

NSM NEWS

FALL
2016

Official Newsletter of the National Soaring Museum

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MUSEUM STAFF

Trafford L-M. Doherty
Executive Director / Curator

Mary Flasphaler
Bookkeeper / Museum
Services

Lisa Bartlett
Gift Shop Manager / Visitor
Services

Tom Tunicliff
Shabnam Allwood
Weekend Staff

Jean Doherty
Administrative Assistant
Newsletter Editor
Membership Coordinator

NSM WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR, TRAFFORD DOHERTY

Following a tenure of 13½ years as Executive Director of the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport, NY, Traff Doherty began his new position as Executive Director of the National Soaring Museum on August 1.

Traff comes to us with a significant background in soaring as well as in museum management. In 1959, he moved to Horseheads, NY, when his father, William E. "Tony" Doherty, became Sales Manager at Schweizer Aircraft. Within 2 years, Traff was working for flying time at the Schweizer Soaring located on what was then the Chemung County Airport. He soloed in a 2-22 on his 14th birthday and went on, over the next 15 years, to serve extensively as an instructor and a tow pilot. In 1980, Traff and his family moved to Lancaster, PA, leaving soaring behind. So now, in 2016, he has come full circle, returning to sailplanes and enjoying it immensely.

Traff brought his wife, Jean, along with him to NSM – she serves as his (much-needed) Administrative Assistant, Newsletter Editor and Membership Coordinator. This is nothing new to Jean, since she served in the same areas at the Curtiss Museum.

Traff and Jean have three grown children and 5 grandchildren who live fairly close by. Their home is above Keuka Lake, just north of Hammondsport (also on the top of a hill) where they greatly enjoy the company of their 3 beagles and 3 cats.

Now 3 months into his new position, Traff finds himself increasingly appreciative of the opportunity to serve as Director for what he considers to be a wonderful museum. He feels that there is a compelling story to be told here about early soaring and Elmira's significant contribution to the sport. The National Soaring Museum is definitely the place to do that.



Retired director, Peter Smith, and new NSM director, Trafford Doherty, at the museum in July.



From the Director - Trafford Doherty

Since assuming the position of Director in August, I have had no shortage of projects around the museum. My very first effort has been improving the museum display signs. I found the hanging display plaques and information panels to be difficult to read and **they tended to obscure the view of the artifacts, and the museum in general**. They were also a **safety hazard – people ran into them constantly**, and a few of them were in very poor condition. To correct these problems, I started with having the signs removed at the end of September. Most of the signs will be reused, either on new stands or mounted on walls. We will also make new signs as required. This project will be completed over the winter months.



Display signs now mounted on stands, giving a more unobstructed view of the artifacts

I am working with the County on a proposal to substantially upgrade the museum lighting. They have in turn hired *Labella Associates*, a local engineering firm, to create a formal design. Our lighting “opportunities” are two-fold, consisting of corrosion/contact-related failures, and a wide range of lighting quality issues – we have areas that have never been adequately illuminated. This is going to be a big effort that will require County *and* State funding. For this reason, we are looking at fiscal year 2018 for this project. In the meantime, the County has been here regularly, catching up on burned-out bulbs. I am extremely appreciative for the excellent response that I have been receiving to my requests on a number of maintenance-related issues.

I recently asked Bob Dieterle, (Chemung Co.) Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, to come up and perform a general inspection of our plumbing infrastructure. We have leakage issues and our bathroom fixtures are starting to show their age. This is one area where we need to make a really good impression on our visitors. An upgrade here could be done piecemeal – as opposed to all at once.

It is important to protect the collection by separating the visitor from the artifact with a suitable barrier. This will also create an atmosphere of professionalism. We have purchased stanchions and plastic link chain to protect our sailplanes, and are currently assembling and placing these throughout the museum.

The museum’s original architect (and Paul A. Schweizer) always felt that the lobby area was meant to provide a suitable location for visitors to congregate before, or after, their visit. The background view of the *Bowlus Senior Albatross* and other sailplanes was intended to impress visitors initially, thereby building interest in what was to come. We need to move back to that – the *Rigid Midget* is going back into storage for now. In its place should be a few chairs, maybe a sofa and table (for magazines) – and in the middle of it all, should be the very nice Harris Hill diorama that’s currently over in the Schweizer Gallery. This will also provide a pleasant area to relax and watch sailplanes take off and land.

Traff Doherty and Dave Welles , removing Rigid Midget from lobby →

NATIONAL SOARING MUSEUM OFFICERS

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President

C. Dianne Black-Nixon
Vice-President

Steven Leonard
Secretary

Dr. William G. Howard
Treasurer

Trafford L-M. Doherty
Director

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Donna L. Draxler
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David Manchester
James McDaniel
David Pixton
W. Stuart Schweizer
David Welles
Dody Wyman



We also need to use the restoration shop space far more effectively. With a lot of help from my friends, I intend to create a presentation that would show a glider restoration in progress. We have a number of sailplanes in storage that would fit the bill for this exhibit – Board President, Walter Cannon, suggested the BG-6. It would be perfect – it's small and cute! It also has a damaged trailing edge that would make it very appropriate to set up as a display. The first step in the shop is to clean the place up and then remove a number of in-the-way items (the TG3 fuselage frame hanging in the window is the first thing on the list – it blocks the view). The cleanup phase has already begun. If we can pull this off, it will be something compelling for visitors to see and it's quite possible that, if we have a viable project set up in there, we might actually get some folks interested in working on it – stranger things have happened!

Getting more visitors through the door each year is another challenge that we need to address. One way to attract more visitors is to offer additional special exhibits - photography, artwork, crafts, miniatures, etc. These are interest areas that appeal to a broad cross section of the public and we would advertise accordingly. I have moved the *Condor Program* flight simulators up into the former Curator's office (it's plenty big enough) to free up the downstairs room for rotating special exhibits. It is prime "exhibit real estate" that we have not been using to its potential.

Our next special exhibit will be our first Dollhouse and Miniature Exhibit, which begins on November 19 - just in time for the holidays. The display will involve the lobby and downstairs areas and should be an enjoyable event for the whole family. Exhibitors are hobbyists from all over the area who have spent hundreds of hours perfecting their displays.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 19 - April 1

Dollhouse & Miniatures Exhibit

NEW MEMBERS

Silver

Thomas Johnson

Bronze

Guy & Anita Bennett
Anne M. Purcell
Alberto Negro

Family

Larry & Mary Huntley
Norm & Angie Brush
Charles & Margaret Streecher
Ray & Wilma Poehlein
Janet Hallahan
Art & Kay Wilder
Paul Campobasso
Jean Whitney
George & Tokye Skillman
Geoffrey & Theresa Pollack
Roger & Elfriede Tompkins

Individual

Joseph DuPont
Ruth Bruning
John Fessenden
Samuel Larter
Andrew Larter
Megan Walters

MATCHING GIFT

Dr. William W. Doerr
Steven Leonard



Joyce Merletti's Victorian House



The Georgian House



Pam Burton's famous Haunted House!



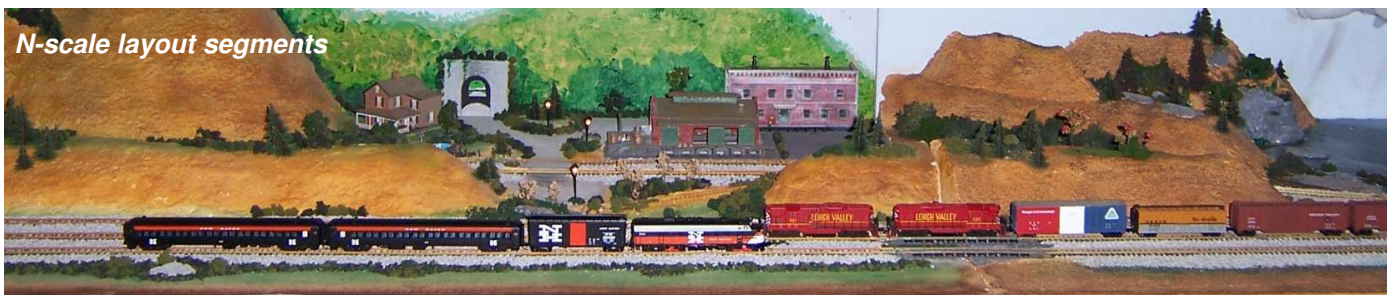
Victorian Townhouse

COMMUNITY SOARING DAY 2016 - Lisa Bartlett

Saturday September 10, 2016, the 24th Annual Community Soaring Day was held at the National Soaring Museum. Joining us were beautiful falcons, hawks and an owl from Baywings Falconry, presenting two shows which were filled each time. Between shows, people got up close to these magnificent birds.



The N-Trak Train Club once again set up a large model train exhibit that they continue to expend each year. Other vendors for the day were: The Big Flats Fire Department with Sparky the fire dog, visiting from West Elmira Fire Department, the Economic Opportunity Program adult literacy folks enjoying their first time here, and the Family Reading Partnership of Chemung County (they are the little red bookshelf people), handing out books to the kids. Harris Hill Juniors showed off one of the gliders, and the Twin Tiers Honor Flight signed up a few veterans for a trip to Washington D.C.

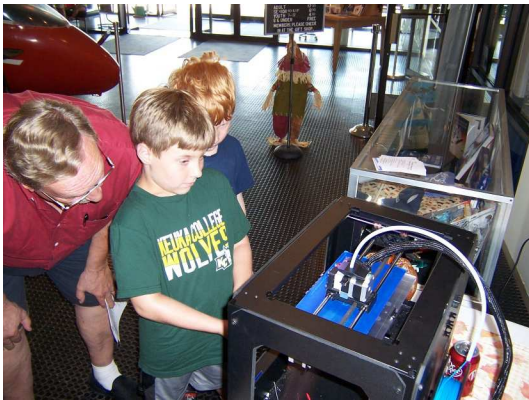


Janet and Carolyn from Steele Memorial Library had fun crafts for the kids. Our neighbors from the SPCA, just down the hill, were on hand with a special puppy, which was up for adoption and Tom Gorman from the Cottage Gift Shop had great seasonal gifts for sale.

Balloon sculptor, Tim Cleary, did a fabulous job making balloon characters for long lines of enthusiastic kids. Jason K. Entertainment kept things lively with music and some trivia questions. Our strolling special guests, Mickey Mouse, Minion, and Sparky (brought to life by HHSC Juniors, Jacob Barnes, David McMaster, Ronnie Harshbarger) put smiles on kid's faces, and adults, too. The weather was just right for an early September day. Sailplane rides were offered and C-Tran gave rides over to Harris Hill Amusement Park.



Balloon characters by Tim Cleary



Watching the 3-D printer at work

Education Director, Kaye Norton, showed off the museum's 3-D printer. It's so amazing what it can do! Museum staff members, Lisa Bartlett and Mary Flaspahler offered up hamburgers and hot dogs. It's always nice to have food on hand, and visitor's really

appreciated being able to get a little lunch while they were here. It's a difficult challenge to "count" visitors on a day like this, but we figure about 400 for this year.

Of course none of this would be possible without support from the local community. A very special **thank you** to the following: Mengle, Metzger & Barr LLC, Harris Hill Soaring Corporation and Juniors, Hilliard Corporation, Sam's Club, Candlewood Suites, Fidelis Insurance, Big Flats Community Day Committee, Magic 92.7 and WENY TV and NSM volunteers and staff. Stay tuned - for ideas are already in the works for the 25th Annual Community Soaring Day in 2017!

The National Soaring Museum is pleased to give special recognition
to our current premium-level members:

Like us on Facebook!

CAYLEY SOCIETY

Jeffery Byard
Chemung Canal Trust Company
Joyce & Peter Daniel
William & Mary Ellen Feldbaumer
E. Gene & Mary Lou Hammond
Hilliard Corporation
John & Mary Esther Hintz
Archer & Ellen Martin
Paul Nagle
Mary Paiewonsky
Vivian Robbins
Paul & Lauren Schweizer
Jan & Astri May Scott
Bernald S. Smith
Han & Nelson van den Blink
Jan & Claire van den Blink
Heinz & Elsbeth Weissenbuehler
Tim Welles
Paddy Welles
Jerry & Sophia Wenger

DIAMOND

Walter & Irene Cannon
Steven & Connie Bowen
Elmira Savings Bank
Dean & Marilyn Gradwell
Alice Johnson
Dianne Black-Nixon & Hank Nixon
Steven Parker
Peter & Lynn Smith

GOLD

William Batesole & Anne Nordstrom
Preston Burch
Hardinge, Inc.
W. Guerry & Alberta Howard
Steven Leonard
David Robertson
Jefferson Shingleton

SILVER

Virginia Jones
John & Mary Esther Hintz
Peter Schweizer
Jacquie Doherty
Calvin Weiss
Les & Bonnie Schweizer
Thomas Johnson
Mary Paiewonsky

SILVER - continued -

Robert McKinnon
Gil Scott
Andrew Fretchling
William & Mary Ellen Feldbaumer
Steve Sliwa

BRONZE

Janine Acee • Kittie & Raymond Alexander
Dr. Alan Angell & Dr. Beth Dollinger
Phillip Baugh • Guy & Anita Bennett
Ira & Sue Blieden • Bruce Bottoms
Rob & Holly Buck • Dale Busque
George & Lorrell Byard
James & Barbara Cantrill • Andrea Cellura
William P. Clarke • Sergio Colacevich
Burt Compton • Pat Costello
Trafford & Jean Doherty
Philip Gaisford & Patricia Lawton
Helga Gertsen • Gerald Giddens
Dr. Michael Green • Roger Hess
David Hudnut • Robert Hurni
Robert & Joan Jackson • Glen Kelley
Timothy & Jackie King • Thomas King
Kenneth Kladiva • Robert Knauff
Mike & Fran Koerner • Dr. Robert Lambert
Barry Leslie • Tyler & Teri Eichorn
Juan Mandelbaum & Clara Sandler
James "Jay" & Robin McDaniel
Christian McIntyre • George Moffat, Jr.
Michael Moore • Barry Muhlenberg
Arthur Muka • Dave Nadler • Alberto Negro
Donald & Barbara O'Connell
Frank Peale, Jr. • Anne M. Purcell
John & Kathy Reynolds • Jerry Robertson
Mary Rust • Bertha Ryan • Edwin Salkeld
Norman & Denise Schenck
Ron & Betty Schwartz • William Strand
T. Curran & Barbara Sekella
Robert & Jessie Siegfried
Edward & Michaela Skalniak
John Slack • Dr. Gerald Smith
Kenneth Sorenson • Karl Striedieck
Jeff Streeter & Barbara Yunis
George & Kathleen Taylor • William Thar
Raymond Thweatt • Douglas & Meredith Tifft
Philip Umphres • Bill Vickland
Darrell Watson • Bruce Weber
Fred & Alice Weeman • Rob Whitcomb
Dody & Jack Wyman



MEMBERSHIP UPGRADES

Silver

Virginia Jones
John & Mary Esther Hintz
Peter Schweizer
Jacquie Doherty
Calvin Weiss
Les & Bonnie Schweizer

Bronze

Bertha Ryan

Family

Dan Rihn
Robinson Lapp
George Davies
Paul Campobasso

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Bernie Paiewonsky

Bob & Barbara Mello
Sandra Maliszewski
Kathleen Maliszewski
Deborah Talbot
Donna & Laura Edelbau
Robert & Carol Swistak
Heidi and David Moskowitz



Within the last year we have lost three Soaring Museum members who have, over their lifetimes, contributed significantly to the heritage of motorless flight:

In Memoriam

BILL SCHWEIZER

Founding member of the National Soaring Museum, Bill Schweizer, age 98, passed away peacefully at his home in Elmira, NY, on January 8, 2016 .

Bill's business career always focused on aviation, his true passion. Bill and his two brothers, Paul and Ernie, owned and operated Schweizer Aircraft Co., one of the foremost manufacturers of sailplanes and agricultural spray aircraft. During its many years of operation, Schweizer Aircraft produced over 2100 sailplanes and 2600 Ag-Cat agricultural aircraft. Bill's primary focus was production management. He also was responsible for the company's subcontract business, through which Schweizer produced components for nearly every major aerospace company.



LEE ROBBINS

Former NSM Board President and Trustee, Lee Robbins, age 84, died on Dec. 25, 2015. Lee loved flying and soloed at 17, flew many, many different kinds of planes, gave rides, instructed, built, and rebuilt many planes and wanted nothing more than to fly his whole life. In 1954 he was hired as a pilot by Corning, Inc. and later served as their Director of Aviation for 36 years.



Lee also flew and towed gliders for the Harris Hill Flying Club. He was honored to be elected a member of, and then chairman of, the National Business Aircraft Assoc. representing Corning, Inc. He served as board member and president of the Experimental Aircraft Assoc., the Red Cross, Southern Tier Economic Growth, was a past board member and Vice Chairman of the Board of Elmira Savings Bank, served on the Horseheads School Board for nine years, was past president of Community Foundation of Steuben and Chemung County, and vice president of Corning Enterprises. The three Robbins brothers, Bill, Clyde and Lee received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the FAA in 2002.

BERNARD PAIEWONSKY

Longtime Soaring Museum member and NSM Trustee, Dr. Bernard Paiewonsky, died on Aug. 17, 2016. Dr. Paiewonsky had a long and distinguished career as an Aeronautical Engineer, Mathematician, Scientist, and Researcher. He was the Deputy for Advanced Technology for the Secretary of the Air Force following his many years at the Institute for Defense Analysis and his work at the White House Office of Technology.



Dr. Paiewonsky was an avid glider pilot and contributed his time and energy over many years to the Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association, and was a co-founder and editor of the journal, *Technical Soaring*. He was an active member of the MIT Club of DC. He was a Trustee of The University of the Virgin Islands. He served on the board of Congregation Bet Chesed, and was the first instructor of his Yiddish Language Group. Dr. Paiewonsky will be greatly missed by his family and the many friends he made through his recreational and professional activities.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Bill Schweizer

Fred & Alice Weeman
Katherine Roehlke
Dean Butts
Fred Lawrence
Les & Bonnie Schweizer
Jon Homuth
Elmira Savings Bank
Cindy Hutchinson
John Cadwallader
Betty Loomis
John Brand
Susan Tryon Rogers
William Tryon
John Potter
Barb McDowell
George Lessard
Blair Jennings
Reginald Gehret
Rex Wells
Nancy Barringer
Mary Smith
John Hintz
Scott Kroczyński
Sandra Bowers
Mary Jo Yunis
AirFlite
Emma Novotny
Heinz Weissenbuehler
Brent & Martha Olmstead
Carl & Donna Hammond
Tim Welles
Hilliard Corporation
Mary Flaspahler
Natalie Denton
Alan & Maria Winston
Thomas Wirth
Jean Derefinko
Ed Funk
Alan Parsons
Nancy Balenske
Susan Rouselle
Laura Lee Liberatore
Tom Walton
Elton Cramer
Jenna Keser
Elwin Cramer
Chemung Canal Trust Co.
Edward Nast Family

NEW VIEW AT THE SOARING MUSEUM

Here is one of the views that you would not have been able to see last year. Hanging signs that obliterated this view have been removed and will be displayed elsewhere in the museum. This is now the view from the top of the stairway. The previously hanging signs are currently being painted white on the reverse side so that lettering is easier to read. The re-purposed signs will then be mounted on stands or hung on walls for easier reading.



YEAR-END ADDITIONAL DONATION

Looking forward to a new fiscal year, filled with improvements, new projects and new possibilities, we welcome any additional funds you might like to donate to the National Soaring Museum for 2016.



Please use the attached form to make an additional year-end donation to the National Soaring Museum.

This donation should be funds of any amount given in addition to your regular membership renewal.

Members who donate to this year-end solicitation will have their names recognized in the winter 2017 edition of the NSM News

Name: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ e-mail address _____

Donation amount: _____

My check is enclosed

Please bill my Credit Card# _____ exp. date _____

(MasterCard-Visa-Discover-American Express)

V-code _____

Signature _____
