



Orange County Soaring Association



Zero Sink

The official newsletter of the Orange County Soaring Association

Fourth Quarter 2005

The Orange County Soaring Association is a non-profit organization that was established in 1959 to promote and teach soaring and provide soaring activities for association members and their families.

Our general meetings are usually held on the third Saturday of each month at Hemet-Ryan Airport in Hemet, Ca. In addition to reviewing club business, our general meetings include social activities and programs covering a variety of topics related to the sport of soaring.

For more information about the club, email Membership Chairman Larry Tuohino larswan@aol.com

Club operations are conducted at Hemet-Ryan Airport. Call (951) 658-6577 for directions to the airport, or go to our web page at <http://www.ocsoaring.org>

Zero Sink is published quarterly. Please email contributions to rsworden@aol.com Contributions may be edited for content.

General Mailing Address:

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Mark the Calendar: Good Eatin' and Fun at the OCSA Awards Banquet

This Year's OCSA Annual Holiday Banquet on Dec 3rd promises to be a great gathering of members, spouses, kids, and guests flavored with good food and cheer. The event has been moved to **Keno's**, a more central location near Anaheim Hills. From the Keno's management we have gotten a very favorable price and the Keno's cook has promised "no one will go home hungry!" For those us who imbibe, a full bar is available on the premises.

The doors open at 6pm. We will begin with our usual highly competitive paper airplane contest with awards for both distance and duration. Members should also bring a gift for the raffle. This annual fund raiser is always fun and, of course, benefits the club kitty. Before the banquet, members are encouraged to send pictures to be included a "Year-in-Pictures" review to LarSwan@aol.com. Likewise, if you have a trophy from prior years awards gathering dust on your living room mantel, now before the Banquet is the time to bring them to the Hemet clubhouse or an OCSA Board member.

As usual, OCSA needs to provide an accurate count to the restaurant, so RSVP to Larry Tuohino and send your checks in ASAP. See the flyer in this issue of Zero Sink for further information.

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Flight Instruction

Please contact the Flight Instructors well in advance by phone or email so they know they are needed on their scheduled days. They are under no obligation to appear at the airport unless notified.

The preliminary instructor schedule is listed in the calendar in each issue of Zero Sink. Always check the OCSA web site for the latest schedule.

Flight Operations

Club operations are conducted at Hemet-Ryan Airport in Hemet, CA with the following aircraft:

Grob 103	N158SS
Blanik L-13	N510CS
Blanik L-13	N87256
PW-5	N982PD

Membership Startup Cost

Flight Group initiation	\$300.00
Flight Group monthly dues	\$45.00
OCSA membership	\$20.00
SSA membership	\$64.00
Administration fee	\$20.00
No-fault insurance pool	\$20.00
Total	\$469.00

*Student and family dues are less.

Dues

Monthly dues and any past-due amounts are payable on the first of each month. Send checks to:

OCSA
C/O Nicolas Ounanian
17024 La Vida Court
Fontana, CA 92337

Discount: Pay for 11 months up front, and get 1 month free.

News of the Crews

Jeff Donoho Soloes

October 1, 2005 was the day that Jeff Donoho took to the sky solo in the Blanik L13... then got the traditional soaking. Congratulations, Jeff!!



Welcome Sumner Blanchard

Sumner joined OCSA in September in pursuit of his glider pilot certificate. He's been getting in quite a bit of air time with the OCSA instructors.



Tehachapi Campout

Labor Day weekend drew at least eight OCSA members and four spouses to Mountain Valley Airport for some nice summer soaring. This time around we brought along the club's Grob 103 and PW-5 glass ships and three or four private gliders. Although some strong crosswinds made the conditions less than ideal, quite a few members got in some good flights. Instructor Mary Rust helped members work on their thermal soaring and their runway landing techniques. Several pilots are now signed off to fly the Grob at Mountain Valley. In addition to some fun soaring, OCSA and friends enjoyed the potluck with the Sailplane Homebuilders Association, great pizza and fellowship in town, and even checked out the local ostrich farm!



Added a Glider Rating...

OCSA member David Watts added a glider rating to his certificate. He soloed in April and passed his Practical in October. Way to go!

When You Are Ready, You're Ready (Or Don't Let the Goat Eat Your Hat!)



It helps everyone to air a little dirty laundry once in awhile. Recently one of our OCSA pilots confessed to an incident regarding following the “pre-launch” checklist. (Note that similar problems can arise using the “assembly” and “preflight” checklists). A little proper airing of these incidents may remind others to avoid similar situations.

The pre-launch checklist comes in a few forms (ABBCCCDDE, etc) and is used to make sure the pilot has everything secure before takeoff. It seems simple, and failing to complete one of them can appear to be impossible. But it happens, generally when something interrupts our train of thought and then stuff happens...quickly! One way to help handle this is to be very conscious of when you are feeling “rushed”, as that is the clue to when to exercise your PIC prerogative and slow down or restart your checklist. When you are ready, you're ready.

The incident began on the ready line when a very talkative student pilot approached just as the pilot sitting in his private ship was starting the checklist. The student inquired about the flight computer in the panel. While the pilot gave the student a generous response, the line boy approached with the rope as the tow plane sat burning av-gas. Other sailplanes were in line behind. Down came the canopy, the latch was slid forward, and on to the thumbs-up to level wings. Luckily the canopy did not come loose on the first 100ft of the tow, but rather just after the planned release at altitude from the tow plane. Upon release, the turn to the right caused enough side pressure to lift the canopy open. Surprise! Wind howled in, maps fluttered as tow trim pushed the nose down and speed increased. Instantly the hat disappeared...stuff happens fast! Luckily the pilot was able to catch the canopy rail about ½ way up preventing a snap against the restraint and possibly a worse emergency...what if the canopy had slammed back down, mashing the pilot's hand, then shattered, broken off, and hit the tail??? Gulp, remember the basic rule “to fly the airplane”!?!

The mood for the rest of his flight was glum. The hat was brand new and this pilot had a rather hard-to-find XL head. Youth fashion has turned away from the bucket fad of a couple years ago and these large size hats were now hard to find. But of greater concern was the sentimental loss of the collection of ornamental pins which adorned the rim of the hat...gold badge, OCSA name badge, etc. Ugh!

After a safe landing and while moaning his loss, it was suggested that the GPS could be reviewed and perhaps a precise location identified and then searched. This was done at home and next week plans were made to return with a “hat waypoint” now loaded into a handheld GPS.

The next weekend to Hemet came with great anticipation: GPS to the rescue! Roughly, the hat site was to the west of Warren Road between the Three Sisters and the beginning of Reinhardt Canyon. The turn off Warren revealed a residential ranching area of 5-20 area parcels. Taking to foot and turning on the GPS the pilot was vectored towards a field which contained two very large buffalo! But the GPS signaled to go farther a hundred yards and a fence divided the bison from the next field which should enclose the lost hat. But the smug smell of imminent success turned pungent sour as in the next field -the field that the GPS pointed directly to- was a large gruff looking long-horned Billy Goat! This self appointed trash compactor of the barn yard stared down the pilot taunting him “by the hair on his chinny-chin chin” to sift his excrement for the lost pins.

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That's right the dang-gummed goat had eaten the hat!

In summary, if you're the pilot, feel totally within your rights to slow the process down if you are rushed or interrupted. If you are a bystander, do not interrupt the pilot during the assembly, preflight, or pre-launch phases. And so the moral of this story is: No matter what the distraction, honor thy checklist completed ... or a goat may eat your hat too.

Flieger Hucksfedder



A joyous night of Awards, Raffles, Paper Airplane Contest, Installation of New Officers, Year-in-Pictures Review, Jokes and General Merriment at the.....

Annual OCSA Holiday Banquet

Saturday December 3, 6:00 pm

Keno's Restaurant
5750 E. LaPalma
Anaheim Hills
Exit 91 Fwy at Imperial north, right at La Palma
714-777-9511

It's a BIG PLACE with *great food* and full bar so all Friends, Alumni Members and kids are welcome! *Bring a gift to raffle.*

Dinner \$22.00
A delicious buffet with non-alcoholic beverages, plus drinks

Names of Guests _____
Phone Number _____
Email or Regular Address _____
for Dinner @ \$22 each \$ _____ (kids can order off menu)

RSVP by Nov 30th to LarSwan@aol.com
Mail Reservation/Check to: OCSA, PO Box 5475, Buena Park, CA 90622

*Instructor schedule not available at press time.
Please see the OCSA web site.*

December 2005						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Holiday Party
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 General Meeting
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5 Board Meeting	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 General Meeting
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

<i>February 2006</i>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Board meeting	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 General Meeting
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

OCSA & Regional Activities

March

2 Board meeting
7-8 Cable Air Show
18 General meeting

April

1 Riverside Air Show
6 Board meeting
15 General meeting

May

4 Board meeting
6 March ARB Airfest
20 General meeting

June

1 Board meeting
17 General meeting

July

6 Board meeting
15 General meeting

August

3 Board meeting
19 General meeting





Orange County Soaring Association



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Dated material - please deliver promptly

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