

# CONVECTOR

April  
2008

photo by Fred Mueller

NEWSLETTER OF  
THE MID-ATLANTIC SOARING ASSOCIATION

**SSA Board  
of Directors  
Meeting**

*page 2*

*By Jim Kellett*

**From the Board**

*page 3*

*By Mike Higgins*

**The Wilburn  
Award**

*page 5*

**Eagle Fund  
Matching Grant**

*page 7*

*by Janine Acee*

**Duty Schedule,  
Soaring Seminar  
and more...**

*pages 8-10*

## Transponders, Transponders, Transponders...

by *Steve Wallace*

**T**oday [March 31, 2008] the NTSB issued recommendations to the FAA and to the SSA stemming from the August 26, 2006 accident when the Hawker 800 XP collided with the ASW 27 at 16,000 feet 42 miles southeast of Reno/Tahoe airport.

By law the FAA has 90 days to provide an initial response to the recommendations made to us. This response does not need to state definitively how we plan to respond, but we usually try to make as substantive a response as we can within 90 days. Our response will be open to the public.

Since one of the recommendations to the FAA would require rulemaking, that will take quite a long time if we choose to follow it. We have a full plate of higher priority rulemaking matters, like fuel tank flammability reduction, ADS-B, and a zillion other things. We often look for non-regulatory approaches to solving safety problems.

SSA can do what it wants in response to the recommendations, but it is a good thing that NTSB issued recommendations to SSA as well, with the intent of involving the glider community.

Steve Wallace

[http://www.ntsbt.gov/recs/letters/2008/a08\\_14\\_15.pdf](http://www.ntsbt.gov/recs/letters/2008/a08_14_15.pdf)

[http://www.ntsbt.gov/recs/letters/2008/a08\\_10\\_13.pdf](http://www.ntsbt.gov/recs/letters/2008/a08_10_13.pdf)

*Steve Wallace is Director of the FAA Office of Accident Investigation and a member of Skyline Soaring in Front Royal, VA.*

## Notes from the SSA Board of Directors' Meeting February 15 - 16, 2008 Albuquerque, NM

by Jim Kellett

First, on a personal note – this was the 18th SSA Convention that my wife and I have attended, and the 4th one at which I served as your Regional Director (and had to miss one full day to attend the Directors' meeting). I, for one, will miss the annual opportunity to mix and mingle with soaring pilots from all over the US, because the next Convention won't be until 2010.

And, no, we don't know where that will be. We received expressions of interest from clubs near Indianapolis, IN and Houston, TX so they will be doing research on venues (we need LOTS of space!!) and costs, and I hope to be able to report to you after the fall Director's meeting, in September of this year, where that'll be.

The composition of the Directors is changing. The Board approved a schedule, which had been proposed by the Future Restructuring Task Force (chaired by our own Dave Pixton) for reducing the number of Directors over the next few years. In addition, that process was speeded up by the early resignation of Jim Skydell of Region XII, and Fred LaSor in Region XI. The program will definitely have an impact on what is now Region IV – Region IV and Region II will be combined in 2010, and a single Regional Director will be elected at that time. BOTH Directors (myself in Region IV and Dianne Black-Nixon in Region II) have expressed the desire to not continue as Directors, so this will prove to be interesting for representation of our interests at the national level at that time. I had "recruited" an candidate for Region IV Director to replace me in 2010 before this restructuring was approved – I'll not mention his/her name for obvious reasons – who shares my interests and concerns for what constitutes a healthy Society and a healthy Regional organization, but I have no idea how that recommendation will fly in Region II, which has a very different composition of soaring enthusiasts. Forewarned is forearmed.

We have a new Editor for SOARING magazine! He's Charles Coyne, who comes to SSA from being the editor of a niche magazine for recumbent and tandem bicycles. (Hey, for those of you who don't know, I've been a cycling tourist for three decades, and a recumbent rider for 1.5 decades!) Anyhow, for those of you who ARE cyclists, and who are aware of the fractionalism that exists in that community between vendors, and between mountain bikers, tourists, racers, roadies, etc., you will instantly agree, I think, that we have chosen an Editor who is already prepared to work with soaring pilots!!

The PBS affiliate in Albuquerque, KNME, will start shooting a really neat HD video, "Cloudstreet", in northern NM and southern CO this summer. We were treated to a "teaser" of the filming, made from a Stemme S-10, and the Board instantly agreed to promote this project and to urge members to, in turn, urge their local PBS stations to broadcast it in syndication. We'll be alerted this summer as to production and distribution dates, so expect to hear from me a call to call YOUR local PBS affiliate and encourage their use of this film. I have hopes that this may be a new "Boy Who Flew With the Condors" event!

Contest Plans: For 2009, the following National Contests were announced:

Open and Standard, Montague

18 Meter, Ephrata

15 meter, Cordele

Sports, Elmira

I have NO IDEA why there was no announcement of a venue for a Worlds competition . . .

Finally, a couple of bits of really GOOD news. Phil Umphries, SSA Treasurer, reported that we have really "turned the corner" financially with a significant surplus of income over expenses for 2007, which allowed us to make a huge dent in the loan from the Soaring Society of American Foundation that we incurred in recovering from Gleason's embezzlement. This was due in large part

*continued on next page*

*continued from previous page*

to some drastic cost reductions made by the ExCom, and to the record-setting contributions to the Eagle Fund in 2007 (THANK YOU!!). But the shocker was at the annual Membership Meeting, when Chairman Dianne Black-Nixon announced her personal “Challenge Grant” to match, dollar for dollar, any contribution to the “Challenge Gift” fund up to \$25,000, before the end of May!! Now, that’s putting your money where your mouth is! Make your tax-deductible gift check out to the “Challenge Gift” and mail to the SSA in Hobbs before the end of May, and help SSA keep up the momentum toward its self-restructuring.

Jim Kellett  
Regional Director for Region IV  
Soaring Society of America

## From the Board

*by Mike Higgins*

As we start the new season we must not forget to use caution and err on the side of safety. Many of us haven’t flown in 3 to 6 months, and we’ll be rusty on the first few flights. I, myself, have flown my glider several times over the winter. Yet even having done that, I find that I’m not quite as effective as I should be in going through checklists, making quick decisions, and staying ahead of the aircraft during challenging periods. The slow winter tempo has degraded my skills noticeably; if you haven’t flown since last fall, your skills will have degraded as well. It’s crucial that we all start the season cautiously. Remember – currency is not enough, we all must be proficient to fly safely. M-ASA has an excellent staff of instructors who love to fly. Please schedule a spring check ride with one of them before you start flying solo this season.

You heard at the Annual Meeting that our membership numbers are down as we enter the 2008 season. The latest membership count is about 126 as of the end of March (this number is somewhat optimistic, and dynamic at this time of year, due to people going inactive and being late with dues payments), which is below the membership level of the past two years. So what does this mean? Financially, it does put a little more strain on the club, but it’s not problematic yet. I’m confident that we can successfully manage the cash flow this season (but do keep your fingers crossed that we don’t blow a tow plane engine any time soon).

The more significant impact is on the duty burden for our members. We will now have to step up and serve a little more in terms of OD, AOD, and tow pilot duty. The Board does periodically review the distribution of work load across our organization and tries to evenly spread the burden to the various members. But when the total number of operating days stays the same, and the membership drops significantly, we must have increased duty assignments and other maintenance/improvement job burdens.

As of today, we have a pool of 47 ODs, 14 AODs, and 21 tow pilots, for a total of 82. 29 members are exempt for duty do to filling designated staff positions (godfathers, CFGs, ...) Last year the total duty pool was 84, and it was 92 the year before that. As a club, we have collectively decided that we need a qualified towpilot and OD at each field (with the addition of an AOD at Frederick) to operate safely. Given that, the members will see a little more duty time this spring and summer. Remember that the duty exempt members are also carrying more burden now, as well. Many of these jobs have been doubled up, and some staff members (godfathers, etc) also serve OD duty. Of course one alternative is to cut the number of operating days, but we’re not yet ready to consider that. Contact me if you have ideas or opinions on how to manage this situation – I’d like to hear from the membership.

*continued on next page*

*continued from previous page*

Yes, we are trying to retain current members and recruit new ones. I encourage all of you to welcome visitors, guests, and other potential new members. Energetically encourage them to come back and take a glider ride and then join the club. A big part of recruiting is simply being friendly and presenting a smile when you see a visitor at M-ASA.

We have a great recruiting opportunity coming up at Frederick in June. On Saturday June 7th, the AOPA is hosting a “fly-in” in conjunction with the airport having an Open House. Thousands of local and regional pilots will be visiting FDK that day to learn about what’s new in general aviation. In years past, we have displayed a glider or two at this event with the intent of building awareness of soaring and of our club in particular. Perhaps it’s time to do it again. Since we will not be having scheduled operations that day at FDK, I’d like to see two to four M-ASA members volunteer to auto-tow our Grob Twin Astir across the field in the morning, and stand by the glider through the day to answer questions about the club, SSA, and soaring in general. We can get both M-ASA and SSA material to pass out to those interested. The Grob is in great shape after many hours of maintenance and improvements this winter, and will show well. Please contact me or any Director if you’re interested and available to support the club and our sport this way. It should be a fun day, with all kinds of aircraft and aviation displays and exhibits.

## Regional Ramblings

*by Jim Kellett*

*Regional Director for Region IV  
Soaring Society of America*

“Be A Pilot” at the Udvar-Hazy

“Natalie, Margy” <NatalieM@si.edu>, the Docent Program Manager at the National Air and Space Museum’s Udvar-Hazy Center, once again invites gliders/hang gliders to display their craft at their June 14, 2008 “Be A Pilot” day.

Last year, we had three gliders (Paul Dawson’s G-103, Frank Banas’ LS-4, and the Freytag/Kellett/Garrison ASW-20C) and one motorglider (Jan Scott’s Scheibe SF-25) displayed in a really prime spot - right next to the door where every visitor who left the building to see the fly-in aircraft had to exit.

If you’re interested, applications will be accepted online on the web [www.nasm.si.edu/becomeapilot](http://www.nasm.si.edu/becomeapilot) <<http://www.nasm.si.edu/becomeapilot>>

*—Luck will do for skill, but not consistently  
unknown*

## The Wilburn Award

*On March 14th at the Annual Meeting John Valentine Brain was presented with the Wilburn Award. Following is a condensed biography that was made available to the attendees from Cathy Williams.*

Val was born in Montreal, Canada on 2/27/1931. After the death of his father, a watchmaker, his mother took him back to her home in London while he was still an infant. He moved to Washington, DC in 1958, and has lived in Baltimore since 1966. He has been married to Pat for 48 years. Their two children, Jessica and Julian, and granddaughter, Jasmin, spent many childhood hours at M-ASA.

A lifelong poet and essayist, Val earned a degree in English from George Washington University in 1964. He recently retired from his position as a professor of mass communications at Towson University. Earlier positions included radar mechanic in the Royal Air Force, librarian, manager of marketing and advertising for the University Presses of Princeton and Johns Hopkins, and public relations director of the Baltimore Symphony.



Val Brain

Val began flying models at age ten, while a war evacuee living north of London with a foster family. He designed, built and won competitions with his model gliders and rubber-powered planes. At fifteen, he had a few glider training flights in a single place Slingsby Cadet. Low pilot weight and incorrect stick restrictions on his first introductory winch powered ground slide caused an unintended kiting incident and his surprise first solo. A skillful winch operator brought him down without damage or injury. He would not be instructed in the coordinated use of the rudder until 10 years later when he began flight training at the London Gliding Club at Dunstable. There he had his first approved solo in 1955. He then moved to the Surrey Gliding Club at Lasham, where he flew Olympias and Skylark-2s.

Val joined M-ASA at Westminster in 1958 soon after arriving in the USA. He earned his commercial rating at Chemung County Airport in 1960 and has instructed for M-ASA ever since. He served as M-ASA's Chief CFI from 1972 until 1998. He was primary instructor to longtime M-ASA members George Simms, Danny Brotto and Tom Jones. Val created a cross country course which he has presented at M-ASA and other clubs since 1986. The course includes a text (recently updated) that can be purchased alone or used as a reference for the three-session course. He has written many articles for Convector and Soaring. Gliding and Motorgliding International, an internet magazine, has published Val's column, "Gazebo Gossip" since 2003, and he became editor of the magazine a few years ago. Val has recently taken on the position of Fairfield Facilities Manager after years of being well known for his willingness and ability to economically repair nearly anything at M-ASA.

From his earliest years at M-ASA, Val's competitive spirit was obvious. He teaches cross-country and competition soaring by example. He earned his Silver badge in 1961 flying a 1-26 from Westminster to Seven Corners, VA. During an early Region 4N contest, he flew the 1-26 from Cumberland over the Chesapeake Bay and Aberdeen Proving Grounds to land beside the Delaware Ship Canal. His gold badge was completed in 1972 by flying his Austria SH-1 out and return from Frederick to Culpepper, VA. His 1987 diamond distance flight in the PIK was from Fairfield with a 3 point dog leg into VA and back. For 37 years, his name has never been far from the top of M-ASA's task day final score sheet. He has been Club Champion twice and Club Task Day Champion seven times. He has flown innumerable SSA sanctioned contests and won three Sports Class Regionals.

Val has owned an LK-10 with Mario Piccagli, a 1-26 with Joe Brennan and Edith Albrecht, and an Austria SH-1 with Bob Hart. For 27 years he flew "13", a PIK-20 which he owned successively with Don Robb, Jonathan Gere, Jay Dickhoff, and finally as a private owner. Recently he has owned a Pegasus and another PIK-20.

Val has spent countless hours giving ground and flight instruction, check rides, and BFRs to M-ASA members. For years he has begun his flying days early, completing several hours of instructional flights in the back seat of a 2-22, 2-33, Ka-7, Ka-13, or Grob before following the other task competitors out on course.

He remains an active M-ASA and SSA instructor who continues to generously volunteer his time to the instructional program at Fairfield.

## Getting in Touch

by Alan Meyer

*This is a reprint from last year, always useful.*

—editor

Getting in touch with other people in the club is easy. The electronic roster has all the contact information, is always online, and is as up-to-date as we members keep it.

To use the roster, go to: [www.m-asa.org—roster.pl](http://www.m-asa.org—roster.pl), <<http://www.m-asa.org/cgi-bin/roster.pl>> or from the home page, Link Menu | Members only | Club Roster. Enter your first and last name and password and you're in.

If you don't know your password but you think there is a valid email address on file for you, just click "Email me a new password". Within seconds, a random password will be generated and emailed to you. Then unclick the box and login with the new password. After you login you can edit your record, bring everything up to date, and reset your password to whatever you like. You can also see the full roster or any subset you like, like just tow pilots or instructors. There's always a Help link at the top of each page if you don't know what to do.

If you don't know if there's an email address on file for you, that's no problem. Send an email to the roster maintainer ([roster@m-asa.org](mailto:roster@m-asa.org) <<mailto:roster@m-asa.org>>). He can edit your record for you and put in your correct email address, granting you access. There is also a condensed, downloadable PDF version of the roster available if you want to print it. After logging in, click "Last PDF Roster" to download it. It's only refreshed from time to time so it's not always 100% current, but you can always see the current view online.

The club also has email aliases for some club functionaries. These aliases will be kept up to date so that if one person hands over the job to another, the email address stays the same.

Here are the current email aliases:

Chief flight instructor: [chief\\_instructor@m-asa.org](mailto:chief_instructor@m-asa.org)

Contest manager: [contest-manager@m-asa.org](mailto:contest-manager@m-asa.org)

Convector editor: [convector@m-asa.org](mailto:convector@m-asa.org)

Roster maintainer: [roster@m-asa.org](mailto:roster@m-asa.org)

Duty scheduler: [scheduler@m-asa.org](mailto:scheduler@m-asa.org)

Webmaster: [webmaster@m-asa.org](mailto:webmaster@m-asa.org)

The [m-asa.org](http://m-asa.org) email addresses are automatic "forwarders". Email sent to one of them will be immediately forwarded by our Internet server to the regular email address of the person with that role.

If anyone else would like to have an email address for official club business, please send an email to me ([webmaster@m-asa.org](mailto:webmaster@m-asa.org)) and I'll set it up.



**ETA** —only €600,000, about \$1,000,000.  
Luesse, Germany

photo by Fred Mueller

## SSA Eagle Fund Matching Challenge Grant

by Janine Acee

SSA Governor, Pennsylvania Region 2

SSA Chair Dianne Black-Nixon announced at the SSA convention general member meeting that she is offering a 'Matching Challenge Grant' for a total of up to \$25,000 for your donations to the SSA Eagle Fund.

How: Mark you tax deductible donation check with 'Matching Challenge Grant' or call the SSA office with your credit card number

Deadline: April 30th

For more information: <http://www.ssa.org/society/eaglefund.asp>



*Tow pilot Dee Torgerson takes time to complete "office" paperwork at the Frederick Municipal Airport*

*photo by Peter Kern*

## Duty Schedule

by Ray Watson

<i>Date</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Operations Director (OD)</i>	<i>Tow Pilot</i>	<i>Assistant Ops Director (AOD)</i>
4/12/08	FDK	Dan Meyer	Glenn Collins	Jerry White
4/12/08	FRF	Luis Fernandez	Bob Jackson	
4/13/08	FDK	Luis Fernandez	Dick Bernstein	Stanley Faust
4/13/08	FRF	Bob Kryzstan	Jim Chick	
4/19/08	FDK	Gary Cassell	Dee Torgerson	Bob Bigler
4/19/08	FRF	Dave Weaver	Pete Welles	
4/20/08	FDK	Bill Whelan	Dan Morris	Benjamin Mwendwa
4/20/08	FRF	Rick Fuller	David Pixton	
4/26/08	FDK	Bob Ball	Olin Kinney	Andreas Schliessler
4/26/08	FRF	Richard Latoff	Bill Savory	
4/27/08	FDK	Peter Kern	Bill Judge	Jeff Rose
4/27/08	FRF	John Mitchell	Hans Jorgensen	
5/3/08	FDK	Mario Piccagli	Bob Gardner	Brian Dahl
5/3/08	FRF	Steven Shelton	Don Robb	
5/4/08	FDK	Steven Silverman	Lance Nuckolls	Zach Bowen
5/4/08	FRF	Christophe Blanchi	Mike Grinder	
5/10/08	FDK	John Wallin	Mark Mercer	Ricardo Cibotti
5/10/08	FRF	Peter Blacklin	Mike Smith	
5/11/08	FDK	Gyorgy Fekete	Glenn Collins	Rich Matheus
5/11/08	FRF	Jim Lewis	Buddy Denham	
5/17/08	FDK	Tom Jones	Bob Andrew	Bob Filipchuk
5/17/08	FRF	David MacVeigh	Rich Horigan	Mike Dalke
5/18/08	FDK	Roger Thompson	Dee Torgerson	Nick Costanzo
5/18/08	FRF	Wilmar Sick	Bob Jackson	
5/24/08	FDK	Rob Myhre	Bob Gardner	Steve Bates
5/24/08	FRF	Kai Rasmussen	Don Robb	
5/25/08	FDK	Holland Ford	Olin Kinney	Brian Dahl
5/25/08	FRF	Laura Hession	Mike Grinder	
5/26/08	FDK	Edward Breau	Dan Morris	Neal Drobenare
5/26/08	FRF	Chris O'Callaghan	Pete Welles	
5/31/08	FDK	Eric Schuyler	Mark Mercer	Zach Bowen
5/31/08	FRF	Kolie Lombard	Mike Smith	

**M-ASA Duty Notes:** Members assigned to operations duty must be on site in enough time to start operations by 10:00 a.m. and stay at the field until operations are concluded. Each person listed on the duty roster is responsible for that day's assignment. In the case of "no-shows," the person acting as OD should indicate this fact on the flight sheet. "No-shows" will be fined \$100. Every effort will be made to accommodate the new member's stated duty preference whenever possible. M-ASA Scheduler: Ray Watson 410-484-0333.

FOR SALE: Security Seat Pack Parachute, highest offer over \$650 will take it, free shipping, contact ex-M-ASA member John Brent at 601-796-4932 or jtbrent@bellsouth.net.

FOR SALE: 1/5 memberships offered in '47 Luscombe 8E, all metal, 30 gal fuel, good looking interior, new glass, Cessna seats, GPS, Com+transponder, low-time engine, hydraulic breaks, wheel pants. Based at FDK, well run LLC, 3 year operation. Put the fun back in flying basic stick and rudder, plus tail wheel endorsement. All at a cost that is really affordable. Call me for a demo. Dick Bernstein 240-446-5827

FOR SALE: SGS 1-26B-#338, recent museum quality restoration-Army Air Corp color scheme, with trailer and many accessories. may be one of the best 1-26's around. Located: M-ASA Frederick \$7300 Call Jack Goehring, Cell 703-727-8941, Office 703-821-8222

FOR SALE: Ventus 2b 2001, S/N 111, t approx 425 tt only, ndh, tinted canopy, Filser 5000, 7007 upgrade, Borgelt B40, Becker AR4201 with boom mike, Pegasus compass, Winpilot pda, oxygen fittings, towout gear, Cobra fibreglass trailer with easy rig fittings and heavy duty spec, availability by arrangement. More photos if desired, any inspection welcome, \$95000

Contact George 1-717-642-5018, gdagreen@yahoo.com



See ya later...



Jean Posbic in 2ET flying over Frederick.  
photo by Jim Furlong

## WHO TO CALL

### Godfathers:

Grob 103 (FDK)	Victor Filipchuk
Grob 103 (FFD)	Chris Williams
Grob 103 Trailer	Milan Petkovic
Ka-7	Paul Rehm
Ka-8	Jeff Rose
Pilatus B-4	Danny Brotto
Pilatus trailer	Ed Breau
SGS-2-33 (FDK/Orange)	Jean Posbic
SGS-2-33 (FFD/Yellow)	Jerry White
SGS-2-33 (FDK/R&W)	Jim Furlong
SGS 1-36	Gary Baker
SGS 1-36 trailer	Jeff Rose
Tug N7799Z (FFD)	Bob Gardner
Tugs N82096 and N8658L	Bob Andrew (FDK)
Tug N9809 (FDK)	John Vaughan

Chief CFI:	Glenn Collins
Chief Tow Pilot:	Lance Nuckolls
Fairfield Glider Maintenance:	Rich Horigan
Frederick Glider Maintenance:	Dave Schober
Tug Maintenance Officer:	Vacant
Field Safety Officer:	Rick Fuller (FFD) Dan Morris (FDK)
Fairfield Facility Manager :	Val Brain
Frederick Facility Manager:	Mehrdad Bayat
Mentor Program Lead:	Wayne Elseth
Membership Chairman:	Hope Howard
Convector Editor:	Fred Mueller
Flight Sheet Manager:	Rick Cordell (FFD) Bob Dutilly (FDK)
Hangar Waiting List Officer:	Danny Brotto (FFD) Bill Whelan (FDK)
Roster / Mailing List:	Dan Meyer
Scheduler:	Ray Watson
Task Day Chairman:	Chris O'Callaghan
Webmaster:	Alan Meyer
SSA Regional Director:	Jim Kellett (jim@kellett.com)

(Volunteers are requested to fill empty slots above. Contact the Board if you are interested.)

## Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association

Board of Directors:	Preston Burch Michael Higgins Hans Jorgensen Jean Posbic James Trygg
---------------------	--

Officers:	President - Michael Higgins Vice President - James Trygg Secretary - Manfred Beutgen Treasurer - Michael Hearn
-----------	---

## Club Introductory Meetings

### By Wayne Elseth

We are continuing our series of M-ASA Club Introductory Meetings for 2008. The intent for these meetings is to quickly bring a prospective, new, or returning club members up to speed in club procedures, safety, flight operations, and related topics. The meetings are held monthly, typically alternating between Frederick and Fairfield (but not always), on the Saturday after the monthly club meeting, at 9am. We have a prepared presentation that takes around 1.5 to 2 hours to run through explaining how we run our operations. Intro meeting are held the Saturday after the General Club meeting, rain or shine. Check with Wayne Elseth for last minute changes to time or location via email: [masa@elseth.net](mailto:masa@elseth.net) or 443:812-8815. If you can't make it to one of these flying-day meetings, I'm always happy to get you going with a personal briefing if you contact me. The information being presented is important and we want everyone to attend one of these briefings prior to flying.

If you are interested in being a presenter please contact Wayne Elseth.

April 12	Fairfield
May 10	Frederick
June 14	Fairfield
July 12	Frederick
August 9	Fairfield
September 13	Frederick
October/November/December Only if requested	

## Upcoming Events

*If you have an event you would like to appear on this schedule, email [convector@m-asa.org](mailto:convector@m-asa.org)*