

Airworthy

The Official Journal of the Black Forest Soaring Society

24566 David C. Johnson Loop
Elbert, CO 80106



Volume 36 Number 3

March 2024

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

As most of you may know, there is a bill in the Colorado state legislature, HB 24-1235, that is a very draconian, anti-general aviation bill. One provision would tax 100LL an additional 50 cents a gallon. Club members should read both **Becky Kinder's** and **Kip McClain's** emails on this subject. How you respond to this is up to each of you. This bill will receive a hearing on March 6.

The anti-GA fever continues, with the Boulder City Council considering shutting down the Boulder Airport. **Clemens Ceipek** of SSB is one of those leading the charge to prevent this. Please go to saveboulderairport.com and sign the petition.

Mark Palmer, Editor



Yup, that time of year. Photo by Bill Gerblich

SAFETY MEETING!

There will be a Spring Safety Meeting at the clubhouse on Saturday morning, April 6th at 9:00 am. **Participation is strongly encouraged.** Safety Officer **Todd Hahn** will conduct the meeting with the help of former SO **Mark Palmer**. There will be discussion on flight safety and airspace.

After the meeting, there will be a potluck, so be sure to bring something! Maybe **Clay** will try his mac and cheese again.

WINGS credit will be available for attending the class!

CALENDAR

Board of Directors Meetings

March 12 and 26, 2024 6:30 – 9:00

Via Zoom

April 9 and 23, 2024 6:30 – 9:00

Via Zoom

Safety Meeting

April 6, 2024 9:00 am

Discussion of safety issues followed by a potluck

BFSS Annual Membership Meeting

May 4th, 2024

Elections and more, followed by a potluck

Women's Cross Country Camp
June 30 – July 5, 2024
 Moriarty, NM

Boerner, Raul 03/01/2024
 Rolley, Dave/Hughes, A&C 03/02/2024
 Silberer, Amalia 03/03/2024

Women's Soaring Seminar
July 22 – 26, 2024
 Yoder, KS

DeBacker, Frank 03/08/2024
 Silberer, Zsolt 03/09/2024
 Tomanek, Wojtek 03/10/2024

1-26 Championships
July 31 – August 8, 2024
 Hamilton, TX

Franzmann, Michael 03/15/2024
 Urschel, Pete 03/16/2024
 Wade, Romey 03/17/2024

Downhill Dash
Summer, 2024

Kinder, Julie 03/22/2024
 Ings, Deb 03/23/2024
 Boerrigter, Berea 03/24/2024

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

Kinder, Becky 03/29/2024
 Buist, Mark 03/30/2024
 Cole, Dennis 03/31/2024

SSA Convention
October 24 – 26, 2024 <- NEW DATE!
FIRC 22-23, 2024
 Knoxville, TN

Price, Brian 04/05/2024
 Crabb, David 04/06/2024
 Culbertson, Rick 04/07/2024

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.

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.**

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.]*

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 TEST!

It's time for all of us to take the annual KAP test. It is up on the website under Members Only. Be sure to complete it by **March 31st**. You must complete it to 100%, but you can go back and correct any mistakes you might have made.

PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH NEIGHBOR COMPLAINTS

A procedure for dealing with neighbor complaints has been developed by Safety Officer **Todd Hahn** and Board members **Becky Kinder, Brian Price, and Kip McClain**. There is a copy in the GOD book and additional copies will be posted in the clubhouse and hangars. Please refer to the procedure should you have any interaction with neighbors. The document will be available in the Members Only section of the club website.

L-23 IS BACK AND AVAILABLE!

After literally, years of work, the L-23 Super Blanik, 9BA, is back on the line and available for scheduling. HOWEVER, even if you have previously been checked out in the L-23, you need to schedule a re-familiarization flight with an instructor. There are few changes pilots should be aware of.



Remember me?

THANK YOU!

A lot of Winter Party Thank Yous this month:

Gary Baker – For being the main organizer of the party

Carolyn Baker – For setting up the sign-up list and running the sign-in desk

Chris and Sharon Dunmall – For helping the Bakers with the selection of Spur of the Moment restaurant

Alan Hoover – For the wonderful talk on the highlights of his aviation career

Alice Palmer – For managing and presenting the club awards

Julie Kinder – For the musical playlist

Mary and Terry Mandel of Perry Park Airport – For coming and enjoying the evening with us, and of course for letting us drop in on them!

Other Thanks:

Doug Curry and Bill Gerblick – For work on 41Y and 9BA

Bill Gerblick – For plowing and shoveling snow and changing 840's skid plate

Shari Hughes – For vacuuming the clubhouse (it is mud season everyone!)

FRIENDLY REMINDER

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. **The taxiways may also be muddy, so be careful with the carts and gliders!** Please fill in any ruts!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please welcome **Mia Gonzalez**. Mia is currently in her first year at the Air Force Academy. Mia is from Houston, TX and she is already a private glider pilot, having flown at the Soaring Club of Houston. We'll see her on weekends when her Academy duties permit.



Mia Gonzalez

Shari Hughes is now a new member. Shari is the mom to **Aida** and **Cameron Hughes**, who have started their training. Shari will soon begin instruction with **Stan Bissell**.

Kaite Bissell is now a BFSS member in the Limited category, which means we will get the benefit of her volunteer time on membership and elsewhere! Thank you Kaite!

Chris Hiner has been accepted as a Limited member until we have a training slot for him. You may have already seen him out on the line during a few recent visits.

Pierce Simpson is also a new Limited member until we have a training slot for him later this spring. You may see him out learning GOD duties as the weather gets better.

Welcome to all of you! We hope to have pictures of Shari, Kaite, Chris, and Pierce next month.

A NOTE ON WEAK LINKS by Alice Palmer

I noticed that an enterprising person has made a few Schweizer weak links for us—much appreciated. However, I did want to show something that we all might want to keep in mind.

Below are two weak links: a new, recently made one on top and a well-used one on the bottom. Both are made with good weaving technique; however the new one shown is longer than desired.



Shorter weak links are safer for towplane steering!

As you know, we loop the Schweizer weak link through the TOST link for launching the 2-33 or other Schweizer ships. When the towpilot reels in the rope, the bullet pulls into the cone at the back. The Schweizer link hangs down below.

If the Schweizer link is made too long, it can actually wrap around the towplane's tailwheel, potentially interfering with steering and making for a possible exciting (or worse) landing or taxi experience for the towpilot.

When you are making weak links, please make them as short as you can (like the used one at the bottom of the picture). And as ground crew, please be aware of this problem and avoid using Schweizer links that are too long.



**WSPA
Scholarship
Deadline
March 15!**

PROPER RADIO USAGE, OR, NO CHATTY CATHY

by Raul Boerner

With soaring season around the corner—positive thinking, for sure—a review of radio frequency usage is in order. Short lesson: CTAF at Kelly Airpark is 123.05, and Air-to-Air communications is assigned to GLIDERS and Free Ballooning operations on 123.30 and 123.50 MHz.

Air-to-Air communication simply put: 123.30 and 123.50 GOOD, and 123.05 BAD.

In an article appearing in AOPA PILOT, January 1, 2018, “Officially, misuse of an authorized frequency can result in up to a \$10,000 fine by the FCC. Generally, if you’re challenged by someone on frequency, and you politely apologize and switch to a backup, no one is going to get written up.”

If someone complains about Chatty Cathies plugging up Kelly’s and Fort Morgan’s CTAF 123.05 MHz, be prepared for possible negative attention. On one occasion, I was asked to switch to another frequency. When your call-sign is “Deutschmark (DM),” it is likely they knew the name of the Chatty Cathy—very embarrassing.

Fun information: Don’t use “Fingers,” the nickname of 123.45 MHz, for air-to-air communications. The FCC has assigned this frequency for Flight Tests and Oceanic operations.

Expanded short review on air-to-air communications: **123.30 and 123.50 GOOD, 123.05 and 123.45 BAD.**

Well, that leaves us Kelly glider types with 123.05 MHz for traffic advisories and safety of flight. If you find yourself discussing thermals, routes, or the Broncos, then switch to 123.30 or

123.50. Also, be sure to advise the others that you are changing frequency.



SIMULATOR UPDATE by Mark Palmer

Currently the club’s Condor simulator is down for repair. The rudder pedals have broken at their swivel points. I am working with gliderbooks.com on replacement parts.

While you *could* use the sim with auto rudder, I would discourage it, as people might get tangled up in the broken rudder pieces. I’ll update everyone as soon as I know anything.

WINTER PARTY IS A SUCCESS!

The Winter Party on February 17th was a great success! Many thanks to **Gary and Carolyn Baker** and **Chris and Sharon Dunmall** for pulling off the event. The food and libation from Spur of the Moment was terrific. The evening was capped off with club awards (see below) and a wonderful talk by KAP President and BFSS towpilot **Alan Hoover**. Thank you everyone!



Member party!

BFSS AWARDS 2023 by Alice Palmer

As part of our Winter Party, I had the pleasure of recognizing our 2023 BFSS award recipients.

If you want to find out more details about some of the awards in the club, check out the article that describes them in the [February, 2019, issue of Airworthy](#).

Volunteer of the Year

We are fortunate to have so many members willing to contribute time to ensure that our all-volunteer club thrives. There are always multiple members each year who go above and beyond the call of duty. For 2023, we are recognizing the ongoing work by **Frank DeBacker**, who led the team to replace the windows in the clubhouse. You also see him fixing malfunctioning lights and plumbing, mowing grass, and various other tasks. Thank you, Frank, for your behind-the-scenes work to keep our clubhouse and grounds in top shape!



Frank DeBacker, Volunteer of the Year

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. **Kathy Peterman** has been recognized for her dedication as a student working on her add-on glider rating, as well as

her ongoing efforts to keep our clubhouse clean. Thank you Kathy! We enjoy your upbeat enthusiasm in our club!



Kathy Peterman, Student of the Year

Most Landouts—A.K.A., The Landout Calrissian Award

There's a saying in soaring that if you don't land out once in a while, maybe you're not pushing yourself hard enough.

This year, we only had one documented unplanned landout from Kelly, and that was by **Kip McClain**, who landed at Perry Park. Great job, Kip! You inspire us all to push just a little harder.



Kip McClain, Most Landouts Award

Most Unplanned Retrieves

Of course, when one of us lands out unexpectedly, one or more heroes is conscripted to come get us. Those lucky enough to be there the day Kip landed were **Wojtek Tomanek** and **Roland Laning**, who cheerfully hooked up Kip's trailer for the drive to Perry Park. Thank you Wojtek and Roland!



*Wojtek Tomanek, Most Unplanned Retrieves
Not pictured, Roland Laning*



I help you...you help me...someday!

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. Those of you who have been in the club for any length of time will know about all the contributions that **Quay Snyder** has made to BFSS. Whether as instructor, past Chief CFI, or Designated Pilot Examiner, almost every student and club member gets to fly with Quay at one time or another. Just ask him—he loves to get his feet off the ground any time! Thank you, Quay, for your dedicated years of service to BFSS!



Quay Snyder, Robert Knapp Service Award

Soaring Free Award

The Soaring Free Award sculpture was the creation of glider pilot **Bob Barber** in the early 1980s. Normally, this award is given to a club member with significant cross country achievement during the year. We try to alternate the award between one of our our

most experienced and accomplished cross country pilots and a newer XC pilot who has made great strides in a season.

Since we've awarded the Soaring Free to experienced cross country pilots the last two years, and because last year's rain prevented most of the rest of us from getting away very much, we decided to do something different this year. For 2023, we're awarding the Soaring Free to a pilot who has demonstrated enduring perseverance.

Wojek Tomanek earned his Private Pilot certificate in November after enduring many roadblocks to his training that were out of his control, including aircraft issues, a pandemic, a runway shutdown, and months-long weather delays. Congratulations, Wojtek! Your perseverance is inspiring to all of us!



Wojek Tomanek, Soaring Free Award

Congratulations to all of our 2023 award recipients. We're looking forward to a great soaring year with lots of member achievements to recognize at our next Winter Party!

THANK YOU, ALAN HOOVER, for your great presentation!



Alan Hoover at the Winter Party

FINAL GLIDE – Tom Knauff

We were saddened to hear of the death of **Tom Knauff** on February 21st. Tom, with his wife **Doris Grove**, ran Ridge Soaring Gliderport in State College, PA for many years. Tom was a noted pilot, author, and speaker. Another great has left us.

SHIPS FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Ventus bT, \$45,000

Dave Rolley 303-809-2785



FOR SALE: 2010 Schleicher ASG 29 – \$135,500
aka (ASW 27 15m/18m)

- S/N: 29055
- N232FG
- Current Maint. & Cond. Inspection Dated 4/29/23, per Part 43, Appendix D and Maint. Manual Chapter 7
- Transponder: Trig TT-22 insp. Dated 5/8/23
- Aircraft hours: 1,245
- Incl. 2010 metal Cobra trailer, w/ spare, etc., excellent condition
- 100% Glider & Trailer in pristine condition. Fully XC Ready.

If interested, please Contact **Rick Culbertson**
rc5280@yahoo.com
303-550-4474



PHOTOS



*Club member Zach Paluch has been selected to AVIATE, the United Airlines training school. Zach is currently a student at the University of North Dakota. Congratulations Zach!
Photo via Raul Boerner*



*Club member Ethan Hitz soloed in power after only 8 hours! Congratulations Ethan!
Photo via Stan Bissell*



Alice Palmer working on her skills flying the SG38 Primary Glider in Condor 2 at host Ridge Moreland's in NM