

The Eagle's Nest



The Official Newsletter of the Sacramento Valley Soaring Society

September 2007

Volume 17, No. 9

President's Message

By Rich Beardsley

Hi All:

First of all I'll get to the fun stuff. I took the SVSS Banner to the PASS Cross Country Race the first weekend of this month. I held the banner up well, winning the race with a great flight on Sunday. After the distance task I was less than 10 points out of 1000 behind Dean Gradwell. I finished the 35 mile course in one hour and 48 minutes. Dean managed to beat me by 3 minutes. Sunday I was able to beat Dean in the speed task and was the overall winner. There are some very good flyers in the Portland area, all the teams managed to finish the course on one of the two days. I also had a great team provided by PASS. Mike Bamberg was a great Co-pilot, and provided the chase car.

We didn't have a very good turnout at the August meeting. I would like to see more of you at the meetings. To generate attendance, we will try to have more club meetings at the flying field, making it a fun fly and meeting. If you have any suggestions, please e-mail and tell me what might bring more members out.

We have a Cross Country Race scheduled for the last weekend in September—29th & 30th. I would like to invite any club members that want to see XC first hand. Let me know and we will arrange a ride along with one of the teams.

We will also have the club meeting and BBQ after the Saturday XC event. It will be held at the field—plan on eating around 6 p.m. ED GRANGER is generously sponsoring the TriTips this time, and I will be your chef. Please e-mail me with the number of folks that will attend—family and friends are welcome. Bring someone interested in joining our group!

So much for the fun stuff. Dudley received a letter addressed to the SVSS Board, with some comments and "criticisms." We discussed the letter at the meeting and came up with some comments ourselves. The letter is published elsewhere in the newsletter. (see page 5) I wish that the person (s) sending the letter would have included their name(s) and not made it anonymous. There were some good ideas, but also some comments that really did not reflect the true facts. First, you are right that most of the work is done by a very few. The attendance was a little down for the Spring Fling, but in contrast, revenue was double that of last year. Checking around, attendance is down for all contests, not just ours.

(cont'd on page 4)

The Eagle's Nest

Published monthly by the Sacramento Valley Soaring Society.

Purpose

SVSS is a social organization whose purpose is to promote the safe and skillful operation of radio controlled model sailplanes. SVSS is an AMA chartered club, number 2752. Membership is open to the general public.

SVSS Officers - 2007

President	Rich Beardsley 707-455-8279
Secretary	Neil Nolte 916-966-0857
Treasurer	Stan Scharosch 919-987-1173
V.P. Contests	Kipp Geisler 707-693-1771
V.P. Field	Bob Mosher 916-487-7139
V.P. Equipment	Dave Finberg 919-525-1316
New Member Mentor	Dave London 916-944-3948
Instructor	Dave London 916-944-3948
Instructor	Cameron Clarke 916-794-0801
Web Master & Newsletter Editor	Dudley Dufort 916-991-1266

Monthly Meetings

SVSS general membership meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 7 PM in the meeting room at SMUD, 6201 S Street, Sacramento, California. Our meetings are open to the public and visitors are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

Contests

Monthly contests are held on the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM. Beginners and spectators are always welcome.

AMA

Membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics is required prior to flying in any SVSS organized event or using and SVSS equipment.

Club Rules

1. Have fun
2. See rule #1

Editor's Corner

By Dudley Dufort



Well, I asked for it and I got it. I appreciate the recent "letter to the editor" that I received. Although it was sent anonymously, I would rather receive anonymous comments from members than none at all. The letter and comments from our president are published elsewhere in this edition. Nuff said.

September promises to be an eventful month. By the numbers;
9/8

The club contest will be a "first ever" man on man contest, with yours truly as CD. Man on man is essentially a series on mini contests within a contest. By class, we will fly a ten minute task in groups of four. The top time in each group gets 1000 points. The remainder of the group is normalized from the top time. Landings are the standard 100 point tape. Because flight groups will be utilized, pre-entry will be required. The intent is to allow small groups to fly and compete under the same conditions. Four rounds of 10 minutes each will be flown with a different mix of pilots competing against each other in each round. More about that as the date approaches. Just keep in mind that we'll be asking that you pre-enter.

9/22

We've been invited to fly at the NCSS (Northern California Slope Soarers) flying site aka The Slot on 9/22. An article in the August edition described the fun of flying at The Slot. Marty Falarski is the contact person for this invitational event.

9/29

Saturday will be a busy day at the field. It marks the first day of a two-day cross country contest. Everyone in the club is invited to participate in this contest. Contact Rich Beardsley to get on a team. Following the XC flying will be a Tri-Tip Barbecue courtesy of Ed Granger. Our September club meeting follows dinner. On the following day (Sunday) the cross country contest resumes.

Lots of fun stuff goin' on. Mark your calendars and watch your e-mail for reminders.

September 2007

SVSS Key Dates

9/8 Club Contest

9/22 Fun Fly - The Slot

9/29 Club Meeting field

9/29 - 9/30 XC

Happy Birthdays

9/1 - Larry Schluer

9/3 - Dave London

9/7 - Chuck Blackwelder

9/8 - Tom Ball

9/12 - Cameron Clarke

9/12 - John Gross

9/17 - Chris Kroschel

9/18 - Bill Curry

9/24 - Larry Gianini

9/26 - Jim Rolle

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

SVSS Preliminary Financial Statement

August, 25 2007

<u>Checking Acc.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Debits</u>
Starting Balance			\$3,564.30
Income;			
	August Contest	\$130.00	
	Membership fees (2)	\$60.00	
	Total	\$190.00	
			\$3,754.30
Expenditures;			
	News Letter Mailing (July/August)		\$65.60
	Porta-Potty (Monthly Service)		\$283.05
	Total		\$348.65
Ending Balance			\$3,405.65
Increase/decrease in operating funds			(\$158.65)

(Prez Message cont'd)

I don't believe that suggested ideas are automatically shot down by the "old farts." We have added a number of ideas suggested by members attending the meetings or by submitting a written request.

As to the items in the letter:

1. The "Spring Fling" is well known by that name. We need to discuss any name changes—especially if changing the name would mean fewer attendees.
2. We can have a throw away or a gas card to a middle of the pack contestant. But, I am not sure that we could add too many different tasks and be able to finish in a timely manner.
3. We have picked a date and will stand by it – the first weekend after Father's Day. I polled a number of people that have researched weather and other contest dates and that seems to be the best date (weather after all is a crap shoot, same with the bugs).
4. I am not sure where the letter writer got their information. XC gets 2 weekends a year. To my knowledge, HLG has made no requests to have a specific contest date. Also, aero tow was given the last Sunday of every month. All applications are taken equally—you must submit one to have it considered. As far as I can tell, there is almost no use on Sundays, excepting the 2 weekends of XC (it seems the Aero Tow folks do not have a tow plane at this time).
5. Club meetings at the field have worked and your suggestion to have more meetings at the field was approved. The September meeting will be held at the field, as noted previously.
6. Yes—LET'S HAVE FUN. If you have "however's," submit them—and if you would, take credit for them.

I would like the club to represent ALL its members. I am one of those "old farts" that you speak of--but haven't we (old farts in the club) included some activities suggested by other club members? If you have other ideas, suggestions, or comments—please let us know. If you want a contest or event—submit it to the club for a vote. So, that's my two cents worth. If you have ideas, let's hear them. THANKS Ed for sponsoring the BBQ for September meeting.

Now, LET'S HAVE FUN!

2008 Election

Joan Nolte

It's time again to think about our club officers of the future. No we are not moving up the primary, our club By-Laws indicate that an Election Committee shall be appointed by the president at the September meeting. If you want in-put on how your club is run and who your officers are, here is your chance. Volunteer to be on the Election Committee, nominate a candidate, or toss your hat into the ring.

Who do you know who can fill these positions: President (Benefit=Lifetime membership), VP Contests, VP Field, VP Equipment, Secretary, Treasurer, or Newsletter Editor? Decide which one you can do and make a goal of which year it will be your turn. How about 2008? Whatever you decide, get your suggestions to the committee.

The Election Committee shall present a list of nominees at the October meeting. At that time more members may be nominated. Voting takes place in November and the votes are tabulated and announced at the November meeting. The new officers are installed at the December banquet.

Letter to the Editor

(published as submitted. Ed.)

Dear Dudley and Members of the SVSS Board,

We are a group of SVSS members some of who have been members almost from the beginning of SVSS and others are fairly new to our club. Overall, we really like our club, However, we feel that the club needs to listen to it's members. This is made difficult because 90 percent of the work is done by 10 percent of the club members.. So, what has worked for the club in the past, must work for the club in the future, right? Well, we feel that after we got one annoying E Mail after another about why only 5 percent of the club was flying in the Spring Fling, we felt it was time to respond. After all was said and done, the Spring Fling had less than 40 contestants.. A lot of work for so little participation and very few SVSS members who flew in the event..Has anyone really taken the time to ask why? So, we are a group of 15 fliers who really want to be involved, but everyone has their own reasons why they do not get more involved in the club. Some are, they show up to run the winches, mow the grass, help when needed, but if they offer an idea or suggestion it is shot down..So, here are our suggestions for next years Spring Fling and to make our club even better than it is:

1. Change the name of the Spring Fling..Western States Soaring Championships, something to get excited about.
2. Events: Does anyone have any clue to make this event fun? Same Ole. Same Ole might have worked in the past, but make it fun..Have a throw away each day, Have an fly off of the top ten in a man on man format in each class, give away 25 dollar gas card to the high man on the first flight, have a team event of 3 fliers drawn randomly before the event takes pace and give the winners 50 dollar gas cards, we are sure that you can add to our list.
3. Date: Pick a date and stand by the date. Our suggesstion is the 3rd weekend of May. Always..Weather most likely will be good, not too hot or cold, but it will work for most people.
4. Field use: Cross country get Saturdays and Sundays and 2 or 3 times a year. We believe, correct us if we are wrong, but HLG would love to have use of the field on a Saturday and has not the aero tow group asked and been turned down. Our club has 5 or 6 guys who do cross country and we have one or 2 guys doing aero towing, but if the field is given out to one group, then all applications should be taken equally. HLG group would really like to hold an event at our field, but after what happened to the aero tow guys, who would put their neck out. In October, the club should open the calendar for the next year for all groups to apply for dates. Saturday as well as Sundays should be available each month.
5. Club Meetings: We vote to have all summer meetings at the field, starting with May and going through August. We had a great time at the last meeting and we had the best turn out of the year.
6. Fun...: That is the whole purpose of our club. However, and we can add lots of HOWEVERS, some people really try to take the fun out of the club. It would be nice that if someone wants to an event, do something different these old farts say "go for it." But sadly, the old farts want the same ole and do not dare take their field away for one day.
7. Electrics: Have we gone too far with allowing "electrics" at our field. We thought that this was a glider club and we thought "electrics" was E Gliders. Quiet, but wait someone has an electric ducted fan Jet that screams, P 51 that screams, so what are we allowing at our club. We, feel let the power guys fly if we are going to allow these loud "electrics" fly at our club. Electric Sailplanes should only be flown along with electric tow planes if must allow them, at our field. End of story..We, have been buzzed by guys flying there super fast electric planes and are mystified on how our club allows this. Make it an glider club only. GOT IT..

Thank you for time,

Glider guys

Nolte's Notes

Minutes of the Meeting, SVSS, August 16, 2007

President Rich Beardsley called the meeting to order a bit after 7:00 PM at the SMUD conference room. Thirteen members attended including new member, Dick Millin. Susan Beardsley again sent delicious treats (brownies) which were gobbled up quickly – thanks Susan! The minutes of the last meeting were approved by acclamation and the Treasurer's report was dispensed with as Stan wasn't able to be present.

Old Business:

There was a question & clarification concerning the monthly contest rally plaques - Kip will try to remind the CDs that plaques will be awarded to fourth place each time. Also, a reminder to those flying the EZ glider class – the class is still there for the year, so come prepared to enter & fly accordingly each month if interested.

New Business:

Kip brought up the topic and a motion was approved to stick with two throwaway contests regardless of the total number of monthly contests in the flying season. Mark your calendar for Dec 15th – the year end banquet is scheduled for that date, 5 – 7 PM at the Hungry Hunter again. Joan reminded us that next month will be the time for appointing an election committee (members may volunteer to serve – check with the Prez). Dudley announced that next month's contest will be a Man-On-Man (MOM) event - further details to follow. The NorCal Slope Soarers/Racers have invited us all to a get-together at "The Slot" (off I-680 between Cordelia & the Benicia Bridge) on September 22nd. Hope is for strong winds and some dynamic soaring. All are advised to come prepared for wind chill protection and use lots of sunscreen. Watch for more specifics as the date nears. Rich reported it took him only two launches, one on Saturday and one on Sunday, to win a recent Portland Area Soaring Society (PASS) X-country event held near McMinnville, OR, southwest of Portland. Rich read a letter from a group of members who made some suggestions for improving the Spring Fling and club meetings/activities. The discussion which followed the letter being read touched on not only Spring Fling, but also ideas on field use and club meetings. The impact of the Internet on club communications, the social aspects of club meetings and the importance of interesting presentations/programs were discussed relative to meeting attendance and event participation (down for many clubs all over, according to George Steiner). **NOTE: NEXT MONTH'S CLUB MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE DAVIS FLYING SITE ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th, BEGINNING AROUND 4:00 PM,** following that day's X-country activity **AND WILL AGAIN INCLUDE FREE FOOD!** Bring any potential members you may know. The Executive Board is scheduled to meet at the SMUD room at the usual club meeting date/time, September 20th, and any club member may attend. Note: If you have ideas/items of concern you wish to present to the board, it would be very helpful to contact the club president and get included on the E-Board meeting agenda.

Show & Tell:

Ron Kucera related the exciting experience of one of our fellow club members. It seems he discovered the LiPo battery in one of his electrics was swollen to the extent he couldn't remove it from the plane. After obtaining advice from others, our member concluded the solution to get the battery out of the plane was to reduce the swelling by puncturing the battery in place and he proceeded to do just that. A simple solution to his problem, you say, right? NOT! Subsequent conversations with the member led to the fact he hadn't discharged the battery before puncturing it! Fortunately a total catastrophe was avoided and Ron indicated our member was able to save some of the plane's tail feathers as a memento. Let's be careful out there!

Program:

No program was scheduled this month.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 9:00 PM.

Welcome Wagon



Dick Millin

Dick was born on August 31, 1930 in Missoula Montana. He grew up in Salt Lake City Utah. He resides in Sacramento with his wife Nancy. He has two children and three grandchildren. Dick is a retired governmental CPA whose other interests include photography and travel. Dick started flying in Salt Lake City in 1944 with a Schweitzer free flight. His interests include electrics, scale ships, building, fun flying and the social aspects of our club. Please welcome Dick Millin to SVSS.



Harry Edwards

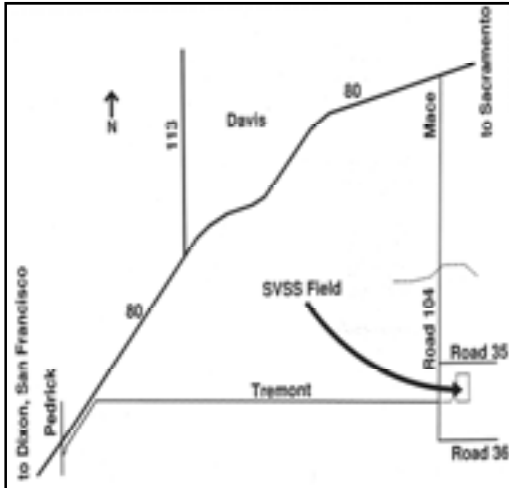
Harry is an Army Brat born in Nuremberg Germany. He was raised in the Bay Area and resides in Pleasanton with his wife Cathy. They have two kids of German decent. German Shepards named Alex and Max. Harry has worked as an executive with various companies in the Silicon Valley. His other interest is competitive shooting. (I hope he doesn't confuse his hobbies and bring the wrong equipment to the field ed.) Harry got started with gliders in Santa Cruz in 1975 with a Wind-free. He is interested in a multitude of the aspects that comprise our sport including; electrics, slope flying, cross country, scale ships, building, fun flying and socializing with his fellow members. Welcome Harry Edwards to SVSS.

**MAN ON MAN CONTEST
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8**

**4 ROUNDS, 10 MINUTES EACH
WE'LL BE FLYING IN FLIGHT
GROUPS
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
CONTACT CD TO SIGN UP
DUDLEY DUFORT**

**CROSS COUNTRY CONTEST
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 29 & 30**

**CLUB MEETING AND BARBECUE
SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE FIELD
CONTACT RICH BEARDSLEY TO
RSVP FOR THE BARBECUE AND
RIDE ALONG ON THE XC**



The SVSS Flying Site is located at Yolo County Grasslands Regional Park, south of Davis, CA.

Directions: From I-80, take the Mace Blvd. exit. Go south on Mace Blvd. 3.8 miles to the intersection of Tremont Rd. Turn left (east) on the gravel driveway and drive past the horseshoe and archery areas road to the field.

Shortcut from eastbound I-80: From I-80 take the Pedrick Road exit. Follow the frontage road eastbound on the south side of I-80 for 0.8 miles. Turn right on Tremont Rd. Follow Tremont for 5.4 miles. Cross Mace Blvd and enter Grasslands Regional Park.

SVSS Newsletter Editor
 Dudley Dufort
 6120 W. 6th Street
 Rio Linda, CA 95673

