

Freedom's Tales

Volume 11, No. 3, autumn-winter 2011

.....never enough Bushmills or Cuervo



President's Article

Our 30th year was another busy and successful one for Freedom's Wings International (FWI)

In March we held our annual Safety Meeting organized and presented by Robert Cook, Chief Flight Instructor, and William Thar, Safety Officer. Their challenging and educational program prepared all FWI pilots for the soaring season ahead.

Safety in flying does not just happen. Rather safety is an attitude embraced by the club pilots and continually emphasized by training, standardized procedures and monitoring. FWI is most fortunate to have veteran glider pilots, Bob and Bill, serving our club in the critical areas of training and safety.

Once again in early June we visited with our colleagues at the Philadelphia Glider Council (PGC). This year the weather cooperated allowing us to fly a full slate of rides on both Saturday and Sunday. Many new friends were introduced to soaring flight. Thank you to Robert Lacovara, President, and all the members of PGC for their friendship and ongoing support of Freedom's Wings International.

On a sad note one of our most avid participants over the past several years at the PGC event, Armando Meschieri, passed away in October. Armando and his wife, Elena, and daughter, Cristina, drove from their home in Virginia to join us each year so he could fulfill his dream to become a glider pilot. Armando will be missed by all his friends at FWI and PGC.

In July FWI had a FAA Wings Seminar on Ridge and Wave Soaring Safety. The seminar was well attended by members of area soaring clubs and hosted an impressive line up of speakers: William VanArtsdalen of the Allentown, PA FAA office; Ron Schwartz, Aero Club Albatross (ACA) member and ridge pilot extraordinaire; John Mahoney, Adirondack Soaring Club (ASC) member and Safety Officer; and our own Dr. Bill Thar. The positive feedback from the event has prompted interest in holding another in the near future.

In early September men and women with spinal cord injuries from Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital (MSRH) travelled to Blirstown Airport for an afternoon of soaring. James Cesario,

Director of Recreation at MSRH always brings out an enthusiastic group who are a joy to introduce to soaring flight.

The very next day was the FWI picnic which is always great fun. Many of our ACA friends stopped by to share in the food, beverages and camaraderie. FWI could not operate at Blirstown Airport without the generous assistance offered by ACA members. Thank you!

In mid-October FWI returned to Saratoga County Airport in Ballston Spa, NY, as guest to the ASC. Our second visit in as many years was expanded to two days after our enthusiastic reception in 2010. The weather was simply perfect all weekend allowing smooth flights and spectacular views of the fall foliage. Thank you to Tom MacJarrett and a cast of ASC members for their support in organizing and hosting this event.

So that is a brief recap of 2011. What will 2012 bring? Certainly, PGC, MSRH and ASC events are already on the calendar. We also hope to hold an event at Blirstown Airport exclusively for Veterans with Disabilities. All of us at FWI feel that we can not do enough to honor our Veterans whose service and sacrifice enable us to enjoy our freedoms ... freedoms which should never be taken for granted.

I'll close my comments with my annual appeal. FWI is looking for ... "a few good men and women" as volunteers. Anyone interested in becoming a member of our dynamic club should contact me at rrfucci@earthlink.net.

All of us at Freedom's Wings International wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season!





2012 FREEDOM'S WINGS CALENDAR

Annual Meeting & Board Meeting	January 21st
followed by Cyber Soaring @ caffe nelle cucine	
PGC Banquet	January 21st
FIRC @ Adirondack Soaring	March TBA
Spring Briefing and Checkouts	March 17th
Aero Club Albatross Banquet	March 24th or 31st
Board Meeting	April 21st
Philadelphia Glider Council Event	June 2nd & 3rd
Rain dates	June 9th & 10th
Board Meeting	July 16th
Mount Sinai Event	September 7th
Annual Picnic	September 8th
Rain date	September 15th
Adirondack Soaring Club Event	October 13th & 14th
Rain dates	October 20th & 21st
Board Meeting	October 27th
Holiday Celebration	December 10th

!!*!!*!!*!!*!!*!!*!!*!!*!!*!!

(ed. Note: ran out of room for this in the previous edition)

Glide Freedom Day Up - Saturday 19th March 2011

Glide Freedom is a project undertaken by the Auckland Gliding Club to provide fun glider flying and glider training for the disabled.



For the Glide Freedom project we use a Schleicher ASK-21. It is a 2-seat glider with a tandem cockpit configuration. It is equipped with flying controls in both the front and rear cockpits. In addition to the standard controls this glider is

fitted with hand controls for the rudder. This means the glider can be flown with the hand controls by pilots that are not able to use the standard foot controls for the rudder. To date we have taken disabled pilots flying at Drury, our home base, and Matamata airfields. At Easter 2011 we will offer disabled persons the chance to fly the Glide Freedom glider at Norfolk Rd airfield, Taranaki.

On our first Glide Freedom Day Up we took three disabled persons gliding in our ASK-21. All the participants had the chance to fly the glider under supervision of the instructor participants Greg Douglas [standing], Peter Konings, Matthew Weir, Barry Cardno, Instructor Rae Kerr [standing].



www.glidefreedom.co.nz

(...any of this seem familiar? Best wishes to AGC & Glide Freedom)

other international friends/guests



M. Bernard Gilliers, from Lille, flew with Bruce in summer 2009



“Edu” Cuevas, from Málaga, flew with Joel summer 2010



Raul Torres-Guzman, from Madrid, flew at PGC summer 2011

...as long as we're on the subject of International:



FWI pilot & record-holder Chris (The Gimper) Lynch made new friends Sarah & Daniel Ramseier in Switzerland, attending Handiflight 2011.

<http://vimeo.com/channels/handiflight>

Since 2007 Handiflight has organized flying events at [aérodrome de la Gruyère](http://www.gruyere.aero) for disabled pilots throughout Europe. This year FWI was invited as the first representatives of the US to participate.

<http://www.gruyere.aero/handiflight/Handiflight-2011-pilotes-e.pdf>

Christopher Lynch, holder of multiple NJ soaring records, filled in for FWI prez Richard Fucci, who was unable to make the trip. The weather was less than ideal for the event, but the Gimper distinguished himself with the only soaring flight of the week.



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/aeromedia-concept/6003742882/in/set-72157627219099229/>

...maybe sometime in the future Handiflight will visit the US?



...and from the ASC/Saratoga Event:

...from the Mt Sinai Event at Blairstown:



...what a most AMAZING event! i kind of signed up blindly, not knowing what to expect and trying not to have any expectations. from take off to landing, i felt exhilarated! the scenery was amazing and actually being able to fly myself felt like a goal completed and a fear conquered! an army, Iraq buddy from glens falls picked me up after my flight. had i known he could've tried it, i would've had him come earlier. he REALLY wants to do it next year too!

thanks for the "high". you guys all rock!

respectfully,

angie lupe

p.s. - having a paraplegic co-pilot made it all the more better.

he is truly a living example that we "can still do anything!"

p.s.s. - i took video from my phone, but don't know how to get it on the computer. i even took a pic of a spider that rode along inside the glass top, so i could freak out the non-spider lovers in my life! Haha!

Links

www.freedomswings.org/

www.pgcsoaring.org/index.php

www.facebook.com/pages/Freedoms-Wings-International-disabled-sports-flying/178598432159648?v=wall

*** keep in touch via FWI's new Facebook page (above)

<http://idiotcom.blogspot.com/2011/10/gliding.html>

<http://www.abilitiesexpo.com/newyork/index.html>

<https://picasaweb.google.com/100019155084693266669/20111009NYCOutdoorsDisabilityAdirondackSoaringClub#>

<http://www.parahawkusa.com/Home.html>

www.globalabilities.org

<http://www.wheelchairsportsfederation.org/>

www.IAHD-Americas.org



I had a tremendous thrill Sat.!!! I only wish I had had more "stick time". I was complimented on my flying skill (attained with RC models). I'm so enthused, I intend to find out if I would have the resources and qualification to, perhaps, obtain a license. The Freedom Wings people were wonderful at making one feel at ease with the experience.

Thank you for all you did to make this possible. It meant a lot!

Steve Mintz



New friends: <http://yknotsailing.org/>



...and more from Saratoga:



On October 9 2011 I went flying in the air. This is something that I love doing and get a change to get to do it once a year. Unlike flying to Florida I was able to set in the front seat. We had to wear special head seats so we would be able to hear the person talking behind us. Then when we where up in the air I was able to pull the rope that cut us off from the tug plane.

In all it was a great experience, I know we have to try new things every year but this is something that I wish would never change. Counting down the days until next year. Also can't wait until Richard and everyone knew how much better I was then last year.

Bridget H



!***!***!***!***!***!***!***!

MISCELLANY:

It wasn't a particularly great flying season, although some excellent things were accomplished. Some goals were met, some records were established or broken, new standards for safety were set or raised, and FWI continues to confirm its commitment to introducing a new perspective to individuals with physical challenges while having fun. Perhaps the best part remains the same: seeing the faces and hearing the reactions of guests who've just had their first flight with FWI — and then there's friends we've met before...

Fortunately it's been awhile since we've had to report the loss of a friend, but while some of us were in Saratoga we learned of the passing of Armando Meschieri



We'll miss Armando, his smile, his excellent photos, and his love of flying — and <http://www.mypenart.com/> Our condolences to his family and our thanks to his friends who donated to FWI in his name.

!***!***!***!***!***!***!***!

NOT forgotten:



New FWI member & student pilot Bob Reuter presented Foch with a donation on behalf of of Colonial PVA.

!***!***!***!***!***!***!***!

Of course there was a lot more going on during the past season. We are being more proactive with communications, reaching out to support groups and organizations, participating in Rec Fests and Expo's. I repeat last year's offer to send our FWI multimedia presentation CD/DVD, and don't forget to visit our award-winning website (way to go, Wendy!), and consider GoodSearch.com and GoodShop.com for your browsing and online shopping needs that help support FWI.

I want to personally extend my thanks to some of the Saratoga crew for exemplary performance:

- Tanya, who demonstrated great talent & perseverance herding cats;
- Juergen, who went above & beyond at the risk of domestic discord.

I hope to see all of you again next season.

Carl

The Board of Trustees:

President: Richard Fucci

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Corresponding Secretary: Carl Slegel

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