly. Obtaining parts has slowed down the process, but things are now proceeding at a faster pace. Below are a couple of pictures of the damage and repair work. A gentle reminder NOT to land tail first in the L-23!



L23 fin spar damage. Photo by Doug Curry



Fin repair work. Photo by Doug Curry

BFSS AWARDS 2022—Part 1 by Alice Palmer

As part of our Winter Party, we were able to give several awards. This is Part 1 because there were a couple of awards we are deferring to the Annual Meeting on April 15 because the recipients were not able to attend the party.

Volunteer of the Year

We are always so fortunate to have many members willing to contribute time to ensure that our all-volunteer club thrives. It's always difficult for the Board to decide who the award will go to each year. For 2022, we had two awardees. One of them was present at the party.

Mark Palmer has served the club in numerous capacities. You are reading this newsletter due to his dedication each month since late 2017 to keep our membership informed with *Airworthy*. He also serves as Safety Officer, and many of you have flown with Mark as instructor for Flight Reviews, recurrences, or checkouts. If someone doesn't show up for GOD duty, it is likely Mark who puts his own flying aside to help. Thank you, Mark for your ongoing support of our club!



*Mark Palmer, Volunteer of the Year
Photo by Wojtek Tomanek*

Steve Willey Student of the Year

The Student of the Year is awarded to the BFSS student who best exemplifies the spirit of learning and volunteerism, along with their achievements as a pilot.

This year the Student of the Year, as voted by the instructor staff, is **Wojtek Tomanek**. Wojtek has not only persevered in his flying goals, with several interruptions due to aircraft issues and the pandemic, but he has taken on volunteer duties to assist the club. Wojtek is Plane Captain for the 2-33, keeping an eye on things and communicating to the maintenance team to ensure timely work is done to keep it flying. He has also been seen caulking clubhouse windows and doing other work around the grounds, as well as putting in extra GOD duty when needed. Congratulations and thank you, Wojtek!



Wojtek Tomanek, Student of the Year

Soaring Free Award

The Soaring Free Award sculpture was the creation of glider pilot **Bob Barber**. This award is given to a club member with significant cross country achievement during the year. Some years it goes to newer XC pilots who notably expand their skills over one soaring season. Other years, it goes to our long-distance, experienced cross country pilots. The winner can take home the trophy for display during the following year.

This year's award goes to **Bif Huss** for his two long flights of 828K and 803K in 2022. Congratulations Bif!



Bif Huss, Soaring Free Award

Congratulations to all these BFSS members for your achievements, and we look forward to recognizing the last two awardees in April.



TEAM FOX AT THE 2023 ADVANCED & UNLIMITED GLIDER US AEROBATIC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Andy Gerner

Capt. Joe Gerner competed in this year's 2023 IAC Advanced & Unlimited Glider US Aerobatic National Championships, held in Maricopa, AZ, from 15-19 February 2023, during which he competed in the Advanced class among a field of twelve competitors.

The International Aerobatic Club (IAC) is the governing body for regional and national aerobatic competitions in the US, and uses its National Championships to select the official teams to represent the US at international aerobatic competitions in the Advanced & Unlimited classes, both in Power & Glider. For the second straight year, the IAC made a separate event of the Advanced & Unlimited Glider Aerobatic National Championships, detaching it from the IAC main event set to occur later this year in September.



Joe getting ready to fly his first flight of the competition (note the g-meter post-flight)

The Advanced Glider class consisted of three routines of seven to ten aerobatic figures each, flown consecutively within the confines of a one-kilometer cube set on a "hard" floor 650 feet above the ground (the Aerobatic Box). A

panel of six judges scored each figure in real-time on a ten-point scale, to produce an overall score based on the difficulty factor of each figure. The first of these routines was the Known program, officially released on 17 November 2022, within three months of the competition. The second and third routines were both Unknown programs; as such, they were kept under wraps and only given out to the competitors the evening before they had to fly them for the first time the very next day.

Practice was exceedingly hard to come by this year. Between Air Force operational commitments and Kelly Airpark being out of commission for most of the winter by unseasonably enduring snowfalls—the likes of which have not been seen in decades—Joe was lucky to squeeze in only 23 practice flights in as few as 8 training days (less than half of what he was able to pull off last year, which was by itself low).



When not flying, pilots were tasked with volunteer duties. Joe seen here serving as an Asst Judge/Recorder to Judge Yuichi Takagi for Primary, Sportsman, and Intermediate

Despite the minimal training regimen, Joe came out swinging in round one with a 1st place in the Known program. Subsequently, he placed 2nd in each of the remaining two Unknown programs, for a 2nd place overall. With less than 0.7% separating the top two contenders, it was a

fight to the finish. With such a strong performance, he handily qualified for the US World Advanced Glider Aerobatic Team, eligible to compete at the 13th FAI World Advanced Glider Aerobatic Championships (WAGAC) in Poland this coming July.

In a surprise twist at the Awards Ceremony, Joe was the sole recipient of a Star Award in Advanced Glider. Star Awards can only be earned in competition and require a score of 50% or better from five of the six judges in every figure of the contest. Typically, upwards of 30% of Power Aerobatic pilots receive Star Awards, but only about 4% of Glider Aerobatic pilots ever manage to do so (owing chiefly to the glider's much larger wingspans, which makes it easier for the judges to note additional imperfections in glider aerobatic figures, ergo glider figures tend to score lower). With this recognition, he joins an elite fraternity of, now, only 7 Advanced Glider Star Award Winners (as compared to 347 for Advanced Power).



Joe "drinking up" his podium finish along with fellow competitors Shad Coulson (1st) and Mallory Lynch (3rd)

Team Fox intends to continue its involvement in regional and national IAC competitions, and offer outreach opportunities in other competition classes to interested civilian and military aerobatic pilot aspirants. Team Fox is renewing discussions with the Metropolitan

State University of Denver (MSU Denver) Aerobatic Team to possibly train-up 2 to 4 of their Sportsman class Power Aerobatic pilots to also compete in the Primary or Sportsman Glider classes later this year in September at the 2023 Aerobatic National Championships in Salina, KS.

You can view the Championships on YouTube [here](#).

FALCON AEROLAB by Alice Palmer

Last month we reported that the youth STEM organization Falcon AeroLab was interested in partnering with BFSS for some glider training for young people. After several meetings and Board discussion on our club's current goals, the BFSS Board has decided not to pursue this partnership.

MORE SSA CONVENTION PICTURES



The Convention floor



Get used to this: A JS-3 RES. Expect Mr. Gillis to have his on the line this summer.



1938 Minimoa



Herding cats (2): Dave Rolley, Romey Wade, Colin Mead, Bif Huss, Gary Baker, Alice Palmer, Mark Palmer, Lee Kuhlke



Restored 1938 Robinson JR-V "Robin"

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](#).



Gary Baker and Mark Palmer checking out the underside of a Cobra trailer. Photo by Colin Mead



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



Herding cats (1): Trying to get the group together was a struggle. Mark and Alice Palmer, Gary Baker, Colin Mead, Dave Rolley, Jeff Maki



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](#).



PHOTOS



Jon Stark checks out the ice berms at Kelly.



*Going through old Black Forest Gliderport materials, in the May, 1979 SSA Calendar we found a picture of Dave Allen and his dad, A.K. Allen, getting ready for flight in the Janus that the two flew for many record flights. Line boy was Dennis Hawkins (we think)!
Photo by Mary C. Smothers*



While doing a fly-in visit to the Pueblo Weisbrod Museum with Kyle Kendall, Kip McClain caught up with an old friend—an F-15C Eagle that he used to work on while he was stationed at Bitburg Airbase, Germany. Tail number 79-0022 was the squadron flagship and this aircraft downed a Mig-23 during Desert Storm when it was deployed to Incirlik AB in Turkey during the Gulf War.



Patrick Mendonca after his first power solo