

A Brief History of Toronto Soaring Club Inc.

By Alec Foster

Started out as Aero Club Harmonie (early 1950 s)

Willi Deleurant joined above club 1954

He was to be in later years the clubs mentor and guiding spirit and our present air field bears his name.

**1955 The club members built a winch for launching
This consisted of a Pfeiffer winch from Germany
mounted
on a 1945 Dodge Fargo truck chassis. This winch was
used
exclusively to launch all gliders at that time in the club
This same winch but with a larger engine installed is
still
being used very effectively to this day.**

**1957 Aero club Harmonie raised funds by various means to
fund
the purchase of a then new Bergfalke 11-55 two seat
trainer.
The wooden container that this a/c arrived in was then
promptly
used later to construct a gasoline shack which was built
by then
member Helmut Augustine later to become club
treasurer.**

1960 Aero club Harmonie purchased a Ka 8 c f rce

**1963 Dec.13th Aero club Harmonie became Toronto Soaring
Club Inc.**

And at this time the fleet of a/c consisted of

1 Doppel Raab 2 seat trainer

1 Bergfalke 11/55 2 seat trainer

1 Ka 8 single seat

1 Schweizer 1.19 single seat

At this time the launching system consisted of winch only

- 1965 The club sold the Schweizer 1.19 and purchased a new 1.26 cf uxi from Schweizer for \$5000 at this time the club had the use of a Pa 12 tow plane owned by Alfred Hoffman which was then installed with a new 150 hp engine and all pilots converted to aero towing.**
- 1968 The T.S.C trained and soloed it's first female member Yvonne Foster**
- 1969 Toronto Soaring Club moved from Bellwood to Proton near Hopeville
At this time, this property consisted of two derelict houses and 1
90 year old barn,on 200 acres**
- 1970 The club erected a 60ft x 40ft hanger to house all aircraft**
- 1974 The club purchased a new Schweizer 2-33a cfodc 2 seat trainer**
- 1977 The club replaced the Pa 12 towplane with a 2 year old Citabria 150 hp towplane cggiv and at this time installed drainage under both runways**
- 1981 The club sold ka 8 cf rce to Blue Nose Soaring Club**

and purchased locally Ka6 cf wiy, with T.S.C. this a/c achieved diamond distance to goal

1984 From 1969 to 1984 our derelict barn was used as a WORK SHOP, A/C PAINT BOOTH and CLUB RM. even had a rudimentary toilet.

We had many parties in that gracious old barn, we even had a dance floor.

However eventually it got too dangerous to use, so with great sadness we had to move out and it was decided that the members would build a new work shop and club room

60 x 40ft of which 20 x 40 would be that club room.

It is pole barn construction. For the first year it had a gravel floor and in there we hosted fly in breakfasts for revenue for a concrete floor and also to help equip the club room.

Later hydro was installed in the building by our resident electrician Karl Bunder with inside wiring by yours truly.

1989 Our barn was removed for the timbers and is now our parking lot

1990 Purchased Puchacz 2 seat trainer
Negotiated by treasurer Stephen Foster.

1992 T.S.C. hosted Ontario Provincial championships

1994 T.S.C. hosted Ontario Provincial championships

1995 The club installed a deck on south side of the club room overlooking e/w runway this increased seating capacity for various functions .

1996 T.S.C. hosted Ontario Provincial championships

1998 Club sold Ka6 and Bergfalke to U.S.A Club

1999 The club decided to buy junior single seat cfbyt
2002 T.S.C. hosted Ontario Provincial championships

So at the present time the club equipment is as follows

Tow plane Citabria 150 hp

Puchacz 2 seat fibreglass trainer

Junior single seat fibreglass

Schweizer 2-33a 2 seat trainer

Schweizer 1-26 single seat

**1 ground launch winch Pfeiffer single drum auto
brake mounted on 1945 Dodge Fargo chassis powered
by 1970 Lincoln continental 460 cu in engine.**