

# VARIOMETER



## PUBLISHED TO RECORD THE UPS AND DOWNS OF THE KANSAS SOARING ASSOCIATION

April 2011

Editor: Andrew Peters

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**PRESIDENT – ANDREW PETERS** (2011-2012)  
**SECRETARY/TREASURER – NEALE EYLER** (2011-2012)  
**VICE PRESIDENT EAST – BOB BLANTON** (2011-2012)  
**VICE PRESIDENT WEST – BOB HALL** (2011-2012)  
**TOW PLANE MANAGER – STEVE LEONARD** (2011-2012)  
**DIRECTORS:**  
**RAY GIRARDO** (PAST PRESIDENT)  
**DAVE STANKO** (2011-2012)  
**FRANK O'DONNELL** (2010-2011)

**SUMMER GAJEWSKI** (2011-2012)  
**DAVE WOODY** (2010-2011)

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## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am happy to report that several of you did reply to the four questions in last month's newsletter. So I guess there are at least four of you that actually read it. That makes me feel good. Since I believe in second chances, the four questions are included in this newsletter – and I still want to hear from you! Please send me your answers, so I can present them to the board and we can work on improving the club.

Thanks to everyone that showed up on March 26 for the fall work day. It was a great turnout and we got a lot accomplished. More info is included in a following article.

Spring is coming. I have seen a couple of days with the sky full of cu's. The tow plane is getting its annual. Operations are about to start! Are you excited?

Last month, I encouraged you to invite someone to join you in experiencing the joy of soaring. This month, I'd like you to think about what your goals are for this season. Perhaps it's a badge, or a XC or a contest. Maybe it is a new rating or a new aircraft checkout. Whatever those goals might be, I would encourage you to go after them with careful preparation and planning.

Finally, it has been a long winter, so please remember to get current again in a glider before taking passengers. And do your first flight of the year with a CFIG, you might learn something.

Happy Landings,  
AP

# KSA CALENDAR

2011

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Scheduled Operations Begin**

April 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 pm KSA Meeting at NIAR – Safety Meeting

**April 30<sup>th</sup> – Scheduled Operations Begin**

May 14<sup>th</sup> – Evening KSA Cookout Meeting at Sunflower (5:30 pm) – **WWC Climb is King**

June 11<sup>th</sup> – Evening KSA Cookout Meeting at Sunflower (5:30 pm) – **WWC MAT**

July 9<sup>th</sup> – Evening KSA Cookout Meeting at Sunflower (5:30 pm)

July 16<sup>th</sup> – Kansas Kowbell Klassic – **WWC Free Distance**

August 13<sup>th</sup> – Evening KSA Cookout Meeting at Sunflower (5:30 pm) – **WWC PAD**

September 10<sup>th</sup> – Evening KSA Cookout Meeting at Sunflower (5:30 pm) – **WWC Lap Race**

October 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 pm KSA Meeting at NIAR (Elections)

October 29-30<sup>th</sup> – **WWC Last Man Down**

**October 30<sup>th</sup> – Scheduled Operations End**

November 5<sup>th</sup> - Fall Work Day

November 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 pm KSA Meeting at NIAR

December 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 pm KSA Meeting at NIAR

## KSA Needs Your Help

John Peters has been sharing his love of soaring with several of his high school students. He has convinced 8 students to take a glider demo ride. This is a great opportunity to recruit some young members and potential students. Details are still being worked out, but the operation would take place between 9:30 and 2:30 during the week. Possible dates are May 2<sup>nd</sup> or May 9<sup>th</sup>.

We need volunteers to help. A tow pilot or two, commercial glider pilots who are current to carry passengers, and at least one additional ground person (John will be there.) If you can help, please contact John at [john.peters@mcpherson.com](mailto:john.peters@mcpherson.com) or me ([apsoars@yahoo.com](mailto:apsoars@yahoo.com).)

Thanks!

## Four Questions

*By Andrew Peters*

**1. Why do you fly sailplanes?**

**2. What does the KSA club mean to you?**

**3. What one thing does the KSA do well?**

**4. What one thing would you change about the club?**

I would like to invite you to ponder these four questions and send in your responses. Your officers and directors want to work on improving the organization and services KSA provides, but ultimately, the members of KSA need to help us figure out what direction to take.

The club has a wonderful legacy, dating back into the early 60's. My goal as president is to build on that legacy and ensure our best thermals, flights, experiences are yet to come.

# KSA Dues Deadline Fast Approaching

*by Neale Eyer*

In addition to a Bi-annual Flight Review and a plastic pilot certificate, KSA members need to be current members of the SSA to fly. KSA makes this easy on you by collecting your SSA dues along with you SSA dues once a year. (If you don't take advantage of this KSA benefit, you still need to pay your KSA Dues.) The deadline for receiving your dues is May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Here's how the dues break down:

	Regular	Youth (Under age 22)	Family (each addl. person)
Soaring Society of America	\$64.00	\$36.00	\$36.00
Kansas Soaring Association*	<u>\$16.00</u>	<u>\$16.00</u>	<u>\$16.00</u>
Total	\$80.00	\$52.00	\$52.00

\*If you do not renew your SSA membership through KSA, your annual KSA dues are \$20/yr.

Please send checks to:

KSA  
2114 North Shefford  
Wichita, KS 67212

If dues have not been received by May 31<sup>st</sup>, you will be notified and will be placed on a grounded list. You will not be allowed to fly until dues have been paid.

Any questions, please contact me. - Neale Eyer, Secretary/Treasurer

## Tow Tickets

The last page of the Variometer contains Tow Tickets. Now there's no reason for anyone to show up to Sunflower without some.

Please use the tickets as printed in the Variometer.

Please cut them out so that they are all the same size.

The Tow Pilot's and Tow Plane Manager's jobs are easier if they can be neatly stacked. Now is a great time to cut them out and get a stack ready for the summer's flying.

## KSA Online Resources

Did you know that there is a calendar online for KSA? <http://www.my.calendars.net/KSA>

You can see up to date duty schedules and other activities throughout the year.

There's also a Soar Kansas website at [www.soarkansas.org](http://www.soarkansas.org) that has lots of interesting information about soaring opportunities in Kansas. I just discovered a collection of soaring stories from some of our members. Excellent reading on a rainy day.

# March 26<sup>th</sup> Spring Work Day

*by Andrew Peters*

The weather on March 26<sup>th</sup> was not suitable much, but that didn't stop 18 intrepid KSA members, friends, and family from participating in the spring work day. Rich and I were pelted by sleet when we first showed up around 9:30. Those in attendance included: Dave, Gary, Ron, June, Bob, Steve, Steve, Steve, Loren, Rich, Gerry, Robbie, Bill, Scott, Gabe, Tony, Leah, Brian, Andrew, and Kinsey.

And here's what we accomplished:

Replaced the overhead light at the new hangar

Opened the restrooms – cleaned, turned on the water heater, restored electricity

Washed the 182 and 175

Cut grass on the runway cracks

Brushed the ramp

Burned trash

Cleaned and organized the new hangar

Pigeon proofed the KSA hangar

Replaced the fuel hose and flow meter

After the work was completed, we shared lunch, and introduced ourselves. We shared some stories and talked about the upcoming operations.

I'd like to try an idea to help control the grass growing on the runway. This year, let's plan on beginning and ending the day by driving several cars up and down the runway. Pick a crack that runs lengthwise, put a tire on it, and drive away! Two or three passes per car are all that should be needed. It only takes a couple of minutes. Just be careful of any gliders that might still be flying, if you do it at the end of the day. We will continue to spray, mow, and brush the runway, but the car tires do a good job of breaking down the grass that does get through.

Thanks to everyone that showed up. We will be planning a fall work day in November. And look for a list of things to do, if you don't fly and find yourself at the field.

## Gone West

Albert D Alexander, 84, U.S. Army WWII veteran, former 81 Speedway flagman, glider pilot & retired truck driver, passed away, Saturday, April 2, 2011. Preceded in death by his wife, Esther & two sisters. Survivors include his son, K.C. (Shurley); daughter, Kerrie Platt; 2 grandchildren, Greg Platt & Alicia Alexander all of Wichita. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established with Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, 313 S. Market, Wichita, KS 67202.

<http://www.cochranmortuary.com/index.cfm>

Al suffered a stroke March 25th. His cheerful presence and ground crewing skills will be missed. KSA will be making a memorial donation to honor his life and service. Our thoughts and prayers are with K.C. and Al's family in this difficult time.

# Weekend Warrior Contest

*by Andrew Peters*

The Weekend Warrior Contest is back for 2011! Let's see Tony defend his 2010 Championship. Personally, I am hoping to score more points than last year, maybe even win a day.

One weekend a month will be designated as a Warrior Contest Weekend. For 2011, those weekends are:

May 14-15 – Climb is King

June 11-12 – Modified Assigned Task (MAT)

July 16-17 – Free Distance (Kowbell)

August 13-14 – Prescribed Area Distance (PAD)

September 10-11 – Lap Race

October 29-30 – Last Man Down.

Any member has two days to complete the task. Tasks can be performed more than once – only the fastest – longest – highest will count.

Your contest record must be submitted to the Scorer (Andrew Peters, 3T) by midnight on the Monday following the contest weekend. The contestant with the best task will receive 1000 points. Other contestants will receive points as a percentage of their task compared to the winners. All speed and distance tasks will be handicapped (SSA handicaps will be used – if one doesn't exist for your glider, one will be assigned based on the experience of the glider owner and other experienced competition pilots.)

If you don't yet have your Silver badge and you want to compete, you will get a 100 point bonus added to your score. If a multi-place glider is used, and you take another pilot with you who has not completed their Silver badge, a 100 point bonus will be earned. Landing at a chartered airport will earn a 25 point airfield bonus.

At least two people need to compete for the weekend to be a valid contest weekend. A winner for each weekend will be published in the Variometer. The Weekend Warrior Champion will be the member with the highest cumulative score for all valid contest weekends at the end of the season.

Expensive GPS recorders are not required, although might make it easier on the scorer. A paper record and digital photo's can be used. Just make sure the photo contains sufficient detail that Google Maps can verify your location and orientation to Sunflower. Any GPS that will record your coordinates can also be used – SPOT, running watches, even some smart phones have tracking capability.

## **May 14-15 – Climb is King (Height Gained in 1 hour)**

The task for May is called Climb is King. How much altitude can you gain in any 60 minute period during a flight?

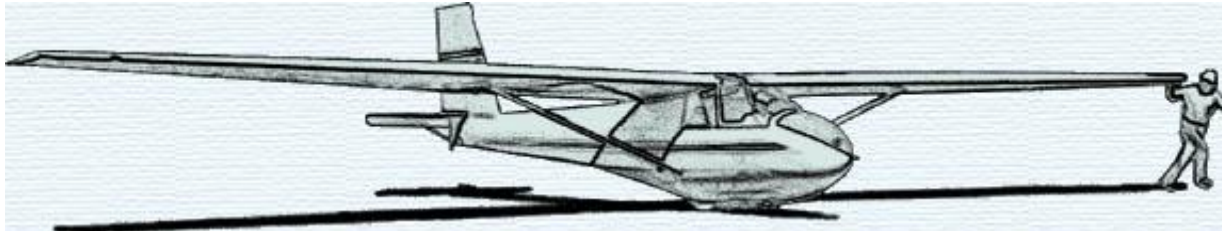
This one doesn't require a special recording device. Simply tap the altimeter, record the reading and start the stopwatch. Record your altitude at the top of your climb (after another tap of the altimeter.) Pull the dive brakes, get low again, and repeat the process over. At the end of 1 hour, total up your altitude gained in the climbs.

This task will not be handicapped by glider. And don't forget the 100 point bonuses. Of course, a barograph or other altitude recording device will make it easier to calculate and track your altitude gained, but one is not required.

<p style="text-align: center;">KSA TOWCARD</p> <p>TOW NUMBER      START TACH TIME</p> <p>_____</p> <p>TOW PILOT _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">KSA TOWCARD</p> <p>TOW NUMBER      START TACH TIME</p> <p>_____</p> <p>TOW PILOT _____</p>
<p>PILOT _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>SAILPLANE _____</p> <p>TOW HEIGHT _____</p> <p>TOW SPEED (MPH) _____</p> <p>DATE _____</p>	<p>PILOT _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>SAILPLANE _____</p> <p>TOW HEIGHT _____</p> <p>TOW SPEED (MPH) _____</p> <p>DATE _____</p>
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KSA VARIOMETER  
5101 E27TH STREET N  
WICHITA, KS 67220  
apsoars@yahoo.com



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## **MONTHLY KSA MEETING**

**Annual Safety Meeting**

**Tony Condon, CFGI**

**Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**7:30 PM**

**AT**

**NIAR**

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