



# HIGH FLYER



The Official Newsletter of High Flights Soaring Club, Inc  
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## Volume 28 No. 9 December 2006



Impact of pre-Christmas Blizzard at Meadowlake – photo by John Scott

## Club and Member Notes

The club roster and duty schedule are available on-line at the club website courtesy of Jim Densmore and Frank Molli. Members are responsible for knowing when they have duty!

<http://www.highlights.com/members/roster/roster.html>

<http://www.highlights.com/members/sched/currentsched.html>

**Next Board Meetings** - Jan 14<sup>th</sup> & Feb 11<sup>th</sup>. All club members are invited (encouraged) to attend.

**New Members** – No new members this month, but we have a number of interested folks.

**89H** has been repaired and is back in the air. Now for some nice warm winter weekends so our students can get back to their training. Say thanks to Al Spratford when you see him. He did a lot of work helping to get **89H** back in the air.

**7AS** has had the broken aileron centering spring replaced. Thanks to Frank Molli for lying on his back I the plane to get the work done. Frank and Gil are also replacing the brake linings in hopes that **7AS** will again have effective brakes.

Has anyone done the online **Wing Runner Course**? If not, this winter might be a good time. You review the material online, take a short final exam, and get a certificate. It is mostly text with illustrations. Here's where you can access the course at:

<http://www.soaringsafety.org/school/wingrunner/toc.htm>

The **SSA Annual Convention** is Feb 8<sup>th</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup> in Memphis. Steve Smith and Jennie Chiang and John and Kathy Scott are planning to attend. If you are going to attend, please let us know. The convention is worthwhile and very enjoyable

**Johan Larson** has a site where he is cataloging magazine articles that have appeared over the years on soaring. He has them listed on this page. Many are available directly. *Sailors of the Sky* which originally appeared in the January 1967 issue of National Geographic is worth a read. Here is pointer to his site.

<http://home.comcast.net/~johan.larson/soaring/>

He is also compiling a listing of appearances of gliders and soaring in mainstream movies and Television. Here's a pointer to that site:

<http://home.comcast.net/~johan.larson/soaring/onscreen.html>

**And we think it's expensive to fly...** An article in a Germany magazine indicates general aviation in Germany is almost non-existent due to user fees and fuel costs. Aviation fuel is \$US9 per gallon and a Cessna 172 rents for \$US240 per hour! Landing fees can be from \$5 to \$24, so instructors do approaches to a few feet above the ground, then go-around. This explains why soaring is so popular, as well as winch launching.

## 2006 Annual Meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Our annual meeting and Banquet, marking the 30<sup>th</sup> year of operation for High Flights, was held at Las Palmitas Restaurant in north Colorado Springs on 16 Dec 2006. Including both members and guests, we had about 30 folks attend. The meeting this year was moved to December to include our snow birds. However, many folks had obligations to other events and could not attend. We will likely return to holding the annual meeting in January.

Before dinner we enjoyed some video from the “16 Left” DVD. This DVD is a companion to the movie “16 Right”. Also, we had watched video of a dual 1-26 takeoff on tow. This video was made in 1994 at Silver West.

This year we had some significant changes in the Board of Directors. Darrold Gray decided to retire as president after 6 years of outstanding service to the club. Gil, after 14 yrs as Treasurer, was interested in leaving that position.

**The new board**, nominated and elected unanimously, is:

President	John Scott
Vice President	Gil Gildersleeve
Treasurer	Frank Molli
Secretary	Jim Pirtle

Immediately following the election, Darrold turned the rest of the meeting over to John. Gil reviewed this past year’s finances. High Flights continues to be in very good financial condition even with some significant outlays this year for aircraft maintenance.

Jim Densmore presented the By Laws changes. After some short discussion, the revised By Laws, as distributed to the membership earlier, were accepted unanimously. We had sufficient members in attendance as well as proxies to have the required 2/3s vote.

John did a review of flight activity for the 2006. Even though these numbers were only thru the end of November, weather has kept December flying to a very few flights.

	Total Flights	Total Hours	Average Flight
Blanik 7AS	142	68.45	28.9
2-33 89H	183	57.63	18.9
1-34 643	47	47.43	60.5
1-26 22S	61	44.45	43.7
1-26 447	44	22.5	30.7
Total	477	240.5	

These numbers are nearly the same as for 2005 (492 flights, 240 hours). Thanks to Frank Molli (more on this next month) we can now get flight statistics by member. The top 10 members in numbers of flights and total flight time for this past year are:

Top Members-Flight Time	
John Scott	31.5
Jennie Chiang	28.2
Dan Daly	21.9
Frank Molli	21.6
Steve Smith	20.4
Gil Gildersleeve	10.9
Marty Grove	8.7
John Browning	6.0
Bruce Mosier	5.9
Matt Neal	5.8

Top Members-Flights	
Jennie Chiang	86
Steve Smith	40
John Scott	39
Frank Molli	37
Bruce Mosier	16
John Browning	13
Dan Daly	13
Gil Gildersleeve	13
Jim Densmore	12
Tomas Fredricks	11
Matt Neal	11

These statistics are for flights in club gliders and/or tows. They don't account for all of the flights our flight instructors make or for flights in private aircraft. However it is interesting to note how many of our new members made these lists.

Next we reviewed 2006 Accomplishments for Badges and Licenses:

#### Private License

Bruce Mosier

#### Commercial License

Bruce Mosier

#### CFI-G License

Robert Herndon, Sr.  
Bruce Mosier

#### A Badge

Jennie Chiang  
Michael Moore  
Bruce Mosier

#### B Badge

Bruce Mosier

#### C Badge

Bruce Mosier  
Steve Smith

#### Bronze Badge

Darold Gray  
Bruce Mosier  
Steve Smith

#### Silver Altitude

Bruce Mosier  
Steve Smith

#### Silver Distance

John Scott

#### Silver Duration

John Scott

#### Silver Badge

John Scott

#### Land Outs

John Scott  
Gil Gildersleeve and  
Bob Wirth

Finally, we came to the presentation of the club trophies. Lew Neyland agreed to be Master of Ceremonies for this portion of the meeting.

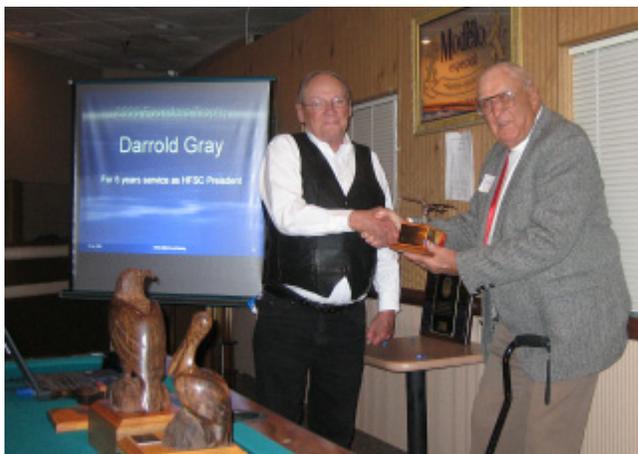


### **The RoadRunner Trophy**

This trophy is awarded to the ground crew performing the most significant retrieve during the past year. This year's winners were **Gil Gildersleeve** and **Frank Molli** for retrieving John Scott, yet again.

### **The Pelican Trophy**

This trophy is award to a club member for significant flight achievement in a SGS 1-26. This year's winner was **John Scott** for completing his Silver badge distance and duration segments. This completed his Silver Badge with all segments done in 22S.



### **The Founder's Trophy**

This trophy is not awarded every year. It is awarded to members who have provided distinguished service to the club over the years. This year it is awarded to our retiring President, **Darrold Gray** for his years of service to the club including the past 6 as President.

**The Eagle Trophy** is awarded to a club member for outstanding flights or exceptional service to the club. This year the trophy was awarded to **Dan Daly** for his outstanding 400 km flights at Minden while pursuing his 500km Diamond Distance. Dan was unable to attend the meeting, having returned to Canada. However, we're hoping Dan can make at least one camp next summer.

Finally, we all need to express our thanks to **Darrold** and **Gil** for all of their time and effort in support of High Flights. **Darrold** is retiring as President after 6 yrs, but we look forward to his continued involvement in instructing, his continuing attention to our Tow Plane and it's maintenance, and his wisdom in keeping us moving forward on the right track. **Gil** has

been Treasurer for so long that nobody knows for sure how long. He has kept our finances on track, our records up to date, scheduled rides, and spent much time doing leg work when we've need parts or repairs. **Gil's** has done a myriad number of little things that are necessary to keep our club functioning; to making sure we can fly every weekend. While Gil is retiring as Treasurer, we are fortunate that he has agreed to continue on the board and serving High Flights as Vice President.

## **Colorado SSA Governor's Seminar**

Mark your calendars. The Colorado Soaring Pilots/SSA Governor's Seminar and Awards Banquet is scheduled for February 24th, 2007, at the Clarion Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn) at Centennial Airport (same as last year). Price, menu selections, and presentation list to be announced, but will include history, technology, bragging rights, safety, and more.

Best wishes to you and yours over the holidays,

Frank Whiteley  
SSA Governor, Colorado  
970-330-2050

Let's plan to have a good contingent from High Flights attend this year. Dan and I went last year. It was very enjoyable. It is an opportunity to get to meet folks from the other front range soaring clukbs.

## **HFSC OLC Status**

The OLC has been revamped this year to provide new features, like the ability to get a flight path overlaid on Google Earth with a simply mouse click. The goal in revamping the entire website was to make it more maintainable. They are also having some "teething" problems that are being worked out. We will be having a Saturday morning Seminar in late February to review Loggers, Flight Computers, using the club laptop, and the OLC. The date and time will be announced shortly. We will likely meet in the Hanger Restaurant facility.

**Remember: Take a logger when you fly!!**

## **Building the APIS – Part 11 – Little Progress this Month** by John Scott

Little progress to report this month. Much of my time was consumer preparing for the holidays and helping Kathy following her knee surgery. I expect to push hard after the holidays to get finished before leaving for the SSA convention at the beginning of February.

I thought I would have all of my parts by now. AMS shipped a box to fellow builder Bob Lutten that was to contain all of the parts to complete both Bob's plane and mine. Bob shipped my parts on to me. The package arrived today. It included my brass tailwheel (about 5 lbs compared to about ½ lb for the plastic one.) as well as the canopy latching rods. I can now finish my canopy. What was not included was my new main wheel, axle, and bushings. I have sent an email to Bob to try and locate the missing wheel assembly.

I did receive the photo below from fellow builder Grahame Player. Grahame lives in Auckland, NZ, but has been corresponding with Bob and I for the last 6 months as he has completed his 13-meter (same as mine). Grahame says this photo is of the first full assembly of his plane. He is hoping to have it in the air shortly.



## Current Duty Schedule

Saturday	Dec 30, 2006	Al Spratford	Rob Hamalainen
Sunday	Dec 31, 2006	No Operations	No Operations
Saturday	Jan 06, 2007	Tomas Fredericks	Matt Neal
Sunday	Jan 07, 2007	Steve Smith	Jennie Chiang
Saturday	Jan 13, 2007	Mary Hoddinot	Matt Sheldon
Sunday	Jan 14, 2007	John Norton	Gilles Marty
Saturday	Jan 20, 2007	Frank Molli	Art Romero
Sunday	Jan 21, 2007	Marty Grove	Kevin Brooks
Saturday	Jan 27, 2007	John Scott	John Browning
Sunday	Jan 28, 2007	Don Shean	Marsha Hawk
Saturday	Feb 03, 2007	Al Spratford	Robert Wirth
Sunday	Feb 04, 2007	Tomas Fredericks	Matt Neal
Saturday	Feb 10, 2007	Steve Smith	Rob Hamalainen
Sunday	Feb 11, 2007	Mary Hoddinot	Jennie Chiang
Saturday	Feb 17, 2007	John Norton	Matt Sheldon
Sunday	Feb 18, 2007	Frank Molli	Gilles Marty
Saturday	Feb 24, 2007	Marty Grove	Art Romero
Sunday	Feb 25, 2007	John Scott	Kevin Brooks