



Soaring News



Vol. 3 Issue 1

"Newsletter of the Orlando Buzzards R/C Soaring Society"

January 1999

CLUB OFFICERS

Terry Cusack, President
Al Demarken, Vice President
Lewis Gray, Treasurer
(vacant), Secretary

NEXT MEETING

Feb 6th, Noon at Club Field
Mar 6th, Noon at Club Field

It has been over 6 months since Soaring News was last published. In an effort to improve communications, this 1999 issue provides information on club meetings and events. The Buzzards are currently looking for volunteers for Newsletter Editor and Club Secretary.

Corner

Terry Cusack

President's

The October meeting marked a swift election of new officers for 1999 (My election is proof that if you voice your opinion too much, somebody will make you eat it!). I would like to thank Jerre for his tenor under some very trying personal events. I hope that 1999 will be better and that he can share more thermals with us. I think we all owe a big debt of gratitude to our "Perpetual" Treasurer, Lewis Gray. We should be very thankful for his superb organization and record-keeping skills; the multitude of tasks he volunteers for; and for accepting to do it all again for another year! Thanks Lewis. Rob Rierson returned as Secretary, but has since had to vacate the office. And Al Demarken has been so helpful to this organization, he is a very good choice for VP. I'm sure that all the new officers will do their best to make the Orlando Buzzards Soaring Society meet your needs and expectations.

After The 25th Tangerine was over, I realized that I have been placed with an awesome responsibility as President of the Buzzards. I have to maintain the tradition and quality of contests (especially Tangerine) that this Club is noted for, and perhaps leave my mark for some new directions. So, with that in mind, let me give you my views on those two subjects.

First Tangerine: In the December and January Meetings we solicited for opinions on how well Tangerine went and for any suggestions to improve it. Overwhelming response was that this Tangerine was GREAT! The contest was very smooth, no delays in rounds, lots of flying, good weather, cheap lunches, classy trophies, and cool T-shirts!!! I couldn't agree more. Everywhere you looked, there were Buzzards volunteering to help out. Wives, Kids, and I was very impressed with the turnout of non-competitive members that helped with the contest. Even those that can rarely break free to fly during the year, showed up to lend a hand! Look inside for the meeting minutes and for the suggestions for next year.

Now for my personal agenda for 1999:

1. Increase participation in FUN Flying at the Club field.
2. Promote participation of Juniors in Fun and Competition Flying.
3. Provide a community service by helping a school group build and Fly Delta Darts, buddy box with club members at a field on School grounds, and come out to a contest and get some more flight time.
4. Start a long range financial plan to insure the Buzzards can obtain future flying sites after our lease expires on the SCC property.

The most important part of this agenda is YOU. Will you help? The club will only be as strong as you make it.

I invite you to come out and enjoy the thermals! Don't take your job too serious, we all need some time to relax and challenge the elements of nature.

Hope you have a happy New Year, and hook many thermals,

Terry

BUZZARD MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER MEETING – Meeting was canceled by Vice President Al when only two other members showed.

JANUARY MEETING – Called to order by Terry. Treasurer's report was read by Lewis. (Treasury report may be obtained on request.) Secretary Rob was not present. Found out later that Rob wished to vacate office of Secretary due to new job and personal commitments. Will accept nominations for Secretary at February Meeting (*Soaring News* editor nominates Scott Hunt!).

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Solicited opinions of Tangerine Contest operation. Members seemed to have overwhelming praise for the operation, cost value, great raffle prizes, and T-shirts. There were only two points mentioned for improvement. The first was to increase the attendance, and the second was to modify the raffle process to distribute prizes faster and more evenly. Suggestions for raffle improvement included:

- separation of prizes into two categories, allowing winners only one win from the higher category.
- draw tickets for a specific-named prize, not allowing winner to choose among remaining prizes. (This assures distribution of higher value prizes, and allows us to hold out until the end for the "Grand Prizes".)
- Separate the prizes into 4 or 5 categories and allow the winners to pick a prize from the category being drawn for. Additionally, a winner could only win one prize per category.

Please keep these in mind since we will vote on this subject during the planning stages of next Tangerine.

2. Other old business included a debrief of what happened to our field during the SCC Open House. SCC cut the grass, including the surrounding area outside the fence. But, they left trash on the field and some pretty loose sand ruts on the entrance road. Terry called Stan

Pfost and Stan communicated his concern to SCC about using the leased field without prior permission and the leaving it disturbed. SCC promptly cleaned up the mess, but the entrance road is still pretty sandy, so use caution. To improve awareness of our activities, we have installed a chain across the wire fence entrance at the field, and AL Demarken is creating a sign which we intend to post on the Lockwood Road gate. Terry has also accepted an action item to contact Stan again and get a direct contact at SCC so that we can keep each other aware of events, as well as invite to fly. (sounds like a good idea.)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Annual Club dues must be submitted to Lewis for 1999 Membership.
2. We need Contest Directors to claim a 1999 FSS or Buzzard contest from the current calendar. Each CD will be required to submit the AMA sanction for his contest. (Contact Lewis for guidance.)
3. Terry discussed a plan to prepare for replacement of our current flying field. He suggested that a minimum of \$5K from the treasury be invested in a stock fund of the member's choosing. Need members to nominate their choice of investment. Then we will vote on this motion next meeting. The purpose is to maximize funds to support a lease or land improvements if either becomes necessary to keep flying beyond the year 2003.
4. Meeting attendance has been very low since moving to Saturday. Is it because of the day or just the timing of other events? Let Terry or Al know which day is best for you. If there is not enough input, then the meeting day will return to Sunday in the month of April (since the dates are already published for February and March). For now, even with contest date conflicts, we will hold meetings consistently. (Al can hold one at the field and I'll hold one at the contest!)

Future Contest Dates:

Feb 6-7 FSS#2, Cape Coral—2 mtr/Unlimited
CD: John Agnew (941) 936-7148

Feb 27-28 FSS#3, Orlando—2 meter/Unlimited
CD: Ed White (407) 321-1867

Mar 15-16 FSS#4, Orlando—2 motor/Unlimited
CD: Ben Cleveland (352) 589-1866

April 17-18 FSS#5, West Palm—2 meter/Unlimited
CD: Charlie Brecht (561) 478-4527

May 29-30 FSS#6, Morriston—2 meter/Unlimited
CD: Ken Goodwin (904) 528-3744

June 24-27 Mid-South Championship, Huntsville

HLG/2 meter/Unlimited

July 10-11 Orlando Gentle Lady 2+2 & HLG
CD: Rick Eckel

July 24-31 AMA Nationals, Muncie, Indiana
(see Model Aviation Magazine for info)

Sept 4-5 FSS#7, Morriston—2 motor/Unlimited
CD: Ken Goodwin (904) 528-3744

Oct 2-3 FSS#8, Punta Gorda, Nost/2mtr/Unltd
CD: Ollie Wilson (941) 627-2117

Nov 26-28 Tangerine Championship, Orlando
Contact Terry Cusack (904) 789-0323



All the news is about FSS#1 in Punta Gorda. Wow, what a contest this turned out to be. All the weather reports forecast winds, clouds and rain. But as Saturday dawned, the sky was clear and the wind was light. Of course it got much windier at the coastal field as the day lapsed, but it was a "kinder-gentler" wind from the northwest. Sunday warmed up, and the wind came from the familiar east, creating rotors across the field and swirls in the air. Rich Kiburis, John Agnew, and Larry Squire all took a wade out into the Peace River to retrieve their planes. Rich almost got stuck in the mud (thank goodness for duck feet!). The winds took their usual toll, with several air planes going home in pieces. Terry Cusack broke his wing hold-down when a rotor taught him not to slow down on approach. Luckily, he was able to repair it during lunch break and went on to win Expert Class. Ingo Donash wowed us all with his electric Zagi flying wing. Inexpensive and great performance on a speed 400! Nostalgia was flown in parallel with FSS. Nostalgia continues to have a strong showing, with some very beautiful and competitive old timers (and the planes aren't bad either!). Jerry Baxter was the king of Bad News/Good News. Bad News: On Saturday he launched his "Back to Basics" with no battery power. Good News: It was trimmed very well and it glided to a one-piece landing. Real BAD NEWS: On Sunday, Jerry totaled his NSP Edge into a house on the canal. GOOD NEWS: No body got hurt and there is always insurance! A few other pilots crunched some perfectly good airplanes, but that is common for this tough flying site. Another interesting story was Jim Scollen. In Unlimited with a 2-mtr beater, Jim had ballasted-up for some decent scores, but not enough to win. BUT...since Jim thought he was done with

FSS#3 CONTEST RESULTS		
PLACE/CLASS	EVENT	NAME
1-Sportsman	2meter	JOHN SIDER
2-Sportsman	2meter	KEVIN ECKEL
3-Sportsman	2meter	J ODOM
1-Expert	2meter	TERRY CUSACK
2-Expert	2meter	JOE NABOR
3-Expert	2meter	JAY GAYLON
1-Master	2meter	JOHN AGNEW
2-Master	2meter	ED WHITE
3-Master	2meter	RICK ECKEL
1-Sportsman	Unlmt	J ODOM
2-Sportsman	Unlmt	ARON DAHL
3-Sportsman	Unlmt	JIM SCOLLEN
1-Expert	Unlmt	JAY GAYLON
2-Expert	Unlmt	MIKE WILLIAMS
3-Expert	Unlmt	INGO DONASH
1-Master	Unlmt	DEIRICK KHAW
2-Master	Unlmt	ED WHITE
3-Master	Unlmt	RICK ECKEL

the contest, he removed the ballast and prepared to fun fly. Then someone informed him that he had not flown the last round! He hurried to the launch, even though his plane was no longer ballasted! Well, I don't know if it was the lack of pressure or ballast, but Jim proceeded to stay aloft for 9 full minutes, and leaping into third place in Sportsman!

FSS#1 is also the site of the Annual FSS awards and meeting. Results are published in the FSS Newsletter (Silent Flyer). New officers are listed elsewhere in this issue. Congratulations to all Buzzards (7 total!) who ventured all the way South for this fun-filled weekend. (Editors Note: for those wishing to go to Punta Gorda next time, there are two very affordable motels in the area: Peace River Inn and Motel 6 at \$36 a night for 2 adults. And if you go, don't forget your Nostalgia plane!)

★See the latest Contest info at <http://www.specs-usa.com/~ingo/fss>★

ODDS-N-ENDS

DUES ARE DUE! 1999 Dues are now over due! BUT don't let that stop you from forwarding your money to Lewis Gray today. The club offers some great benefits, such as launch equipment, an isolated flying location, and access to FSS-winning pilots.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE TRYING TO GET STARTED IN RC SOARING? Terry Cusack has a Foamie trainer and a Gentle Lady just waiting for beginners to try them out. He is currently training his two children to fly. He thinks the planes will last for others to enjoy this year.

THANK YOU!!! TANGERINE CONTEST VOLUNTEERS. Tangerine ran like clock-work and had some of the best weather we've seen in years. The Orlando Buzzards hosted many great contests last year and it was only made possible by the many talented and dedicated volunteers. It is especially noteworthy, that many of our volunteers are non-competition pilots. If interested in volunteering for future contests, contact the designated Contest Director (CD) or Terry Cusack (904) 789-0323, EMAIL: flyboy@bitstorm.net.

DO YOU HAVE E-MAIL? If you can receive email, and do not already receive messages from Terry or Lewis, please provide your email address to Lewis Gray. A list of member's email addresses is available from Lewis. Be sure to keep it for private use only.

WANTED: Good Hand Launch Gliders ready-to-fly. Have buyer waiting for models such as Climax, Monarch, or Kummerows. Contact Terry Cusack, (904) 789-0323.

CONGRATULATIONS!!! The Annual FSS Meeting was held in Punta Gorda during FSS#1. 1998 Annual Awardee's included Buzzards John Masiello, Rich Kiburis, and Rick Eckel. New FSS Officers are:

President: Ed White
Vice President: Rich Kiburis
Treasurer: Mike Williams
Secretary/Scorekeeper: John Masiello

Notice that those Buzzards are in there pulling their weight again!

GATE SECURITY. After Tangerine, the gate lock to Snowhill Field was missing. If you access any of our gates on either field, please close the lock around a post so that no one can take the lock or chain. At our home field (Lockwood) it is OK to leave the gate open for the time that you are present. If you are the last to leave the field, insure that the gate is locked. Your assistance can protect our privilege to fly.

LOST AND FOUND: For two months a Gentle Lady sat in the shed unclaimed. Mike Soucy has finally returned to claim his airplane. It turns out that Mike got it stuck in a tree and had to leave it. When he came back, it was gone. I suspect someone found it on the ground and turned it into the shed for safe keeping. Mike has been a visitor to our club, but has just applied for membership. If the check clears, we'll give him back his airplane!

AIN'T GOT NO TIME

What is time? How can we get more of it? "I ain't got no time!" is a familiar reply from many people that I talk to. They don't have time to be a club officer, to be a contest CD, to be in a contest, or to come out for a few hours of flying enjoyment. What a shame that someone can't make time for something that they love to do, and more importantly, share that time with their family.

I kind of laugh inside when someone responds that they don't have time. I think to myself: do they have kids with

dance lessons? Do they work 12-16 hour days at their jobs? Do they drill with the US Naval Air Reserves? Do they write a Newsletter and manage a Basketball League? Do they have a homebuilt airplane that they build in their Garage? Do they do their own car maintenance and home upkeep? Do they ...? And then I have to remind myself, we all have agendas in our lives, and these people have taken the first step to making and sharing some of their precious time. They joined the

Buzzards; and they are out on the flying field, either enjoying the conversation of flying buddies or putting their airplane through its paces.

How can we make some more time? We can't. But we can remember that the turtle doesn't have any more time than the hare, but he still gets there at the same time. So maybe having the appearance of more time is just a matter of spending a couple of minutes a day getting that airplane one small step closer to flying off the building board. Or making one phone call a week to communicate to a friend. Getting an advantage on time must just mean building on the time you spent the day or week before to reach a future goal. Time is what you make for the things you want to do. And while I know better than anyone, there is a limit to what you can fit in a day, week, or month, there is always enough time to accomplish a goal.



Have you checked your AMA insurance coverage? You can bet that Jerry Baxter of Pensacola is checking it out.

SOARING WORLD WIDE WEB SITES

Many club members have new faster modems from Santa, so it's time to go "soaring" out on the NET again. Here are more great web sites pertaining to R/C Soaring.

Northeast Sailplane products/catalog. A MUST SEE location of products and specials. NSP is now selling the Esteem and Pelican, as well as importing some very highly crafted ARFs from Czech and Russia.

<http://www.nesail.com/index2.html>

Trick R/C. Makers of the Zagi and some of the best EPP foam gliders to be found. A good cheap thrill!

<http://www.Zagi.com>

DJ Aerotech RC Sailplane.s Joe Hahn and Don Stackhouse are a wealth of sailplane knowledge. From Structures and building tips, to proper throwing technique, these guys put out helpful information with no hype. This site also contains beautiful pictures of their Monarch, Wizard, and Chrysalis HLGs. If you think you are serious

During FSS#1 Unlimited Competition, Jerry had the misfortune of rocketing his hot new NSP Edge sailplane into the roof of a not-so-nearby house. The sailplane broke the tile roof, then glanced off and through the backyard screen enclosure. Total cost of the damage is yet to be determined, but Jerry was not able to salvage any of the few small pieces remaining and he never did locate the battery pack. He said he would investigate every avenue of coverage to avoid any costly expense. After all, isn't enough that the man is without his sailplane?

I write this story to remind you how quickly the fun of a docile sailplane can turn into an unguided missile seeking to ruin you financially and mentally. The residents of the house that Jerry hit were pretty reasonable (not happy, but understanding), and I'm sure that is partly due to the comfort of knowing the pilot is backed by the AMA and was participating in an AMA-Sanctioned event.

I would like to be able to tell you what caused Jerry to spin out of control into a house, so that we could prevent such disasters. But Jerry has not been able to determine the cause of the mishap. It might be that the missing battery pack is a clue, but he doesn't seem to think so. Anyway, with the weather of the last two months, many of us may have missed our usual amount of flying time. We would be wise to give our planes a thorough checkout before the next flight. I too was victim to a failure (a pull-pull cable broke at the control surface). I even launched again before I caught the problem. (It was easier to diagnose when it did not respond on the winch!) So this is just a reminder to be prepared, and always make safety first.

about soaring, then this is your "must read" web site.

<http://www.bright.net/~djwerks>

Slegers International. We all know that Ed has some great prices on some great competition sailplanes.

<http://www.slegers.com>

Soaring Yellow Pages If you need a road map that links you directly to all RC soaring sites, then this is the place. Manny Tau (of rubber duck antenna fame) is the keeper of this massive listing which even includes an email list.

<http://www.ocpapsych.com/yelloww.htm>
Dream Catcher Hobby Inc. This company acquired several lines of airplanes from Dynamic Models and Bob Martin and combined them into one big collection of gliders. Mostly built-up types, but includes a little of everything.

<http://www.dchobby.com>

**Your 1999 FSS Contest Schedule is Enclosed.
Also in this issue: Important Meeting Minutes**



**Where have you been? Get those planes out and
let's go chase some thermals. Weekends were made
for R/C Soaring!!!**

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