



Cloud Nine

SASKATOON SOARING CLUB NEWS

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Season start - 2005

Proposed start of flying for the season is **Sat. Apr. 23rd**. This is on par with the long-term average – third weekend in April. We attempt to have the maintenance done and fleet ready by the first weekend – and occasionally we are rewarded with early season flying. This year, there was a lot of snow around the hangers and as a result the area was wet. The C of A's were completed Apr 8th, but even then, Ralph got stuck with his truck trying to get close to the hanger. The runways are in good shape, and should be useable. The area around the hangers should be dry enough to use soon – assuming some sunny dry weather this week. It may be possible to get instructors current before the 23rd. Check the message manager for updates.

Highlights From SSC AGM

The January AGM was attended by a quorum of members. Resignations of two executive members, Lee Engemoen and Brian Galka were received. In the absence of a sitting chairperson, Clarence Iverson was elected to chair the meeting. The **treasurer's report** showed a successful year in 2004 in spite of the poor weather and reduced activity – Income was \$31 135.12 with expenditures of \$30 754.53 for a net income of \$380.59. Following extensive discussion, it was decided not to insure and use **glider TVT** at the start of this season. It has been under-utilized the last couple of years. By reducing this large expenditure for insurance and maintenance, it was determined that the **fee structure** would not need to be increased this season. The use of glider KNG by a club team at the **2005 Nationals** in Claresholm, AB was also approved. Elected **executive** consists of Clarence as President, Cas Wolan as VP, John as Secretary, and Trevor continuing as Treasurer.

More on Blanik TVT

TVT has been operated on a lease-to-purchase basis from the provincial association (SAS) for the past 5 years. It requires a \$1 000 yearly lease payment, about \$2 800 in insurance, and \$400 for C of A and minimum maintenance for a total

of about \$4 200. At \$42/hr rental, it would need 100 hours in the air to just meet expenses. Most members are now certified to fly the solo KNG sailplane, and more are very close. One trainer and one solo ship should meet our projected requirements for the season. There is also a possibility the Grande Prairie will take over the lease and use it this summer – they are looking for a Blanik. This would benefit both clubs – and give us a year to decide on its long term future. Negotiations with Grande Prairie are continuing.

2005 Memberships

Some memberships are now past due. Fees are unchanged from last year with the exception of a \$2 increase in the SAC fee. Those who have not paid for 2005 are now on “associate membership” status – cannot train, fly solo, or vote on club matters. Once the fee is paid, full membership is restored. Thanks to those that paid early, and with last year's provincial grant revenue, the full insurance bill (due in Jan each year) has been paid (towplane and two gliders), so we are in reasonably good financial shape going into the new season. Further revenue is from glider rentals, intro flights, and tow fees.

Goals For The Year

This is the time of year for planning ahead. The recommended safe gliding level for maintaining and developing safe skill levels, regardless of experience, is a minimum of 10 hours flying and 20 take-offs and landings. Some clubs require prepayment of these minima as a condition for membership! Other goals may include badges, personal best achievements, new soaring skills and cross country flying. There are usually towpilots available for weekday or evening flying.

Coming Events

April 23 –or weather permitting – start of flying for the season.

June 28 – July 7 – Cdn Nationals

Provincial competition – to be determined.

Fly often. Fly safely.