



February 2009

Volume 8, Issue 1

NEXT MEETING:

February 26 @ 7:00pm Fishers Town Hall

In This Issue:

A few notes from ZA to keep in mind as we start thinking about the upcoming flying season.

A couple odds and ends from Nyal that are well worth reading.

Dates and times for our upcoming Spring Safety Meeting.

Speaking of which:

This year CISS members have a choice of two dates for the **Spring Safety** meeting.

Thursday March 19th at 7:00PM at the MCL Cafeteria in Castleton.

Saturday March 28th at 9:00AM at Alexandria Airport.

The program will cover basic club operations with a emphasis on the use of the expanded runway to the south of the hard surface. The program should last about 1 hour.

Club operations will begin on Saturday March 28th (after the Safety meeting) with Crew #3 on duty followed by Crew #4 for Sunday. The remaining Crews will rotate in 5-6, 7-8 and finally 1-2 order. The last day of the season will be November 1st with crew 2 on duty.

Unless you've requested a change you can expect to be on the same crew as last year.

Todd Rutledge
Operations Director

Calendar -

February	26	7:00pm	Club Meeting @ Fishers Town Hall
March	19	7:00pm	Spring Safety Meeting @ MCL Cafeteria
	28	9:00am	Spring Safety Meeting @ Alexandria Airport
	28	After Meeting	2009 Flying Season Opens!

FIELD OF DREAMS CAMPAIGN

The club would like to thank two members who sent in contributions to the campaign in December last year .

They are Craig Bixby and Lynn Joyce. Many thanks for your generous contributions.

WANT SOME FUN THINGS TO DO IN THE COMING SOARING SEASON ?

AT ALEXANDRIA :

- * Start adding to the list of different gliders you have flown in your log book . Have you flown all of the three different club gliders yet ?
- * Add a BADGE . Anywhere from the "A" to a Diamond Distance is very doable from our home airport .
- * Start down the road to becoming a **Commercial Pilot** or maybe an **Instructor** .
- * See how late in the day you can still be "in the air " over Alex .
- * Fly to another glider club from Alex (Caesar Creek,OH / Silver Creek ,IL / Kendallville,IN / Marion ,OH / Monticello,IN / Lawrenceville ,IL / Lake Village,IN)
- * Fly your glider with water ballast (if you haven't yet)
- * Fly down over Wilbur Wright's birthplace (near Newcastle) and photograph if from above .
- * Set the CLUB ALTITUDE RECORD out of Alex (We'll start a board in the hangar)
- * Fly an **Indiana State Soaring Record** - some are very easy to get !
- * Camp at the field for a weekend (we have a shower now !)
- * Take a friend up for a ride - especially if you think they may join the club.
- * Build and plant flower bed at the field (Better ask Kurt where !)

OFF FIELD :

- * Go fly at a Ridge site
- * Go fly at a Wave site .
- * Get some Aerobatic Instruction .

As the 2009 SOARING SEASON approaches it may be good to remember some of the good practices we have found that help us stay safe and efficient at the field . Here are a few (I'm sure there are more) points to consider and which will help the club maintain our safety and low cost records .

* **Rope breaks** are most likely to occur :

- - With 2 seater gliders (weight)
- - At the rings
- - If the take up is sudden (a jerk can do it) . So Tow pilots can really help here !
- - At inconvenient times .
- - A good pre operations check of all the tow ropes can minimize the chance of rope breaks and should always be done before the flying starts.

* **Running wings** : - Preferably on the Downwind side (It's much easier to hold a wing back slightly if needed rather than to try to push it forward) .

- Always check the skies behind and above before lifting the wing . Tell the Pilot " - All clear above and behind "

* **Radio Chatter** - Keep it to a minimum (especially on 122.8)

* **Batteries** - The biggest problem with poor radio performance is low battery voltage . Keep them FULLY CHARGED .

* **Tires** - The next biggest problem to Radios ! Keep them at recommended pressures (usually 35 - 45 psi)

* **Roll outs** - After landing keep flying the glider until it stops (Don't let a wing drop and get damaged)

- Avoid sudden braking (especially in the Blaniks as the nose may tip down and can easily get damaged especially on the hard surface runway)

* **Canopy Care** - Clean before flying

- Never lift using the small window . ALWAYS lift by gripping part of the metal frame . Canopies are very expensive to repair / replace .

* **CHECKLISTS** - ALWAYS USE THEM

- Avoids Unlocked Canopies on T/O
- Avoids Wheel up landings
- EXCELLENT POLICY

CROSS COUNTRY PILOTS

* Car keys - Don't take off with them in your pocket if you're going cross country .

* Trailers - Make a list of things to do to prepare the trailer for towing and leave it on your car seat for the lucky retrieve driver to use if necessary !

Happy landings to ALL in 2009.

ZA.

Notes From Nyal:

-- <http://www.dg-flugzeugbau.de/safety-comes-first-e.html>

-- COSPAS-SARSAT will cease satellite monitoring of the 121.5 MHz frequency on February 1, 2009. If you fly an aircraft with an ELT, please visit www.sarsat.noaa.gov < <http://www.sarsat.noaa.gov/> > for further information.

-- From Bill Daniels on rec.aviation.soaring:

"I notice that there is some serious misunderstandings about how to manage a takeoff roll. If you watch a series of takeoffs, you'll see that most of the pilots are fighting their wing runners.

A useful rethink is to consider that the wing runners job is to BALANCE the glider laterally not to just "level the wings". That way the wing won't instantly fall when it's released. The runner should find the 'zero force' point where the glider is perfectly balanced into any crosswind and run the wing at that angle.

The pilot should let the wing runner do his job by holding the ailerons exactly neutral until it's clear the runner is no longer holding the wing - usually at "three Mississippi" and only then take over roll control.

Brief your wing runner and then try it on your next takeoff. You'll both find it much less stressful."

And, as always ...

We're always on the lookout for new members, so be sure to spread the word!

Got an idea for a Wing Tips article? Or a good photo from the field? Don't be shy! Write it up and send it to our Wing Tips editor, Chris Hall at bestbrain@aol.com. Deadline for our March issue is March 14.