



March 2008

Volume 7, Issue 3

NEXT MEETING:

March 22, 2008 @ Alexandria Airport

In This Issue:

George Saunders shares some thoughts with us about his father-in-law in The President's Corner

Calendar of upcoming events and assorted reminders

And our first classified ad.

Remember – Safety First! Then we fly!

Bob Wander will be the major speaker at our **Annual Safety Day, March 22, 2008**, both morning and afternoon. We all know Bob's publications related to soaring. He is a member of the board of directors of the Soaring Safety Foundation and represents the SSF as a presenter to soaring clubs all across the country. He is the organizer and chief instructor at the Instructor Re-Validation Clinics given at the SSA conventions every year and he gives these clinics all around the country every Spring, Summer, and Fall. Wander is recognized as one of the best motivational speakers for soaring in the United States.

The meeting will begin promptly at 9:00am. Bob will fill the morning from 9:00 until noon, with a short break somewhere in the middle. A catered lunch will be served at noon and Bob will have the afternoon again from 1:00pm until 3:00pm. Following the conclusion of his presentation, our Director of Operations, Todd Rutledge, will address the membership concerning operational matters for the coming season. Remember that attendance is required for this meeting.

Lunch will be a fish boil prepared by Brad and Nora Stottlemeyer, using the recipe made famous at the Broadhead, Wisconsin, Airport Annual Fly-In. Expect codfish boiled with potatoes, carrots, onions, with lots of butter, and baked beans, cole slaw, rolls, and sodas or coffee. Lunch is \$5.00.

Nyal Williams is managing the lunch. Everyone who plans to eat must register with him so there will be a body count and he can know how much food to buy. Registration must be done no later than March 15. Contact him at nyalwilliams@comcast.net or at (765) 289-6059.

Calendar -

March	20	7:00 pm	Board meeting
	22	9:00 am	Annual Safety Meeting and Club meeting Bob Wander is our speaker! BFR's and Spring Checkouts (weather permitting)
	29		New season check-out rides and Biennial Flight Reviews
April	05		Opening day of the 2008 flying season! YAY!
May	08		Board meeting
	15	7:00 pm	Club Meeting
June	23-27		Women's Soaring Pilot's Association seminar at Alexandria

Winter Storage (What's left of it at least) -

From Nov. 12th to March 21st, only the Blanik 303BA and the Pawnee 898 will be insured for flying. The rest of the fleet will be in storage.

Report on Airport

Everything is a “Go” for the airport purchase. We have bank approval for a commercial loan. The zoning commission is on track to approve our rezoning to an airport on April 8th. If all goes well, we should be the proud owners of Alex by May 1st!

HOWEVER, we need your help. Although our \$200,000 Field of Dreams capital fund campaign has not yet started, we need donations of \$60,000 by April 15th to close on the airfield. Many of you have already contributed, but we are short about \$20,000 as of this writing. If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution to the capital campaign, please send your check to our Treasurer, Scot Ortman, 4091 South 95 East, Bringhurst, IN 46913. Make the check payable to CISS and put in the Memo, “Capital Campaign.” We have opened a brokerage account at Smith Barney. If you want to donate stock, contact Mike Warren at 317-818-7317. We have received pledges ranging from \$1,800 to \$15,000. Any gift will be greatly appreciated!

Ground School -

... is over!

Six students (Mark Baker, Mark Oberly, Tod Herli, Robert Holcombe, Charlie Hunter, and Chris Hall) have successfully completed the latest incarnation of CISS's ground school. Much was learned, much fun was had, much time was spent at Panera, and much time was wasted as instructor's occasionally digressed off-topic and into amusing anecdotes. Many thanks to all the instructor's for their efforts in putting this together as well as many thanks to the students for showing up and staying awake. And many MANY thanks to Charlie Hunter's wife for bringing us all cookies.

And once again, much thanks and appreciation goes to Charlie Hunter for his hospitality and the use of his home for ground school.



President's Corner

“That was the most exciting thing I have ever done.”

Two years ago, I strapped my 82 year old father-in-law into the back seat of a DG500T, and towed to 3000 feet above Crystal Air in the California desert. For an hour we rode the thermals to the tops of the San Gabriel Mountains – not thirty miles from his home of 50 years in Pasadena. He pointed out Mt Wilson and Mt. Baldy and a hiking trail he had traversed.

When we landed and I popped the canopy open. He said, “Thank you, George. That was the most exciting thing I have ever done!” High praise from a man who had been a flight deck officer on the Antietam in WWII, had hiked every inch of the California Sierras, had traveled the world and had circumnavigated South American and Africa in a freighter.

But soaring with me beside his beloved San Gabriel mountains was the most exciting thing he had ever done.

Last week, we laid my father-in-law to rest. I will deeply miss this adventurous and kindly gentleman. I'll never regret taking him soaring with me.

Let's never underestimate the power of soaring, or the impact our sport has on the uninitiated. To sail, like eagles above the earth - silent, majestic, touching the clouds - is perhaps as close as we get on earth to heaven.

George Saunders
President

GLIDER PARTNERSHIP SOUGHT

Tom Ruble is interested in partnering on his 'CAT' SZD55-1 glider. The SZD is a very competitive glider with a 43 L/D rating. The glider is very agile and a lot of fun to fly. It is also equipped with a Volkslogger, Borgelt B-50, and two varios. All wiring for the VL and docking for a partner's iPAQ is in place to allow use of WinPilot Pro. WP Pro is a very user friendly program with considerable information available in flight on the iPAQ screen. One man rigging also exists for those late landings where help might not be available. Costs of ownership to be discussed with anyone interested. Contact Tom at t_ruble@sbcglobal.net or cell phone: 317-849-7008.

Got an idea for a Wing Tips article? Don't be shy! Write it up and send it to our Wing Tips editor, Chris Hall at bestbrain@aol.com. Deadline for our April issue is March 30