



# “WING NUTZ”

JANUARY, 2008

*“We’re Serious About Having Fun”*

## **PRESIDENT’S RAMBLINGS**

By Bryan Forsyth

Happy New Year!

Fly Safe

Bryan

## **2007 PASCO Sawyer Award**

By Dan Dunkel (45)

**A**s you have probably heard by now, I won the PASCO Sawyer award last season. I am writing this to encourage you to try to win it this year. It’s well within your reach.

### **What it is**

First, for those of you that may be unfamiliar with the award, let me explain a bit about it. Basically, the award is given to the person who flies the farthest and the longest in Region 11 for an entire season. Other awards cover outstanding single flights, but this one is for the accumulated effort over an entire season.

It gets a bit more complicated than that. The complications are that handicaps are given for the experience of the pilot, the performance of the glider, and the location of the flight—flights in the lowlands count more than those in the Sierra.

For more details, see <http://www.pacificsoaring.org/awards/sawyer.html>.

### **How I won it**

So, that is what the award is. Now, let me explain how I won it.

I suspect that you are surprised that someone with my habits would win such an

award—I was. I am so conservative that I seldom fly as far as the “hot” pilots do on each given day. Also, since I have no crew, I am pretty much limited to hopping from one towable airport to another. The rules for this award do not preclude people with these habits from winning.

Let me first admit that the most important reason why I won is that there is a tradition of past winners removing themselves from consideration, although there is no rule to that effect. If that were not the case, Sergio Colacevich or Ramy Yanetz would have won instead. In this tradition, I will remove myself from the competition this year.

As for the handicaps, I didn’t get any help on the pilot experience or on the glider performance. Since I am an experienced pilot, I have a handicap of 1. Also, since I fly an ASW-27B, I only received .875 miles credit for each mile that I flew.

What did help is that I flew about 1,640 nautical miles at Williams this spring before going to Truckee. I got 2 times the credit for those miles. When combined with the 4,466 nautical miles that I flew at Truckee, it provided the edge that I needed.

The other big help for me is that I was retired for most of the season. Again, this award is the accumulated effort. I didn’t go all that far on each flight, but I did get credit for 44 flights and over 177 hours in the air. Being free to fly when the BLIPMAPs show that the conditions will be good certainly helps. Still, as Sergio and Ramy demonstrated this year, being retired is not essential.

OVER



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### **STUFF FOR WINGNUTZ**

I’m always looking for articles, pictures, artwork, cartoons, for sale or wanted items, etc. for WingNutz. Don’t be bashful! Send to: [m.mott@comcast.net](mailto:m.mott@comcast.net)  
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### How you can win this year

So, how can you win the Sawyer award? It basically comes down to having the most fun possible. That is:

- Fly as often as possible.
- Stay up as long as possible.
- Fly as far as possible on each flight.
- Upload every flight to OLC.

To make things even easier, you can:

- Fly a lower-performance glider—like a Grob 103.
- Fly at Williams more for 2 times the credit.
- Be a beginner for up to 4 times the credit.

Although it is not necessary, I also periodically check how I am doing in OLC at:

<http://www.onlinecontest.org/olc-2.0/grading/getScoring.html?scoringid=4&country=US&subcountry=11>. The resulting display does not take location and pilot handicaps into account, but it does give you an idea of how you are doing. Also, by clicking on the pilot name, you can see all of their flights for the season.

### Conclusion

As you can see, by living up to our motto, “We’re serious about having fun!”, you too can get your name on the Sawyer Trophy.

DAN



### Are You Excited?"

By Doug Lent

**O**ur newest club member, **Matt Hirsch**, is a hoot. This young gent is as excited about soaring as it ever gets.

The emails have been flying between Matt and Silverado members as Matt continues to work on his soaring skills at Minden over the winter. Matt is on a roll. He wants to get his rating ASAP and readily admits that he is “hooked” on soaring.

Didn’t we all feel that way at one time? Remember when you were working on your rating and everything was new and interesting? Why do you suppose that feeling diminishes over time? Maybe it’s because we lose touch with the sport and other club members.

Consider that Winter is here. That means that the soaring season is rapidly approaching. Doesn’t it seem as though our lives have been put on fast forward?

Want to be part of the Silverado gang & meet our new members? Then **I suggest you put February 2nd on your calendar.... that’s the annual meeting/dinner/social, and YOU are invited.** The Silverado Board has met three times since the last annual dinner, and your presence is requested to see if they’ve been going in the right direction; I think they’re doing a great job of running the club. If you feel that way please come and give praise... if you feel otherwise, please come and tell us why.

Looking forward to seeing all of you soon,

Doug

ps: I think I subscribe to this email pilot forum, so I don’t know if folks can just get in with the URL, but it might be worth printing it anyway:

<http://www.pilotworkshops.com/public/347.cfm>

Every week they have a tip for pilots.

# Have A Happy & Safe New Year!

Editor