SOARING LEAGUE of North Texas

UPdate

A Publication of the Soaring League of North Texas

Club Officers

President
Mark Williams
(972) 226-8762
mark.williams9@comcast.net

Vice President
Dan Ahearn
(469) 948-0066
ahern_dan@yahoo.com

Secretary/Treasurer
Perry Dunlap
(214) 348-1107
ptdrx@worldnet.att.net

Safety Officer
Henry Bostick
(972) 279-8337
henrybostick@comcast.net

Public Relations
Henry Bostick
(972) 279-8337
henrybostick@comcast.net

Equipment Team
Gerry Walton
Bobby Dixon
Tim Bennett
Mark Williams
Walter Carter

Web Master
Gary Warner
warner1@airmail.net

Newsletter Editor
Mike Glass
(972) 385-9565
mike@mikeglass.com

Meetings are held on odd numbered months after the Monthly Contest at Southfork Ranch. On even numbered months we meet at Lake Highlands Recreation Center located at 9940 White Rock Trail (White Rock Trail at Church). Club dues are $20 per year payable to Perry Dunlap. Contributions to the newsletter are encouraged. Visit our Web site at: www.slnt.org

January 2006

From The Prez

By Mark Williams

Happy New Year!!

Hope everybody had an excellent holiday period. Did everyone get what they wanted for Christmas? I hope so. I bought myself a new, for me, Ace Super Digipulse multi-charging system. It sure is nice to do away with all the "wall wart" chargers. Plus the system goes to a pulsed trickle charge after performing a full 16 hour charge. Nice to know the batteries should always be ready with this changeable Texas weather.

If you haven't noticed our web site has become somewhat dated. If anybody knows how to maintain internet web sites has the artistic aptitude and time, I'm sure Mike Glass and Gary Warner would welcome the help. Mike has the tools and has offered to help anyone who will volunteer. Mike and Gary have done an excellent job on a couple of unwanted tasks, webmaster and newsletter publisher. Thank you Mike and Gary your contributions have not gone unnoticed.

Dan Ahearn will be presiding on my behalf at the first club meeting this year. So, don't be too hard on him. The meeting is to take place after the Pro-Am (Team?) Contest at Southfork on January 8, 2006. I say team contest since we have very few amateurs that show up for contests now. If you know of an AMA member who dabbles in sailplanes, this is a good event to try and introduce them to contest flying.

By the way another person that will need your help, in my absence, is Arnold Claycomb. He has volunteered to CD the Team contests this year and is new to performing that task. I know everyone will pitch in and give him the help he needs to run a fair and fun contest.

Thermals to all.

This months meeting is at Southfork after the monthly contest

December 2005 Pro-Am Fun Fly

Jack Hamilton - CD

The Pro-Am event was held on December 11 at Southfork Ranch. Since most of the flyers are pro's this is really a "Team Fly" and there is no Pro-Am distinction in the list below. The weather was good and 18 signed-up. Henry Bostick helped by selecting the team pairings. Only Henry knows how he made the selections and he is not talking. Perry Dunlap kept score. Tim Bennett, Walter Carter and Gerry Walton brought the winches to the field.

The task was 13 min add-up with the FAI landing tape. Four rounds were flown. For each round, team member's flight times were added for a target of 13 minutes. With landing points, the maximum team score for each round was 980 and 3920 for the four rounds. There was a $5 entry fee which was divided among the top three teams. The results:

Team Place		Score
1	Dwain Carter/Austin Williams	3894
2	Jochen Luetke/Dave Webb	3845
3	Rodney Amonett/Henry Bostick	3767
4	Jerry Griffith/Jack Hamilton	3737
5	Don Ahearn/Dave Register	3660
6	Arnold Claycomb/Tim Bennett	3620
7	David Key/Mark Williams	3520
8	Bill Maserang/Gary Warner	2835
9	Bobby Dixon/Chuck Fisher	2671

January Contest

Arnold Claycomb - CD

The January Contest is a Pro-Am on January 8 at Southfork Ranch. The pilots' meeting is at 9:30 with first flights at 10:00. Entrance fee $5 per flyer with money divided between teams finishing first, second and third. The monthly business meeting will follow the contest.

Dues Are Due

It's that time of year again.

The dues are $20 (cheap!) and payable to:

Perry Dunlap
10035 Milltrail Dr
Dallas TX 75238

Due it now so you won't forget!

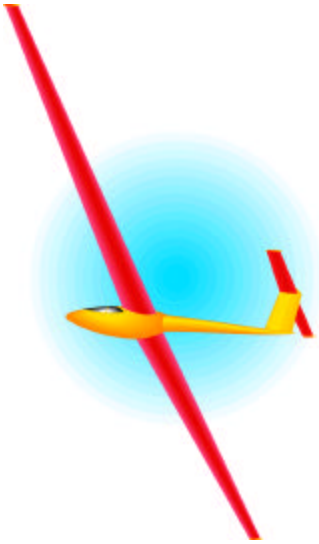
Call for Articles

By Mike Glass

We need some fresh articles for the newsletter. All of you have some knowledge or skill that you can share with the rest of the club.

I know, nobody thinks they can write. If you can talk, you can write. I'll be glad to proof articles for spelling, grammar and such. Just give me something on paper and we can work with it. It doesn't need to be a long involved article like the one in this issue on clouds (although those are certainly welcome). Maybe you can write about a new tool you got and liked or a new brand of glue or a radio or servos or anything. How about your method for mounting servos in a fuse or your painting method.

Hey, it's easier than giving a presentation at the monthly meeting.



Hand-Launch Update

By Tim Bennett

The December edition of the SLNT monthly hand-launch glider contest series was held as scheduled on Sunday the 18th at Eastfield with eleven flyers competing in the Class-A scramble format. The winds were moderate from the east and temperatures were in the forties at start time with overcast skies. Early flights were in the sub-two-minute range with only one maximum time recorded in the first twelve flight groups. The next four flight groups saw twelve of the sixteen flyers make the five minute maximum and score four points each.

The final flight of the contest was a fly off between Gary Warner and Dwain Carter for first place. Each had a perfect score of twenty-four. The two launched from opposite ends of the flight line and went away from the other searching for lift. It looked like Gary had made the better choice as Dwain had to abandon his search to the north and run south to try to catch some of the air that was taking Gary up. Dwain arrived in the green air at about thirty feet of altitude and less than a minute into the flight. He then put on a clinic on flawless light air flying as he managed to hang at less than launch height through the rest of the five minutes and forced the fly off to be decided by a spot landing. The official CD hat was thrown on the ground and each flyer took turns trying to land closest to it. Dwain wasn't more than six inches closer than Gary, but managed to squeak out the win. That kind of flying must be why he is our Top Gun for 2005.

The results were as follows:

1. Dwain Carter	XP4.5	24T
2. Gary Warner	GL Special	24T
3. Tim Bennett	XP-3	23
4. Austin Williams	Blaster	19
5. Bill Maserang	Avenger	18
6. Bobby Dixon	Monarch	16
7. Dan Ahearn	XP-4	15
8. Chuck Fisher	Omega	12T
9. Arnold Claycomb	GLS-4	12T
10. Jerry Griffith	Illusion	10
11. Hal Ussery	Omega V	9

The next contest will be Sunday, January 15, at Eastfield College. We will be flying the Class A Scramble using the long upstarts. This will start a new year's Top Gun Series. The pilot's meeting will be at 9:30 with first flights at 10:00. Come out and join in the fun.

Soaring League of North Texas
Contest Schedule 2006

Date	Event	Class	CD
Jan. 8	Pro-AM	Unlimited	Arnold Claycomb
Feb. 12	Extreme Add-up (4 Flights)	Unlimited and RES	Dan Ahearn
Mar. 12	Thermal Duration	Unlimited	Jerry Griffith
April 9	T1 International	Unlimited	Mark Williams
May 7	Seeded Man on Man	Unlimited	Henry Bostick
June 11	Triathalon	Unlimited and RES	Tim Bennett
July 9	Thermal Duration	Unlimited	Perry Dunlap
Aug. 13	7 Minute Precision	Unlimited	Jim Taylor
Sept. 10	TNT Warm-up	Unlimited	Jay Shultz
Oct. 6, 7, 8	TNT	Hand Launch, RES, Unlimited	Tim Bennett, Jochen Luetke, Henry Bostick
Nov. 12	Man on Man	Unlimited	Jochen Luetke
Dec. 10	Pro-AM	Unlimited	Arnold Claycomb

The Clouds

by Bill Kuhlman
(Additional information incorporated into the following article was supplied by Technical Editor Ed McCollough.)

Clouds tell us a great deal about overall weather, and how the air and ground conditions are affected. Radio Control Soaring success is dependent upon all these factors.

Water evaporates into air warm enough to allow the presence of any water molecules. There is an upper limit of the number of water molecules that may exist in vapor form (ie: gaseous) in a certain volume of air and that limit is determined solely by temperature. As the temperature goes up, more water can "evaporate."

If the total amount of water in that a unit volume could theoretically hold is already there, then the air is "saturated" with respect to water vapor and can hold no more water molecules. If the unit volume cools a bit, some of the water held in that unit volume will come out.

Ordinarily there is enough microscopic dust in the air so that the water molecules readily attach themselves to the dust particles. These "dust and water molecules" particles grow by accumulation. At some point the particles are big enough to absorb and scatter light and we "see" clouds.

If the air temperature is cold enough, ice crystals can form spontaneously instead and you have the presence of clouds composed primarily of ice crystals, these are the very high, thin and wispy clouds that you see. While ice crystals can grow through the accumulation of molecules of water, ice crystals do not grow through the accumulation of more ice crystals.

On the other hand, water droplets can accumulate into larger droplets. When the droplet size is sufficient to fall against whatever air currents there are, it does so and if it doesn't evaporate before it hits the ground, you have a raindrop. Naturally, if there are more little drops that can get all the way to the ground, you get "rain."

To better understand clouds, let us define the basic types. Stratus denotes a layer cloud; the prefix cirrus or cirro defines high ice clouds at altitudes ranging from 20,000 to 40,000 feet; cumulus means a heaping or high piling of clouds; the prefix alto describes a medium level cloud system ranging from 9,000 to 20,000 feet.

Following is a brief description of several of the basic cloud formations and what each tells us as applicable to general situations. Terrain influences weather and cloud formations and is significant under various conditions.

ALTOCUMULUS–fleecy, cottony clouds consisting primarily of broken whitish masses. Usually comprised of water but can contain ice crystals depending upon atmospheric conditions. Occasional light rain or snow may result. Sometimes these clouds blend into rainy, strong altostratus systems.

ALTOSTRATUS–dense, heavy clouds appearing at a low level. These are deep gray or bluish in color. Typically comprised of water although they may contain ice crystals at higher levels. Precedes both warm and cold fronts. Expect steady rain or snow depending upon temperature and atmospheric conditions.

CIRROCUMULUS–rippled layers or patches of ice clouds comprised of white, long, and drawn out cottony masses similar in appearance to a wave washing up on a sandy beach. Expect no precipitation from these clouds. If followed by thicker, heavier clouds, expect a drop in temperature and possible rain.

CIRROSTRATUS–thin, white, hazy clouds of fairly uniform layer which do not blur the sun or moon but often cause halos. Comprised of ice. The sky may appear milky. Expect fair weather with these clouds, however, they often precede a warm front, some light rain, with a rise in temperature to follow.

CIRRUS–scattered clouds with a delicate, filmy, feathery appearance. Always comprised of ice crystals. No precipitation from these clouds. Usually indicative of fair weather, however, if they are followed by a lower, thicker bank of clouds preceding a warm front, rain or snow may be forthcoming within 24 hours.

CUMULONIMBUS–these are the ominous-appearing heavy mass of piling, towering cloud systems with extensive vertical development. The higher elevations are often spread out in the typical anvil shape. These clouds contain a large amount of water and ice and are associated with heavy rains or hail accompanied by thunderstorms or heavy snow.

Cumulonimbus clouds are associated with thunder storms. That means, you really don't want to be standing out in the meadow with your radio antenna sticking up in the air when said cumulonimbus has reached maturation.

There is also a type of cloud called mammatous. The name comes from the visual resemblance of the bottom of the cloud to mammary glands. The formation is due to incredibly violent and turbulent air currents around the bottom of the clouds.
(The last time I saw such clouds, they spawned at least one tornado and hail stones with an average size as big as a softball. If you're a model airplane pilot and you see such clouds, pack up quick and go home!)

CUMULUS–fleecy, billowing cloud formations flat at the base with rounded outlines. These clouds are heaped up like packs of cotton. Comprised of water. No precipitation is expected from these clouds when by themselves and typically indicate fair weather. *(Continued on Page 6)*

January 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 SLNT Meeting Monthly Contest	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Hand Launch Contest	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Monthly Contest	13 SLNT Meeting	14	15	16	17	18
19 Hand Launch Contest	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Soaring League of North Texas
6544 Greenwich Lane
Dallas TX 75230

Reminders

Sunday, January 8 - Monthly Contest followed by meeting
Sunday, January 15 - Monthly Hand Launch Contest

Weather at the Editor's House - December

High	84°
Low	19°
Days below 32°	4
Rain	.38"
Rain YTD	23.67"
Days of Rain	5
Average Wind Speed	2.1 mph
High Wind Speed	27 mph
Dominate Direction	S

(Continued from Page 4)

NIMBOSTRATUS–low hanging, shapeless clouds, dark gray in overall appearance. Comprised of both water and ice. Precipitation is typically continuous rain or snow.

STRATOCUMULUS–appearance of large, rolling, endless dark clouds often fully covering the sky. Usually comprised of water. Expect occasional drizzle or snow flurries. Indicative of a change in the weather.

STRATUS–low hanging uniform layers of grayish clouds of great width. These clouds are usually comprised of water. May resemble fog not touching the ground (often seen hanging over the mountains or laying in valleys within the mountains). Occasional light drizzle or snow. Fair weather typically follows.

These are typical formations and conditions to be aware of. There are a number of highly volatile (e.g. tornadoes) and unusual cloud conditions that do occur dependent upon temperature, atmospheric conditions and terrain. When these threatening conditions do exist, we are made aware of their presence through our weather services. Fortunately, these are not typical, common occurrences in our lives.
As an RC pilot, it is beneficial to have a basic working of the clouds and how to utilize the conditions and their projections to your advantage.

from *The Spoiler*/Pikes Peak Soaring Society
John Read, editor/Monument CO