



# *The Air Bubble*

The Newsletter of The  
Chicagoland Glider Council  
Est. 1938

**- February 2010 -**

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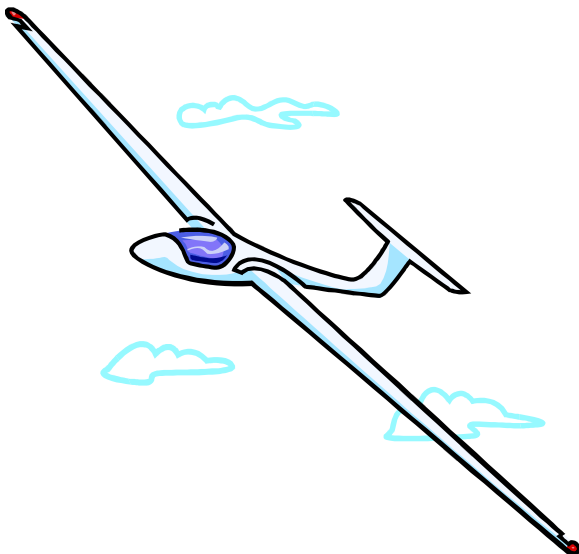
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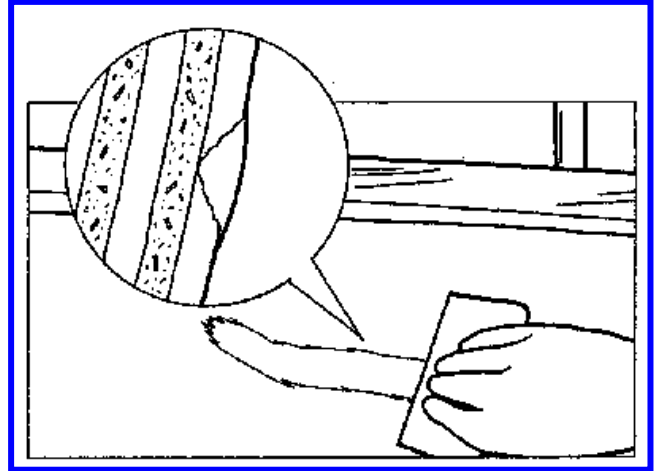
<http://chicagolandglidercouncil.com>



## February CLGC Meeting

### *“Glider Repair For Non-Mechanics”*

With Don Kroesch  
Don't Miss It!!



February 9, 2010, 7:30PM - Herrick JHS

Don Kroesch of Chicago Glider Club, someone with lots of glider repair experience, will be speaking about repair of gliders for non-mechanics. This is something every glider pilot should listen to.

- WHAT CAN A PILOT (NON-MECHANIC) LEGALLY REPAIR ON A GLIDER (FAR 43.3 AND APPENDIX A OF PART 43) versus... WHAT SHOULD A PILOT TRY TO REPAIR.
- INFORMATION RESOURCES AVAILABLE
- PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE
- CARE OF GLIDER FINISHES (GEL COAT)
  - MATERIALS
  - TOOLS
- TOUCH UP AND REFINISHING OF GELCOAT
- IDENTIFYING STRUCTURAL DAMAGE IN COMPOSITE STRUCTURES

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## FAA Airman Paper Certificate Mandatory Replacement!!

**TIME IS GROWING SHORT!!** The FAA is requiring that all paper airman certificates be replaced with the new plastic taper-proof variety no later than March 31, 2010. Allow 4 to 6 weeks for mail processing and 7 to 10 days for online processing. There is a nominal charge of \$2 for the replacement. See this web site;

<http://tinyurl.com/faa-certificate-replacement>

# CLGC Youth Grants 2010

**TIME IS GROWING SHORT!!** Each year the CLGC awards at least one youth grant. Are you the lucky one this year? We all know that youth are the future of soaring and we must foster their efforts as often as we can. This scholarship is your CLGC dues in action in a direct and positive way.

The requirements to apply for the 2010 grant are;

- Be a member in good standing of the ChicagoLand Glider Council as of January 1st, 2010.
- Be between the ages of 14 and 21 (inclusive) as of January 1st, 2010.
- Reside within 150 miles of Chicago.
- Did not receive the previous year's primary grant.
- Obtain a written recommendation from a Certified Flight Instructor Glider (CFIG) who is familiar with the applicant's qualifications and...
- Write an original typed essay of 500-1000 words on "What Soaring Means to Me...."

You can download the CLGC Grant application form and details from <http://tinyurl.com/clgcgrant2010>. The form is also included with this newsletter.

**The application deadline is March 1st, 2010**

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## 2010 SSA Convention Report Chicago Area Region 7 report Gerry Molidor ~ SSA Director at Large

31 January 2010

Dear Chicago Area Soaring Colleagues,

To follow is a summary of the recent SSA Board Meeting and Membership Meeting held in Little Rock, Arkansas. Geoff Weck, the newly elected Sky Soaring President, was recognized with other outgoing directors for their excellent work on behalf of the SSA and all of us owe him a big thank you.

Being new to the SSA, I am finding the current administration to be very professional and passionate to do their very best for the SSA membership. Particularly impressive is how the current administration, lead by Phil Umphres, SSA Chairman has been able to navigate clear of the financial and legal difficulties surrounding the well publicized past embezzlement by a former employee. Through some very difficult and careful work, it can be reported that the financial health of the Association is once again very good. In fiscal year 2009, the SSA finished well into the black and the 2010 budget that was approved should garner the same result. Governance improvements have been made to prevent this from happening again, which includes among other remedies, a more stringent periodic audit by an independent auditing firm.

There are numerous (over 30) committees in the SSA that share in the behind the scenes work of the association. Each volunteer officer oversees several committees stipulated by policy. Officer and Committee work is supported by the Association's capable staff in Hobbs, New Mexico, lead by the Chief Administrative Officer

Denise Layton. The staff is loyal and very dedicated to our sport. Some of the interesting developments and projects arising out of collective efforts:

### Enhancements to the SSA Group Insurance

Club Liability and Physical Damage coverage for glider winches is now available. Clubs may now give a tow for a charge to a member of another club using their own or that club's glider provided both clubs are SSA Chapters and insured under the SSA Program. This is being referred to as "Limited Club Reciprocity". The club providing the tow may use a Private or Commercial pilot.

Discussed at the Fall Board meeting, the carrier for SSA's group liability insurance program has now incorporated language in their policy that permits SSA Chapters who are insured under the SSA group policy to provide insured tows to soaring pilots who are not members of their club, but who are members of another insured SSA Chapter. This "reciprocal tow" feature should be of great benefit to a number of our Chapters that are located close enough to another Chapter that the Chapter members fly back and forth between the two locations. There are some important requirements that must be checked before a "reciprocal tow" can be made - SSA members and clubs are urged to carefully check the rules before towing a member of another club in order to avoid inadvertently making an uninsured tow.

I had the opportunity to meet Pat Costello and staff. Quite frankly I find it to be an excellent program on par or better than what we had at the IAC. Geoff Weck was able to substantially reduce Sky Soaring's fleet rates working with Pat last year. At the moment, they have a 94% renewal rate with SSA members. It is important for us to work hard together promoting safe ops to keep our portfolio as attractive as possible to whomever underwrites our policy - currently Chartis Aerospace (AIG). In 2007 there was a rate decrease for pleasure gliders with values of \$40,000 and above and in 2009 it was agreed that gliders with a hull value above \$80,000 will see a rate reduction. Please support this program.

Memorandum of Agreement between FAA and SSA signed regarding development of a lightweight, battery powered and low cost ADS-B transceiver unit. As most pilots know, the FAA is well into the process of rolling out their GPS-based ADS-B (Automatic Dependent Surveillance - Broadcast) technology, which is expected to replace radar and transponders as the primary method of air traffic control over the next ten years. The initial cockpit ADS-B devices, however, are expensive, bulky and consume large amounts of power. Accordingly, they are not suitable for use in a glider. Thanks in large part to the efforts of SSA member Bernald Smith, the FAA has now entered into a formal Memorandum of Agreement with SSA under which the two parties will work together to develop a lightweight, low-cost, battery operated ADS-B cockpit transceiver suitable for use in gliders and other light general aviation aircraft. We believe this is an important effort at innovation that has the potential to benefit all soaring pilots. The negotiation and execution of the agreement is also an important example of cooperation between the FAA and SSA that we hope can be repeated on other fronts in the future.

This unit would not only provide traffic info to both pilot and controller, but could also uplink weather information. Target pricing for such a unit would be less than \$1000, especially if it is widely accepted into all of GA. Of course the government moves slowly, and at the convention there was already a vendor that had units for sale now suitable for gliders - please look up [www.navworx.com](http://www.navworx.com). This is the future.

### Chapter Rebate Program

Approved by the Board at the Fall meeting, we have now re-instituted a rebate program through which SSA now shares, or "rebates," some

of the SSA dues revenue collected by SSA Chapters and Commercial Operators back to those local entities. The decision to reinstate this feature is a tangible demonstration of SSA's commitment to the local clubs and is an effort to compensate them in at least a small way for their time spent collecting dues and keeping the SSA membership roster current.

#### **On-line Soaring Magazine Archive**

Under development for nearly a year, the SSA's on-line Soaring magazine archive "went active" in late December, 2009. This is one of the most modern and feature-filled magazine archives available anywhere on the internet. Staff is still loading back issues, which have to be carefully scanned and double checked for errors to insure that the OCR search features work properly. When complete, we are confident SSA members (you must be an SSA member to access the archive) will find this feature a real value.

#### **GPS tracking feature added to SSA website**

Several SSA members – notably Frank Paynter, Mark Hawkin, John Seaborn and Doug Easton – are responsible for the creation of a feature now available on the SSA website that allows soaring pilots to post links to their GPS trackers (e.g., SPOT® brand or other device) so that other SSA members can access the track of you most recent soaring flight. This feature was created primarily as a safety feature – should a soaring pilot using a GPS tracker be overdue, other pilots or loved ones who know about the device can readily access the track from the SSA website and initiate rescue or recovery operations.

#### **Expansion of E-news Delivery to all SSA Members**

Created in 2006 so that SSA leadership could communicate via e-mail with the SSA membership on matters that were time-sensitive, the feature was initially handicapped by being set up as an "opt in" feature. That is, an SSA member would not receive an E-news issue unless they had affirmatively notified SSA they wished to receive the same. In 2009, after being advised that federal anti-spam laws now permitted member organizations such as SSA to send e-mail communications to all members, even those who had not requested receipt of such items, E-news was converted to an "opt out" feature. That is, members who have a current e-mail on file with SSA will automatically receive E-news unless they advise SSA they wish to "opt out" of the feature. We hope this change will allow SSA leadership and management to communicate more effectively with the membership.

#### **Participation at AOPA Air Summit in Tampa, FL**

Although the SSA Board has elected to no longer formally participate in the Oshkosh AirVenture, SSA leadership does believe participation in some form of airshow venture can be a useful method of educating the public about soaring and generating interest in our sport. Accordingly, SSA accepted AOPA's invitation to have a presence – at no cost to SSA – in the AOPA Air Summit held in Tampa, FL in November. Thanks to several SSA members located in the Tampa area we were able to have a sailplane display on the ramp area and to distribute flyers and other literature regarding soaring.

I personally will be exploring palatable ways to reestablish a formal SSA presence at Air Venture. Apparently in the past, an expensive presence did not net a notable membership gain for the association, but I think the social aspect of gathering at Air Venture should not be overlooked. Furthermore, I firmly believe that kids beginning glider lessons is the most logical next step to a Young Eagles experience. My findings will be submitted to leadership for consideration. I hope I will be able to count on area volunteers when the time comes to help push this along.

#### **Key Area SSA Committee Members**

In efforts to relay how the Northern Illinois area is weighing in on national level, here are some current area volunteers and their committee:

**Rich Carlson** - Soaring Safety Foundation

**John Cochran** - Contest Committee; Rules

**Curt Lewis** - State Records Committee

**Judy Reprecht** - Government Liaison Committee / FAI Badge Committee

**Ron Ridenour** - Soaring Safety Foundation SSF / Future Restructuring Task Force

**Jim Short** - SSA Foundation / Naming & Memorial Committee / 100th Anniversary of Soaring Working Committee / Government Liaison Committee

**Logan Weck** - SSA Illinois State Governor

Next time you see any of these area pilots, please say thank you for their hard work. Please excuse me if I omitted anyone, I am still learning about the rich culture of volunteerism to soaring from this area - it's truly amazing!

#### **Membership**

Membership in the SSA, as in most aviation organizations has been in a very slight decline. The SSA stands at just over 11,000 strong and we had a reduction in 2009 of approximately 38 members. Personally, I believe that soaring will become much more popular as fuel prices eventually raise to European levels. Also the idea of a silent, non carbon emitting, dynamic sporting activity will gain popularity and favor with aviation enthusiast.

SSA National is looking at general ways to promote the sport understanding that the nuts and bolts of membership promotion best lies with the local organizations. A welcoming attitude of potential members is strongly encourages and I know that our local clubs are very good at this. We must continue to provide for our continual education, opportunity and safety. It's a great journey.

The next SSA Board meeting will be held in Chicago, October 2, 2010. The next convention will be held in Reno, Nevada in 2012. The staff will be looking into the possibility of a national soaring symposium for 2011 smaller in scale than a full blown convention.

#### **Chicago Area Region 7 report regarding CGC & SSI club activities: Chapter Report - SSA Chicago Area**

As a new director at large from the Chicago area, I would like to augment Ron McLaughlin's Region 7 report for two chapters that I am currently familiar with.

My club, Sky Soaring, located in Hampshire, Illinois has enjoyed significant membership growth in 2009, now at approximately 85 members (former president Andy Meyer). The club, which has been mostly known as a training organization, has in the past few years spawned a nucleus of members interested in cross country flying encouraged primarily by the new club president and former SSA director, Geoff Weck. The club has seen private ship owners triple to a dozen or so at present. There were over 1700 flights in 2009, which was a club record.

Sky Soaring for the past two years has held a very enjoyable mock race to encourage its members to learn and experience what it would be like to participate in a formal regional event – but with an informal atmosphere. This event, spearheaded by Geoff Weck, is done with the participation and guidance of our big brother organization, Chicago Glider Club-CGC. This past summer four of us from Sky Soaring participated in the Region 6 North – Ionia, MI contest. Geoff Weck and Marion Wajda also made Region 6 at Caesar Creek. We hope to have more participation in the years to come. The club has

recently agreed to welcome the American Polish Aero Club formerly of Freeport, IL to our membership ranks.

Chicago Glider Club is the admired local powerhouse of race/cross country experienced members such as Neil & Ron Ridenour, John Cochrane, Mike Shakman and Herb Kilian to name a few. Their membership is stable, very active in the Northern Illinois Soaring Contest (OLC) and all are very willing to mentor aspiring racing pilots. Ron is our local FAA examiner and John runs the NISC. Herb is now the President of the Chicago Glider Council taking over from Sky Soaring's John DeRosa. The council holds continual monthly events throughout the winter including an excellent soaring seminar.

Sky Soaring holds the usual club socials around the Holidays and a Safety Seminar in the spring of the year. This year's seminar will feature a weather talk from Paul Merzlock from the NOAA-NWS, among other. Also over the winter months Sky Soaring's Flight Chair, Joe Nemecek holds a commercial ground school for those interested in pursuing their commercial and it's a great review for everyone.

To make a humble observation on what is right with this organization (and it is realized that this could be characteristic of most all chapters) is that Sky Soaring is evolving into a club that has a full spectrum of membership interests and the social atmosphere to go with it. The club has a number of new pilots, trained by the club CFIG's, that are now in the pipeline interested in starting cross country training. Hopefully a good percentage will eventually be attracted to regional events. Bottom line is that the leadership is doing a good job providing an avenue of progression to help focus the adventurous curiosity. This will in turn attract additional members. Sky Soaring is not without the usual problems, but we are all definitely having fun!

Respectfully submitted with kind regards,

Gerry Molitor (M7)  
SSA Director at Large  
McHenry, IL  
gmolitor@aol.com  
815-861-9877

## Sky Soaring Buys a Second Tow Plane

Cessna 150 ~ 180 HP



**Signup Table at the EAA Young Eagles Event  
Sky Soaring ~ Aug 29, 2009**



**Airliner Parts Identification**

# Identification Plate Exemption # 4988 for Gliders

By Burt Compton via R.A.S.

For USA Gliders - The SSA has it covered. Just some of the good behind the scenes work they accomplish for us. The Identification Plate Exemption # 4988 and the Extension Letter (now valid to OCT 30, 2011), are on the SSA website.

Yes, you must carry both documents in the glider if you do not want to secure an external identification plate to your glider. The exemption letter is reissued by the FAA every 3 years, at the discretion of the FAA, after the SSA submits a petition. I believe Judy Ruprecht is submitting this recurring petition for us.

To clarify a bit, there are two documents that one must carry for this.

1. The original exemption letter, which is 4 pages long. It can be downloaded from:  
<http://www.ssa.org/docs/Exemption4988.pdf>
2. Since the original exemption from that letter terminates on Oct 30, 1990, you also need the extension letter, which is 2 pages long. It is at:  
<http://preview.tinyurl.com/dataplateexemption>.

Caution, one of the older pages on the SSA site lists these pages of the 2002 update letter, which is now useless. You should use the current ones mentioned above.

As another poster mentioned, there doesn't seem to be any restriction against two sided printing, or scaling the pages smaller and putting several on a page. It probably should be kept readable, but one sheet can be tucked securely away somewhere. I keep my own copy in the bag with my logbooks and charts as well. It might reduce embarrassment some day.

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## ~ Contest Time ~ Who is this Man?



The first correct answer given to the CLGC Secretary at the January CLGC meeting will be awarded \$5 (of the Secretary's own money). He just wants to see if anyone actually reads these newsletters!  
The January contest award went unclaimed!

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## Upcoming Aviation Events

- ❖ Tue, Feb 9, 2010 – CLGC Meeting – “Glider Repair For Non-Mechanics” with Don Kroesch
- ❖ Tue, Mar 9, 2010 – CLGC Meeting - “Soaring in Switzerland” with Roderick Read
- ❖ Tue, Apr 13, 2010 – CLGC Meeting – “Flight Reviews” with Ron Ridenour

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## SPOT 2 Emergency Recall



SPOT states: "During recent testing, we discovered that some of the new SPOT 2 devices might not meet battery and messaging operating specifications."

You can see details here: <http://www.findmespot.com/exchange/>

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## Newsletter Contributions?

Pictures? Accomplishments? Suggestions? Articles? Speaker Topics? Please let us know! If you have anything that you would like to have included in future newsletters or meetings. **PLEASE** send them to [JOHN@DEROSAWEB.COM](mailto:JOHN@DEROSAWEB.COM) or call 847-844-8776.

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## Moved? New Email?

Please let us know to keep our database up to date. Send an email to [JOHN@DEROSAWEB.COM](mailto:JOHN@DEROSAWEB.COM) or call 847-844-8776 Thanks!!

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## AVIATION CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Anything to sell? Send an email to [john@derosaweb.com](mailto:john@derosaweb.com).

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## Directions to the CLGC Meeting Location

At Herrick Junior High School located at 4435 Middaugh Rd,  
Downers Grove, IL.  
Detailed directions are available at;

<http://tinyurl.com/clgcdirections>

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**2010 ChicagoLand Glider Council  
Membership/Renewal Application & Change of Information Form**

Membership Renewal Due Date: January 1, 2010

Please Mail Form and \$10 Check to:

**ChicagoLand Glider Council  
6538 N. Nordica  
Chicago, IL 60631**

Please remit \$10 via check or money order for annual dues - payable to "ChicagoLand Glider Council"

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (**please print very clearly**) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cellular \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Airport and/or Club where you fly \_\_\_\_\_

Pilot ratings that you hold (student, private, commercial, instructor, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Glider(s) that you own \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate box(es) below

New Member    Membership Renewal    Change of Street Address    Change of E-Mail Address

Change of Telephone    Change of Glider/Airport Information



# ChicagoLand Glider Council

## 2010 Soaring Youth Grant

The ChicagoLand Glider Council Grant program is hosted under the auspices of the membership of the council and is paid by their dues. A primary grant of **\$500** is awarded each year. Other secondary grant(s) may be awarded based on merit. This grant will be paid directly to the recipient's home soaring operation and placed "on account" for use by the recipient for their continuing soaring education.

**Application Requirements:** The applicant must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be a member in good standing of the ChicagoLand Glider Council as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and,
- Be between the ages of 14 and 21 (inclusive) as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and,
- Reside within 100 miles of Chicago and,
- Did not receive the previous year's \$500 grant (please apply for a secondary grant) and,
- Obtain a written recommendation from a Certified Flight Instructor Glider (CFIG) who is familiar with the applicant's qualifications and,
- Write an original essay of 500-1000 words on "What Soaring Means to Me...." and,
- Send all necessary documentation to the email address and surface mail address shown below **no later than midnight, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.**

### Applicant Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Current Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Soaring Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit this application and all required documentation to the ChicagoLand Glider Council Grant Committee via the email address listed below (required) or via the surface mail address below. The application and documentation must be received **no later than March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.**

The ChicagoLand Glider Council Grant Committee consists of the board of the ChicagoLand Glider Council. Decisions of the committee are final. Grantee(s) will be announced at the regular CLGC meeting during April.

Applications and other information is available at <http://chicagolandglidercouncil.com/grant>. Good luck!

**Email to: [john@derosaweb.com](mailto:john@derosaweb.com)**

Surface Mail to;

<p><b>ChicagoLand Glider Council Grant Committee</b> <b>c/o John DeRosa</b> <b>35W529 Parsons Rd</b> <b>West Dundee, IL 60118</b></p>
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