

NEASA NEWSBLAST

Mountain Wings Sponsors Winter Safety Clinic



(l-r) Pete from Vermont, Mike Strother, Joe Duravage, Peter G, Tyler Neckles, Gary Virtue, Wayne Neckles, Jim Picton, Brian Herbert, Greg Black, Jane and Fred McCarty, Cathleen O'Connell, Kenny Foldvary, Tim, Tom Galvin, Carl, Romano, Corey, Kim, Tony Covelli, and Dave Hopkins - a few others not pictured. We missed you!
(Photo magically taken by Mike Strother)

The chute toss/party went very well considering the weather, I counted 21 pilots. There were tons of great food brought in by the attending pilots. This was a smaller group than usual but I received many calls about not wanting to take the risk of driving in a snow storm and I can't blame them. Dave and I did our usual talks, mine extended a bit from previous years with more knowledge I have gained. The Q&A went very well with great questions. The NeASA club meeting was postponed until next month but there were many new and past members taken in for the club and this is good for the club's growth.

More students than usual attended this year's clinic and we have a great new bunch of enthusiastic future pilots. This is going to be a great season.

The chute toss part of the evening was fun as usual with Tom manning the turbulence rope. Everyone handled the simulated (normal Ellenville air) turbulence well and all got their chutes out and were able to climb into the control bar. Cathleen got her chute out with no problem mounted into our paraglider rig.

Some pilots came a long distance to be here: Tom from Colorado, Cathleen from Philly., Jessica from Boston, Peter from Vermont, pilots from NJ, Rochester, Connecticut - and one pilot very close to us showed up this year: Tony Covelli! Thank you all for risking your lives to attend this year's chute toss/party.

The evening concluded with Wayne doing a great job demonstrating a tree rescue using his son Taylor as the guinea pig. Tree rescue is a big part of flying any type of glider in the Northeast and having a plan to execute a rescue safely is very important. Having the proper equipment is also very important. NeASA keeps a metal box behind my kiosk sign with all the required first aid equipment and a complete inventory of the needed tree rescue gear. Watching this happen is a great way of starting to understand the complexity of it all. One mistake will kill the pilot hoping to be rescued. A tree rescue clinic is being planned for the Spring or early summer and will be outside using an elaborate system Wayne is putting together. This will be a MUST for all pilots to attend.

by Greg Black