Doctor Shares Love of Soaring with New River CTC Audience

[BEAVER, WV] A physician with a passion for motorless flight shared his joy of soaring with an audience of university and college staff and students in a recent lecture at the Public Higher Education Center in Beaver. The presentation was sponsored by the New River Community and Technical College Physical Science Survey Class.

Dr. Lewis C. Richmond, a general practitioner from Milton, has logged 800 hours in sailplanes and is an active member of the Mountaineers Soaring Association. He instructs soaring for the 30 members of the association in the Huntington area.

In his lecture, Richmond explored how the distance record of 557 miles and the altitude record of 46,246 feet were set. He also shared information about the Soaring Society of America and how to get training in the sport.

Richmond has earned the diamond badge, which is considered the ultimate reward in gliding. To earn the badge, a glider must make a cross-country flight of at least 310.7 miles and have earned other lower level badges. Only about 10 people east of the Mississippi have earned the badge, and there are only about 270 people in the country who have reached that level.

According to Richmond, the closest organization that can assist Beckley area residents who want to get involved the sport is the Blue Ridge Soaring Association based in New Castle, VA. He said that the cost of in air instruction is
approximately $120, which is said is comparable to the cost of skiing. More information about the Soaring Society of America can be found at www.ssa.org.

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