



## FROM THE FRONT SEAT

Steve Beste, President

**Landowner protection from liability for recreational aviation use:** so how did it turn out? You'll recall that I sent out an email last month asking people to write to Richmond on behalf of House Bill 553. That bill would protect landowners from liability for injuries suffered by us recreational pilots using their land. The topic is important because a number of landowners have told us that they'd love to welcome us, but are afraid of lawsuits, so please don't land. We have a legal opinion—which has been on our website—that the existing Virginia recreational-use law covers our use, the same as it covers use by hunters. But HB 553 would make this explicit. When I first heard about the bill and emailed you, the House had passed it and sent it to the Senate. The Senate Transportation Committee had okayed it, but there was a proposal to refer it to the Courts of Justice Committee, where the interests of trial lawyers are well represented.

It turns out that the only people opposed to such a law are the trial lawyers. They tend to see any liability shield as a loss of our right to get compensated for injuries done to us, which it is. On the other hand, we recreational pilots don't represent a lot of potential business for trial lawyers. I've never heard of a pilot suing a landowner for the injuries sustained when he crashed his plane into the landowner's land. Speaking as someone who has survived such a crash, the thought never occurred to me to blame the landowner!

In any case, the Courts of Justice Committee did not kill the bill, but merely weakened it. Their version **restricts the liability protection to owners of registered airports**. The full Senate approved that version, and the House concurred on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The governor is almost certain to sign it. It will probably take effect by June 1<sup>st</sup> if not sooner.

Thus, the new law will protect John King, owner of Avi Acres, but not the Lenn Brothers, whose farm field is unregistered. Tom Richards is not covered, as he is running a commercial operation at the airpark. The law specifically excludes airports that have commercial operations.

Once the governor signs the law, I hope the Virginia Department of Aviation contacts all the private airfield owners in the state with the good news. Perhaps we as a club should contact the airfield owners in Northern Virginia. In any case, I will create an FAQ for airport owners and put it on the club website for you to use if you want to ask someone for permission to fly to his airport. If you have friends who have unregistered airfields, you might tell them the news. Perhaps it's now in their interest to get registered, a fairly easy process (and a free one).

Credit for the new bill goes to Randy Burdette, the director of the Virginia Department of Aviation. He has been pushing for this for 3 years now, part of an effort to stem the loss of private airfields in the state. Thanks are due to our own Loyd Peterson who spread the alarm here, and to all of you who contacted your representatives. Thank you! Supporting the effort was the Recreational Aviation Foundation, a non-profit group working to preserve backcountry and recreational airports. Recognizing landowner liability protection as the key to their success, they have worked in many states to get the states' recreational use statutes modified to specifically cite aviation as a protected use. They're getting results, and I particularly thank the RAF's John Nadeau for educating me about HB 553 in Richmond. As a flyer in Virginia—heck, as the president of Club 1—I was a little embarrassed to find that this out-of-state organization was doing more to protect my flying opportunities than I was! I joined the RAF, and I urge you to do the same at [www.theraf.org](http://www.theraf.org).

Fly safe,  
Steve



### Wind Sock Mystery Solved

Since publishing that story on Harris Field last month, that \$1.8 million property near Marshall, I haven't heard that any of you bought it. I can only conclude that negotiations are at a sensitive point and that a happy announcement will be forthcoming soon.

The story left me with two mysteries. Why would anybody put a wind sock next to a tree? And how can it be that even Chuck Tippet never heard of anybody flying out of there? I did some googling and found the daughter of the former landowner, now living in Ohio. She explained it. When her father bought the property in the early '70s, it already had the airport on it, and he didn't fly. But he insisted that the runways be kept mowed and suitable for landing! Thus, the field has not been used for almost 40 years, time enough for that cedar tree to grow up past the wind sock. I hope the next owner redeems those years of preservation and starts flying out of there again.



Fly safe,  
Steve

## Meeting Minutes

February, 2012 Minutes

Flying Club One

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Centreville High School

Clifton, VA

### Selling 50/50 tickets before meeting

#### Call to Order

President, Steve Beste called the meeting to order at 7:40 P.M.

12 members present.

#### CONNECTIONS

#### Visitors & New Members

New member **Ari Tapper** has an M-Squared 2 seat Ultralight and is working on his Sport Pilot ticket. He said he already has about 60 hours of training in a Cessna.

#### Old members

**Dick Martin** flew his Allegro LSA to the aircrafts' USA headquarters and new manufacturing center in Halifax NC for some maintenance and also took his SP 2-year flight review at Greensboro. He said along the way he landed at 6 VA airport and started to participate in the VA Passport Program. The program features a special designed leather jack that you get after you have visited, and have your passport stamped, all the public airports in Virginia.

**Bob Eaheart** said he is flying his PPG as the wind and weather permits, but last time out he had problems with the pull starter locking up. All is OK now and ready to fly.

#### SERVICE PROVIDERS

Recap our standing list of service providers:

- PPG instructor and dealer:  
**Michale O'Daniel**
- Fixed wing instructor: **Chuck Tippett**
- Welder: **Tom Kotsch**

- A&P mechanic: **JD Ingram**

#### REGULAR REPORTS

*Secretary:* Jim Heidish reported that the January Minutes will be published in February Club Newsletter and for review at the March Club meeting. The December Minutes were approved as published in the January Club Newsletter.

*Treasurer:* Jim Birmbaum reported:  
January Income: \$167.00, Expenses: \$78.72,  
The Flying Club 1 Checkbook Balance:  
\$2492.55.

*President:* Steve Beste said it's time to start thinking about our outdoor meetings and cookouts at the Airpark. He passed around the volunteer food/cookout chefs sign-up sheet. He said that drinks are mostly provided from our large supply.

Everyone looks forward to the wonderful time we have in the pastoral setting of the Airpark. Also the event promoter that contacted him last month looking for a Trike that could be set up on stage and be part the grand entrance of the Panera Bread Restaurants companys' CEO called back saying it was not needed any more. Fear of flying??

*Safety and Training Director:* Dave Riedel talked about the recent report made public on the investigation into the mid-Atlantic crash of Air France flight 447 a few years ago. What is most evident in the report is that the Airbus A330 was held in a full stall all the way to the ocean. In this age, of the high tech fly-by-wire glass cockpits, the old school stick and rudder flying is very much needed to save the day. Also Dave told us about a young soldier wounded in the war and his miraculous and long recovery. He wants to set up some PPC Wounded Warrior Flights this summer for him and others that are in rehabilitation.

*Membership Director:* Jim Birnbaum that we have 50 paid (2012) members. He reminded us that members that have not paid their 2012 dues by next month would have their name dropped from the monthly roster updates.

*Warrenton Air Park Owner:* Tom Richards said said that he is very tied up with his job and has not had much time for Airpark things. With help, some of the big woodpiles were burnt away and cleared off. The field is a little soft from the freezing and thawing so Tom suggests that it's best to use the part of the runway that is dryer and favors the east side (the side closer to the hangers that the Skydivers operated out of). As for the Skydivers, they should be back by mid April with a new P-750 low wing jump aircraft.

**Old Business** - None

**New Business** - None

### **MONTHLY PROGRAM**

**Dave Riedel** presented a program on navigation along with a quiz on Sectional (Aviation Chart) knowledge. He passed around many items he had from his flying days in the U.S. Marine Corps., some that few civilians get a chance to see. Thanks to Dave for passing along his well-earned knowledge.

**50/50 Drawing** – Winner **Tom Richards** donated his winnings to the Club.

### **Adjourn**

*President,* Steve Beste adjourned the meeting at 8:45 P.M.

Submitted by **Jim Heidish**, *Secretary*

## **Can you cook hamburgers?**

Please sign up to cook at our meetings at the Airpark.

Click <http://goo.gl/IBmIn> to see which dates are available.

The club covers all costs of food. Jim Birnbaum will tell you what you need to do.

***Plus, we'll give you the coveted Club 1 apron, which you can't get any other way!***

**Activities**

**2012 FLYING CLUB 1 ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE**

Designated Club meetings will be held the first Thursday of each month in the Centreville High School, Union Mill Rd., Centreville, VA, at 7:30 PM. Others will be held at 11:00 AM at the Warrenton Airpark as shown in the 2011 schedule. Changes in time or location will be posted in this newsletter and on the Club website.

**2012 Club Activities Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
Thur, January 5th, 7:30PM	Club Meeting	<a href="#">CVHS</a>	Conversation, Club business meeting, and program.
Thur, February 2nd, 7:30PM	Club Meeting	<a href="#">CVHS</a>	Conversation, Club business meeting, and program.
Thur, March 1st, 7:30PM	Club Meeting	<a href="#">CVHS</a>	Conversation, Club business meeting, and program.
Sat, April 7th, 11am	Club Meeting	<a href="#">Airpark</a>	Club meeting and cookout at Warrenton Airpark
Sat, May 5th • 10am - Memorial ceremony • 11 am - Club meeting & cookout	Memorial, Club Meeting, & cookout	<a href="#">Airpark</a>	Memorial ceremony and cookout at Warrenton Airpark
Sat, June 2nd • 7am - PPG Poker Run • 8:30am - Airplane & Trike Poker Run • 11 am - Club meeting	Club 1 Poker Run and Club Meeting	<a href="#">Airpark</a>	Club 1 Poker Run and Club Meeting at Warrenton Airpark
Sat, June 16th	<a href="#">Father's Day Fly-In</a> at Shreveport North (62PA)	<a href="#">62PA</a>	The largest ultralight fly-in in the mid-Atlantic states. Club 1 fly-out from Warrenton Airpark
Sat, July 7th, 11am	Summer BBQ and Club Meeting	<a href="#">Airpark</a>	Monthly meeting and Summer BBQ at Warrenton Airpark
Sat, August 4th, 11am	Club Meeting	<a href="#">Airpark</a>	Monthly meeting and cookout at Warrenton Airpark
Sat, September 8th, 11am	Club Meeting	<a href="#">Airpark</a>	Monthly meeting and cookout at Warrenton Airpark
Sat, September 15th	Club 1 Fly-out to Trikefest East at Shreveport North (62PA)	<a href="#">62PA</a>	Club1 Fly-Out from Warrenton Airpark
Sat, October 6th	Club 1 Fly-in and meeting	<a href="#">Airpark</a>	Monthly meeting, Club 1 Fall Fly-In and cookout at Warrenton Airpark
Sat, October 27th	Club 1 Color Run Fly-Out	<a href="#">Airpark</a>	Club 1 Color Run Fly-Out at Warrenton Airpark
Thur, November 1st, 7:30pm	Club Meeting	<a href="#">CVHS</a>	Conversation, Club business meeting, and program.
Sat, December 8th 4:30pm - 9pm	Club Meeting / Holiday Party	<a href="#">Airpark</a> Club House	Monthly meeting and Holiday Party.

## CLASSIFIEDS

Ads will be run twice and then dropped unless resubmitted, or renewed by telephone or e-mail. Please advise the editor: **Autumn Aceto** ([alaceto@gmail.com](mailto:alaceto@gmail.com)) when the ad is no longer needed.

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**FOR SALE — Zodiac 601 XL ( 650 XL) partially completed kit.** Kit includes Constructed Tail Surfaces and Fuselage, to include Landing Gear with Wheels and Brakes, Dual Brake Peddles kit, Dual Control

Stick kit and Instrument Panel. The wing kit and engine is needed. The wing kit is available now pre-drilled. It The plane will take a Rotax 912S, Jabiru 3300, Continental 0200, Lycoming 235, Corvair or VW conversion engines. All documentation and registered plans are in the package. Asking \$7500 or

best offer above \$6000. Note this is a Light Sport class aircraft. It is available built, IFR Certified at Southeast Light Sport for \$99,900.

(SouthEastLSA.com). See

<http://www.zenithair.com/zodiac/xl/> for details of aircraft: Contact: Larry Walker, 540-347-7609

Flight Test Report: Steve Flattum flight tests the Zodiac and reports:

*“The CH 601 XL / CH 650 family of airplanes are a delight to fly. Simple and easy to fly*

*with a great view and they are very comfortable for long flights. The airplane is very strong and it is backed by a company that has been around for a very long time.”*

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**FOR SALE — Partnership - Taylorcraft BC-12D (1946) - available.** Aircraft is hangared at Warrenton Airpark. The Taylorcraft is flown about 65hrs/year and should be flown more. Annual, hangar, insurance, maintenance and repair are shared costs, while fuel is individual responsibility. Tom Richards and Jim T. Hill are looking to add one or two partners to

replace a leaving partner. Please contact Tom Richards ([703\) 568-3607](tel:7035683607); [warrentonairpark@yahoo.com](mailto:warrentonairpark@yahoo.com) or Jim T. Hill for details.

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**FOR SALE — 1978 Weedhopper Ultralight** for sale: JC24C model; no engine; just frame. Will need new sails. Contact Mark Ripberger for more details. Sold “as is” \$400.00 [ripbergerm@darden.virginia.edu](mailto:ripbergerm@darden.virginia.edu) 434-589-8311

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**FREE Pterodactal Ultralight Kit!** 30 years old and never assembled. Engine still in crate. Complete kit, with all parts except wing coverings that can be purchased from an Ultralight supply co. Call: Bob Adcock (202)-882-4477 or [radcock@verizon.net](mailto:radcock@verizon.net)



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**Hangar w/ living space on 2 acres in Green Landings for sale.** Located approx. 65 miles from Washington Beltway in Hedgesville, WV. 40' x 60' Lester building w/ approx. 600sf of seasonal living space 9' ceiling, windows, ceiling fans and electric baseboard heaters. Separate full bath, good deep well and septic sys. Kitchen w/cabinets, electric range and refrigerator in open hangar. Plenty of room to build your dream house in this active flying community w/2800' grass strip. \$175K Contact Ron Garves [rkgarves@gmail.com](mailto:rkgarves@gmail.com) Cell 301 213-4611 <http://www.airnav.com/airport/WV22>

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**Membership Dues Policy**

The period of membership follows the calendar year—January through December.

The renewal period starts on 1 October with regular dues at \$20.00 and family dues at \$25.00.

Members who have not paid their dues by the end of March will be dropped and will not receive the Newsletter or Membership Roster. New Members joining after 1 July will be charged half-price.

Please mail payments to Flying Club 1, 8570 King Carter Street, Manassas, VA 20110.

Payment can also be made at the regular monthly meeting. Please include the Membership Application form on the next page with your payment. This will be used to ensure that our records are current.

Jim Birnbaum, Treasurer  
Flying Club 1

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2012



Type of membership:  New,  Renewal,  Regular,  Family membership

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name To Go On Your Name Tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Street or PO Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone, Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Aircraft Liability Insurance through: \_\_\_\_\_

Aircraft make and model: \_\_\_\_\_ N-Number (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Pilot rating(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Club Activities or Services for Which You Volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_

Information from this application will be included in the club's membership roster which is distributed only to members.

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. *FILL OUT THE ABOVE FORM.*
  2. *ENCLOSE A CHECK MADE OUT TO "FLYING CLUB 1".*
  3. *SEND THE FORM AND CHECK TO:*

Jim Birnbaum, Treasurer  
8570 King Carter Street  
Manassas, VA 20110-4888

To join the national USUA, go to <http://www.usua.org>  
To join the national USPPA, go to <http://www.usppa.org>

## Flying Club 1 General Information

The Flying Club 1 is a nonprofit, recreational club dedicated to the sport of ultralight and light sport aircraft flying.

### 2011 CLUB OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President: Steve Beste 703-321-9110  
Vice President: Dick Martin 703-242-2367  
Secretary: Jim Heidish 703-524-5265  
Treasurer: Jim Birnbaum 703-361-7478  
Director and Past President: Len Alt 703-945-9314  
Director At Large: Dave Riedel 703-815-4924  
Director At Large: Larry Walker 540-347-7609

### 2011 CLUB VOLUNTEER STAFF

Safety & Training: Dave Riedel 703-815-4924  
Membership: Jim Birnbaum 703-361-7478  
Club Artist: Jim Heidish 703-524-5265  
Librarian Dick Walker 202-363-4546

Newsletter Editor: Autumn Aceto 703-655-4137  
e-mail: [alaceto@gmail.com](mailto:alaceto@gmail.com)  
Web Master: Greg Palmer 703-912-3774  
PPG Web POC Par Karandikar 703-201-8909

*A club is only as good as the members who volunteer to support its activities. The following listed activities with the club require member support in varying amounts. Please indicate on your membership application the function(s) (can be more than one) you will support as a Club member. All active Club members are expected to participate. However, members who live some distance away and cannot attend meetings regularly may prefer to support functions associated with Club weekend activities.*

**ANNUAL DUES** (Jan 1 - Dec 31) \$20.00.  
(Includes newsletter.) Family membership: \$25.00. After July 1, dues for remainder of year

are \$10.00. Family membership: \$25.00 (husband and wife). (A spouse who wishes to participate will please complete a membership application form.)

**NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION** (without membership) is \$10.00 per year.

**CLUB WEB SITE:** <http://flyingclub1.org>

Note the change in web site. Flying Club 1 now has an officially registered name on the internet.

**MEETINGS** are monthly, year-round. See the web site for dates and places.

**SUBMITTING ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER** Members and non-members are encouraged to submit items for this newsletter. Send submissions to Autumn Aceto, 9595 Sherburne Farm Rd, Marshall, VA 20115. E-mail is shown at left. Deadline for entry of items into the newsletter is 10 days before each meeting.

**Club Management/Administration:** Club Officers (elected, Directors and Staff). (Talk to current officer for more detail.) *Fly-ins:* Food supply, preparation; Facilities; Grounds; Ground Support. *X-country & outside events:* ground support. *Safety & Education:* Flight Safety & Training, New Member Mentoring, Library, Monthly Program Development. *Communications:* Membership, Newsletter, Web Site. *Fund Raising:* 50/50 Raffle. *Miscellaneous:* Meeting Facilities, Property Management, Clothing Sales, Tool Custodian, Ad Hoc Committees.

**“If you are interested in joining the U.S Ultralight National Organization go to their website for membership information at: <http://www.usua.org/>”**