



News



Look ! Up In The Sky.....

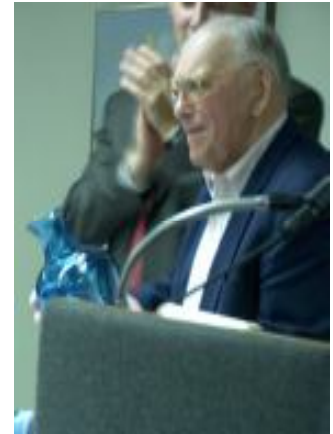
Schweizer Homecoming 2010

The colorful metal birds gracing the air on 4th of July weekend were those marvelous Schweizer sailplanes coming home to honor the legacy of Schweizer Aircraft and the men whose dreams of manufacturing safe sturdy sailplanes came true.

The weekend began with a special banquet to honor William Schweizer and the Schweizer family. A packed house of friends, Homecoming participants and community leaders attended to show their appreciation.

Chemung County Executive Thomas Santulli presented Mr. Schweizer with a proclamation stating in part, "*There are more American glider pilots that have been and are being trained on Schweizer gliders than any other. In addition to manufacturing their renowned line of gliders, the Schweizers and their company solidly supported the growth of American commercial and military aviation through contracting relationships with firms like Boeing, Fairchild and Grumman. And the Schweizer gliders*

have spurred American pilots to success in national and international competitions, including Paul Schweizer himself, whose skills as a pilot and efforts as a champion of American gliding rightly earned him the title "the soul of American gliding," and the Schweizer gliders skillfully designed and engineered under their overall leadership. The Schweizers continued to maintain the reputation of rugged, reliable and safe gliders and continue as the



Bill Schweizer accepting the glass vase specially crafted by Lewis and Evan Olson for the first Homecoming.

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Harris Hill Celebrates Mark Twain



Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain and Becky Thatcher serve cake to our guests

The hill was alive with the words of Mark Twain on April 24th as we celebrated the unofficial beginning of "summer fun" at the Museum, Harris Hill Amusement Park and Harris Hill Soaring Corporation. Mark Twain spent many summers on a hill in Elmira not unlike ours and of course the year 2010 marks the 175th anniversary of his birth and the 100th anniversary of his death.

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Up, Up and AWAY.....

The Eileen Collins Aerospace Camp

This year's Eileen Collins Aerospace Camp took off like a rocket with a full complement of 60 campers and a waiting list containing several more. This growth is a testament to the success and popularity of the program.

Aged 9 through 14, the aspiring pilots and scientists learned principles of aerodynamics all wrapped up in fun activities and experiences. Long time camp coordinator Norm Smith again took favorites from previous years and added a new twist. This year it was a day at the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology. It is this continuing revitalization that has the kids coming back year after year.

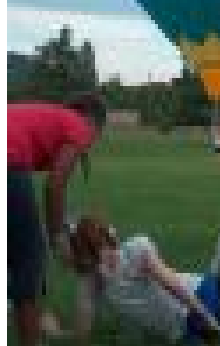
Of course the highlight is the sailplane rides along with the power plane outing and tethered balloon ride. The program gives the campers a solid background in the history of flight, which along with the principles of aeronautics, deepens the appreciation of their experience here at the camp. The campers

learned to use the flight simulators and to build and fly rockets and RC planes. In addition to tours of the National Soaring Museum and the Rubenstein Museum, they toured the Glenn Curtiss Museum, Hands on Glass, the Elmira-Corning Regional Airport, Finger Lakes Skydivers and Cornell University Spacecraft Imagery.

Scholarship assistance was made available this year to qualifying campers by Eileen Collins, Peter and Joyce Daniels, the Elmira Zonta Club, Horseheads Sunrise Rotary, Elmira Rotary, Horseheads Kiwanis, Women's Soaring Pilots Association and Anderson Evans Foundation. We thank them

for providing financial assistance to these campers.

Signups for next year's camp will be starting soon. If you know a budding aviation enthusiast give us a call today at (607) 734-3128 or email norm@soaringmuseum.org.



*Preparing For
Their Hot Air
Balloon Ride*

*The smile tells it all - everyone's favorite
camp event - the sailplane ride !!
Camper Sandra Bowman*

Oh What A Beautiful Day !!!

A museum full of activities inside and out, vendors, food and fun, fun, fun !! A plan that came together perfectly. It was the 18th Annual Community Soaring Day on September 11th and what a fantastic day it was, topped off with picture perfect New York September weather. The success was certainly echoed by the heavy number of visitors that came up the hill to participate and the happy faces of all the children joining in the day's fun.

Perennial favorites Philip and Sharon Chiang again came in from Ohio to run the paper airplane workshop, always a hit with young and old alike. Of course the older kids loved the model rocket building workshop and the line at the Museum's flight simulator never seemed to get shorter.

Several outside agencies also participated. The Chemung County Sheriff's Department brought their drug dog, Gus, for demonstrations and the New York State Police brought their Stop DWI Simulator, both real attention getters. Our friends at The Christmas House set up a Silly Bandz Exchange for all the young collectors in the area.

Maple Valley Farms sold produce and fresh baked goods and the local Wegman's Supermarket operated an "Eat Right" exhibit for the kids and their families. Magician Tim Cleary did a few sleights of hand and then made all the kids present at least one balloon animal or balloon hat.



Philip Chiang's paper airplane workshop



New York State Police display which simulated the effects of vehicle accidents on the safety of driver and passenger, using crash test dummies.

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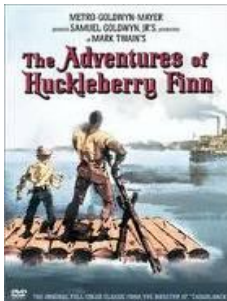
Mark Twain Celebration... *Continued from Page 1*

In honor of the impact and enjoyment his books have had on the lives of youth for over a century, the Museum hosted a special family day featuring Tom Sawyer, Becky Thatcher and "Mark Twain" himself (aka

Drew Guild, local radio personality.) Mark read excerpts from the book "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" to rapt groups of youngsters and their families throughout the day.

Then as a special treat we served them cake and Mark presented the children with copies of the book to read for themselves. The books were compliments of the Community Foundation and the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce.

The event attracted many families to the Museum and everyone old and young alike enjoyed the program



gliders of choice to introduce new generations of pilots to this wonderful sport. The Schweizer name now carried with pride by William Schweizer, the surviving member of the pioneering band of brothers, and by succeeding generations of his family has always stood for ethical business practices, civic pride, and community spirit of the highest origin. And the



Paul Hardy Schweizer and Shane Lese, two local pilots and members of the Schweizer family, stand with Simone Short of the National Soaring Museum and Bill Schweizer, co-founder of the Schweizer Aircraft Corp., after Friday's "glider mail" flight. Photo credit, Elmira Star Gazette



Members of the Schweizer family front l-r Lauren Schweizer, Kristina Schweizer, Bill Schweizer, Kathleen Schweizer, Julie Shepard and Lucia Schweizer. Back l-r Paul Hardy Schweizer, Les Schweizer, John Cadwallader, Bonnie Schweizer, Kyle Schweizer, Mark Shepard and Stu Schweizer.

Schweizer Aircraft Corporation has supported Chemung County and the surrounding area by providing safe, stable, and well paid jobs for thousands of employees over the years, and whereas the Schweizer name has always stood for integrity, fair



Children check out the Schweizer 2-32, a sailplane carrying "glider mail," after it landed at the Harris Hill Soaring Center on Friday afternoon. Photo credit Corning Leader

dealing, quality of effort and outcome and is therefore one of the great names in the history of Chemung County, New York State and America, now therefore I, Thomas J. Santulli, Chemung County Chief Ex-

ecutive, do hereby proclaim July 2nd, 2010 as William Schweizer Day in Chemung County. Congratulations."

Tony Cooper, President of our local healthcare facility Arnot Health which sponsored the dinner, spoke admiringly of Bill Schweizer's outstanding tenure on the board of the hospital from 1969 to 1987. Summing up, Cooper said,

"Were I to be asked for a unifying theme characterizing Bill Schweizer's service I would have to consider a number of his attributes. Clearly loyalty, clearly generosity, clearly focus, but I think in the end I would single out Bill's inclusivity for



A piece of "glider mail," certified by the U.S. Postal Service.

Photo credit Corning Leader

any major undertaking, he always assured that all of the sides were working together.

Bill Schweizer then took the floor to express his appreciation "You know I accept this honor on behalf of my brothers Ernie and Paul. We were completely different, but we had mutual respect for each others' opinions and so we were really able to work together for 40 years building a company. Of course today we have the three

young Schweizers who have done a tremendous job over the last 15 to 18 years. When my brother Ernie, who was the oldest, retired in 1978, Les took over his responsibility, then my brother Paul retired and my son Paul took over his responsibility and then when I retired Stu took over my responsibility and they made me Chairman. It reminds me of a story about a Chairman -- the French revolutionist was asleep and he was the leader of the gang. And his aide ran in one morning and woke him up and said to him. 'The crowd is assembling outside.' So he got up and was shaking off and said 'I must find out where they are going because I am their leader.' So that is the position I was in.

We are very sorry that we don't build gliders anymore because we loved doing it, but it was completely uneconomical to do so. We now have Les and Kyle, who are running an operation where they sell parts and rebuild gliders and the result is, we have something like 2200 gliders out in the field and because we have someone rebuilding the gliders and selling parts, the value of Schweizer gliders has continued to increase. I think we owe a lot of this to Kyle and Les."

The remainder of the weekend was full of flying in great Harris Hill weather with a picnic here on Harris Hill sponsored by Schweizer Aircraft and Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation.

There are a very limited number of Schweizer commemorative booklets left, if you would like to receive one email us at nsm@soaringmuseum.com.

We again would like to take the opportunity to thank our co-hosting organizations for taking part in the Homecoming Event, Harris Hill Soaring Corporation and K&L Soaring, LLC.

Editor's Note:

Bill Schweizer gave an exceptional lecture on the history of Schweizer Aircraft as part of the Homecoming lecture series. A summary of this very informative talk will be found in the fall issue of the National Soaring Museum's Historical Journal which will be out soon.





And The Winner Is

Our contest to find the reader/pilot with the most varied Schweizer sailplanes under his belt (or at least in his log) netted two "heavy hitters."

Winners of the Schweizer mugs were Walt Klemperer of Bend OR and Corky Gill of Elmira. Corky, who worked at Schweizer for many years in the Sailplane Division, certainly set a record for Schweizer planes flown. He flew some that never even went into production!

Congratulations!

New Staff Member

We are happy to welcome new staff member Samantha Goldthwait as Administrative Assistant in the Museum office.

Samantha is a recent graduate of Mansfield University with a Bachelor's degree in Communications and a strong aptitude in website issues.

Welcome Samantha!



Need Holiday Gift Ideas?

The Windrider Gift Shop at the National Soaring Museum has lots of solutions to your holiday gifting dilemmas - shirts, jackets, books, mugs, stocking stuffers AND those wonderful original paintings done by Bill Schweizer. To order just contact us online at soaringmuseum.org or call us at (607) 734-3128.

Become A Fan Of The NSM



Catch up with the National Soaring Museum on Facebook! We'll keep you up on all the latest news and events that are happening right here at the Museum. You'll love all the great photos and posts from other soaring enthusiasts.

If you aren't already a Facebook member, signing up is quick, easy and best of all FREE. Stay connected and become a fan today, visit and join the National Soaring Museum on Facebook.

Beautiful Day *continued from Page 3*

Nothing beats a good story. Dianne Patchett from the Steele Memorial Library read stories in our theatre using puppets and props. It was one of the most popular spots of the day! And again our friends from the Corning Community College Observatory brought their portable Star Lab and did presentations on stars and planets for our budding space pioneers (and quite a few of their parents slid in as well).

Outside we had the local hang gliding club set up with demonstrations on their mode of motorless flight. Chemung County First Transit supplied the Trolley to give complimentary rides around the park and hilltop.

Our partners at the Harris Hill Soaring Corporation gave discounts on sailplane rides again this year, which is always a nice draw, and admission to the Museum was free.



*All Aboard!
The Mark Twain Trolley*

There were a lot of families and nothing but positive comments. No question from anyone there that it was a huge success. Nice work, Lisa!

*We Cordially
Welcome Our New
Members:*

- Donna Bott*
- Jim Croce*
- Andrew Frechtling*
- Dennis Harmon*
- Michael Harrison*
- Dustin Leavitt*
- Daniel McCabe*
- Matthew Morgan*
- P. Allen Narehood*
- James Rizzo, Esq.*
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Museum Hours
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Editor & Designer:
Sue Schneck

NSM News is published by the
National Soaring Museum
for all Museum Friends

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