

Minden Soaring Club Meeting

Monday January 19th 2026 6pm

Board Members Present

Jim Lee:	President
Linda Hivert:	Vice President
Don Adams:	Treasurer
Sam Whiteside:	Trustee
Tom Stowers:	Trustee
Tim Gardner:	Trustee, Maintenance
Ivan Altunin:	Trustee; Scholarship chair
Steve Sliwa:	Member
Bob Trumbly:	Member
Jeffrey Bilyeu:	Secretary

Original Agenda items:

Marian Barrett donation

Approval of Minutes for November 17th 2025 meeting

MSC Youth Scholarship Program (Ivan Altunin)

CAP selling their assets

Single Place Glider (Sam Whiteside)

Mass MSC mailing for dues renewal, flight privilege dues, VIP program (Tom Stowers)

Discussion constant contact (Jim Lee)

Booth at Pathways to Aviation Program

Guest speaker for Carson EAA

Treasurer's report and financial state of the club.

Insurance coverage costs and liabilities

Club management for 2026

Meeting called and minutes approved from previous meeting (Nov 17th 2025)

First up is that Ivan Altunin, our scholarship trustee won the SSA Kolstad scholarship. Ivan noted that Jim Lee helped him with the letter.

Ivan said the scholarship is to help with college funding. Congratulations Ivan.

Currently two people are enrolled in the Minden Soaring Club scholarship, which pays for instruction and rental, and tows. Paxx Weidart and Silis Haydt are the enrollees and Paxx is one or two flights from Solo. Julia Williams is a new applicant, and potentially another David from the summers line crew.

There was a possible donation from Marian Barrett, but she was sick and unable to attend so that is still pending. The moneys come from Donna & John Laveck.

On April 7th there is a big event coming to UNR "Pathways to Aviation" it was discussed about bringing the simulator to this event, but it needs upgrades so one of the students (Paxx) versed on computers is going to look at what it would take to upgrade that unit. It is suggested that all members attend this event, it starts at 5pm and Gordon is one of the speakers which starts at 6:30 PM. The Arcus will be displayed out front. They note that the Governor and UNR president will be in attendance. The idea of the event is to get young people involved in Aviation.

CAP is planning on liquidating their assets from their flying / scholarship program, Ivan will be looking into the date in which this auction will take place. They have a few ships of interest mainly (2) ASK-21's. They sold a winch which brought up winching discussion, and it was decided it is likely to labor intensive and likely not feasible at Minden. As a result of this discussion Steve Sliwa will investigate getting an ASK-21 and leasing it back to the club for the next level of flying between the Blanik and the Duo.

Sam Whiteside has offered to contribute (partner) on a Grob 102 training glider for the club and do the same as Sliwa, and leaseback to the Club. He will be looking into acquiring one through the registry as they are hard to find. Tom Stowers and Jim Lee investigated two "abandoned" planes that have been sitting at the airport for years. Tom knew the names but does not know their contact information. Tim Gardner will also investigate finding the owners to see if they would like to sell / donate to the club. They are an ASW-19 and a Mosquito.

Summary Treasurers report:

\$47,000 in BOFA operating account.

(2025) 459,000 in assets and \$3000 in liabilities.

\$249,000 revenue, \$166,000 profit which ended up \$12,000 net income for 2025

The club lost \$28,000 however with the donations the club ended up being positive \$15,000 Club finances should stabilize in 2026, since 2025 was full of startup expenses and remedial repairs on the towplanes. Front desk processes will be improved now that we have 2025 experience.

The VIP program worked okay for the club; it is thought that 6% of tow time went unreported.

There will be a meeting with the tow pilots to tighten up this process; to record time even for VIP's so the club can get historical data for planning and maintenance.

Jim Lee had a meeting with RuthAnn with the idea of finishing the 2025 invoices; there is approximately \$6,800 worth of invoices yet to be billed and \$1000 of cash received for which there is no deposit receipt for. The idea is that in 2026 these things will be tracked better.

Jim Lee had submitted his 2026 budget estimate and it is expected the Blanik will have a significant impact on revenue, along with the fact that all three of the towplanes should be helpful this coming summer. It was discussed an engine reserve account, and ultimately Tim Gardner and Don Adams are going to discuss further getting a handle on towplane operating costs.

It was decided the budget does not afford work on the fourth towplane. The insurance for the fleet was \$27,800 and it was discussed about carrying only liability for some of the planes due to the amount of resources insurance has consumed. It was also discussed rental insurance. A motion was made, seconded and carried to investigate carrying liability only on the towplanes and the 2-32 as the pilots of these items are typically commercial and experienced. Full coverage on the Duo and the Blanik; The Duo because of cost and Blanik because of students. The vote gave Jim Lee the authority to investigate possible higher deductibles and or make the decision to adjust the insurance coverage accordingly. This vote was unanimous. It was discussed regarding the Club dues and Glider flight privileges. It was decided to keep these fees the same. \$100 club dues, and \$200 dollars for glider use privileges. It was noted that this is a very good deal for our club members. The \$200 fee covers all the gliders not just the Duo. The Blanik will be charged \$50 per hour. The Duo's hourly fee has been raised to \$60 dollars per hour; the club also instituted a daily rate of \$300.00 so that you can only be charged that much per day's use, the point being the Duo being more available for cross country. The VIP program will continue and cost \$4000 dollars. The \$1000 dollar tow package will be available which gives you 120 minutes of tow time, a nice discount on your tow.

Minden Soaring Club has two websites "MindenSoaringClub" and Soaring NV. Steve Sliwa will investigate the Minden Soaring Club website as that website has been hacked and is nonfunctional for the club. That site "may" be dropped altogether.

It was suggested to have a booth at the SSA convention in November, the board members agreed. They would like also to have a credit card reader at the "Pathways to Aviation" expo to solicit new members and rides for the club. The club agreed to pay for a lift if necessary for Tom Stowers and Bob Trumbly to replace the Soaring Nevada sign over the hanger to reflect the correct phone number.

Club Management:

RuthAnn who quite effectively ran the clubs' operations last year has a different job related to the Airlines and will still manage the club with August, however there is a possibility of Tuesday and Thursday's being an issue if schedules collide as August is a university student. The club is looking into a club manager that will for the most part be involved in hangar work (organizing, billing, scheduling, office type stuff) not necessarily flying like RuthAnn does. The club discussed it being a month-to-month job and possibly being as high as \$35 hourly rate, and assistant type being "maybe" \$25. The members of the board will put out "feelers" for getting this office manager position filled. While flying experience is nice it is believed a non-flying manager is a better choice.

---- Not during the meeting but corresponded afterwards of creating a list of volunteers to be office managers if the need arises. Don Adams volunteered this when he can, he also wants this to be an opportunity for the volunteers to learn the treasurers' duties for the future; Also, not during the meeting, but shortly thereafter Jim Lee has been interviewing with 18 people, and has been on the phone all day. This just highlights the work some board members and regular members put in to keeping the club running. ----

It was getting late for many of the board members, but before the meeting was adjourned, I suggested a "Season Opener" (Trumbly's words) with the idea of getting members to show up and pay their dues and fees and VIP's etc. (like last year). This was agreed upon; however, a date was not made, although it was noted to be near the wave camp time. From WhatsApp, I believe RuthAnn will post links on Soaring NV so that people can pay all this before such time, now that she knows the 2026 rates.

The next MSC board meeting will be March 16th 6pm

Meeting adjourned

Jeffrey Bilyeu reporting

