

NSM NEWS

FALL/WINTER
2021-2022

Official Newsletter of the National Soaring Museum

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United States Soaring Hall of Fame Induction 2021

The National Soaring Museum was pleased to host this year's induction ceremony and banquet to honor both Roy McMaster (2019) and Sarah Arnold (2020)



Sarah Arnold receives her certificate from Frauke Elber



Roy McMaster received his certificate from NSM Board President, Bill Batesole with son, Justin McMaster, looking on



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Roy McMaster - Hall of Fame 2019

Roy began his soaring career on November 5, 1955 at Don Scott Field (OSU) when he soloed in a Schweizer 2-22, serial number 18, on a winch launch to 1,250'. That first flight lasted seven minutes. He flew with the Buckeye Glider Club from 1955 to when it became The Central Ohio Soaring Association. From there Roy continued gliding in Salem, NH, from 1964 to 1968.

The glider scene in the original *Thomas Crown Affair* movie, that starred Steve McQueen and Faye Dunaway, was filmed in July 1967 at the Salem gliderport. The glider in the film was flown by Roy in his Schweizer SGS 1-23H (not by Steve McQueen.)

In 1968 Roy was recruited by Paul Schweizer to revitalize the Harris Hill Soaring Corporation's (HHSC) glider operation in Elmira, NY. As a result of Roy's dedication and contagious enthusiasm, success was achieved and this world renowned gliderport continues to thrive to this day.

To add more glider instruction to his credit, Roy also instructed at the Schweizer Soaring School during the summer months. One of his most memorial students at this school was Werner Von Braun who soloed under Roy's tutelage in 1974.

Roy achieved his A, B, C, and Silver, Gold, Diamond and his first 1,000 Kilometer (Badge #8) all by 1976. He currently holds 29 New York and Pennsylvania State records. In addition, Roy has successfully flown six 1,000 km flights and holds two world soaring records.

Above and beyond record flying, Roy has competed in dozens of US national and regional soaring contests over the years. His active 50-year HHSC membership has seen him in the roles of head of operations, director, instructor, commercial and tow plane pilots. He has logged 8,500 hours in sailplanes and other light aircraft. In addition, Roy has also been the New York State Record Keeper for many years now, he continues to put aside his day job to help any that asks for help, analyze their flight, to help with the badge or record process. There have been many discussions on Harris Hill about what to do for a badge or potential record flight, the answer usually has been, "Go and ask Roy".

Since the mid 1990s, Roy has been a huge advocate and promoter of using GPS and flight recording software as a necessary part of sailplane instrumentation, transitioning the United States soaring record chasers and competition pilots away from the antiquated barograph traces and film cameras as the only acceptable proof of flight data recording.

Soaring has always been more than just an occasional hobby to Roy. It is a sport that he passionately embraced as a teenager in central Ohio and has continued throughout his lifetime. Not only has he made a multitude of incredible long-distance flights, he has also changed the face of how soaring is done in the United States.

His contributions reach far beyond his home glider port of Harris Hill and have positively influenced many generations of gliding aviators as a result.



Roy with student pilot

Sarah Arnold - Hall of Fame 2020

Sarah learned to fly as a teen while growing up in Lumby, Canada, and soon became part owner in a 1948 Piper Vagabond, which she still owns and flies today. Her mother instilled a conscientious work ethic in her at an early age – and a few years after she relocated to Tennessee, that work ethic helped her when she became the youngest gliderport owner/operator in the United States at 24.

Now a longtime owner and operator of Chilhowee Gliderport at Benton, TN, Sarah transcends her full-time duties – flight instructing; towing gliders; using her A&P/IA to overhaul engines and maintain the fleet; organizing and hosting national and regional soaring contests; and giving check rides as an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner – and successfully makes the time to keep honing her competitive cross-country skills.

Sarah became hooked on cross-country soaring when she flew her first long-distance flights in April and May 2005. She went to New Mexico in June, where she flew 296 miles over an out-and-return course, setting multiple state and National Feminine Distance records. In February 2008, she completed her diamond badge (#985) when she soared to 30,829 feet over Boulder, CO.

In March 2011, Sarah and Dianna Fleming set 11 records in the Feminine Category – Open Class Multiplace Glider for Tennessee and 3 National Feminine Soaring records while flying a Schweizer 2-33A more than 200 miles above the Sequatchie Valley.

That May, Sarah won the Sports Class Nationals, which enabled her to join the United States Soaring Team. In January 2013, she competed at the World Gliding Championships (WGC) in Argentina. Later that year she became the first American pilot to compete in the FAI Women's World Gliding Championships (WWGC) in Issoudun, France, and won the Bronze. In 2017, Sarah won the Silver at the WWGC in Czech Republic. In 2018, she and Karl Striedieck won the 20 Meter Multi-Seat Nationals.

Sarah's persistent practice, as well as her diligent efforts to learn from setbacks she'd encountered, enabled her to achieve a lofty goal in January 2020. She won the Gold and became the Standard Class World Champion at the 10th FAI Women's World Gliding Championships (WWGC) at Lake Keepit Soaring Club, New South Wales, Australia. Notably, it was the sixth time in the history of United States' participation in world gliding competitions that an American has claimed the Gold.

Sarah, reflecting upon her experience, shares: "It's a huge privilege to represent the USA at an elite level, and a special

experience to fly with such highly-respected pilots who share this same passion. I try to bring home a sense of the 'how large and yet small' the world of soaring truly is, to inspire others who make sacrifices for their own dreams, and more than anything, to bring honor to my country."

Throughout all of her practice and achievements, Sarah credits numerous mentors and supporters who have shared their knowledge, resources, and equipment, and especially her husband, Jason.



2021 Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction - November 3, 2021



Supporting speakers, L-R: Hank Nixon, John Good, Karl Striedieck

The National Soaring Museum hosted the United States Soaring Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony on Wednesday evening, November 3, 2021. Inductees were Roy McMaster, who could not be celebrated last year due to Covid-19 restrictions, and Sarah Arnold. Despite the slightly unusual scheduling, an enthusiastic group of about 70 persons took part in the festivities. A catered meal was served by local chef, Barb McClure, refreshments were provided by the Museum, and a fine time was had by all.

NOTE: The excellent photos of the sailplanes as seen in the last issue of the NSM Newsletter (Spring/Summer) were provided by Dr. Guerry Howard.

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In Memoriam

Laslo "Les" Horvath

August 6, 1936 - November 9, 2021

Former National USA sailplane/glider acrobatic and speed champion, Laszlo Horvath, age 85, died on Tuesday November 9, 2021. Born August 6, 1936 in Budapest, Hungary, Laszlo was eldest of 4 children. He escaped from Communism with his brother, Stephan, and close friends, emigrating to the USA in 1956.

While living in upstate NY, Laszlo first worked as a TB hospital janitor. He then worked for Univac and Sperry Rand in various technical positions and finally as an engineer with Mohawk Data Sciences. Laszlo developed numerous patents & computer-related equipment, including one that was used by IBM for a number of years. While blazing a trail in the early computer industry era, Laszlo found time to marry and have three sons. As successful as he was in the computer industry, however, aviation was his passion, and at the age of 32 he decided to follow his vision. Laszlo sold everything and went west to Arizona.

Wild West books by Louis L'Amour enchanted him as a child, and those stories of cowboys and early pioneers provided the incentive to pursue his dream to become a world class sailplane pilot and to build the best training facility in the world. Laszlo opened the Estrella Sailport at Maricopa, AZ on April 1, 1969. In the ensuing years he set numerous speed, altitude & distance records and earned the coveted Diamond Badge from the Soaring Society of America. Lufthansa, the US Air Force Academy and other organizations sent their trainees to Estrella Sailport for pre-jet training to sharpen their pure flying skills before moving into jet flight training.

Laszlo started his sailplane competition career in the 1970's with placing 3rd in the 1-26 aircraft US Nationals, moved up to the 15 Meter Class winning the US Region 9 contest and then he won the National US 15 Meter Class in Marana AZ. Laszlo placed routinely in the top 10 in other National competitions and placing 2nd numerous times in the National Open Class championships. Looking for the next adventure in the 1980's, he turned his focus on acrobatics and quickly became the US national champion and the last word on acrobatic training in the US. He trained pilots of all levels and wrote a book on acrobatics. Laszlo was a regular at Falcon Field, Mesa, AZ annual airshow as well as a participant in other airshows in the US and Mexico.

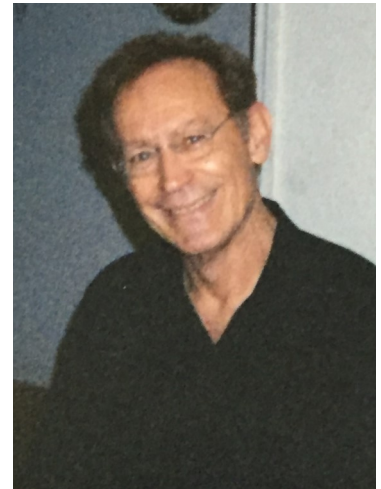
He developed the USA into a competitive force in the international acrobatic arena by placing in the top 20 in the International Acrobatic Championships in 1985 & 1987 along with training an individual who both ended up placing 3rd in the 1987 International Championship. After placing the USA on the International Acrobatic Championship map, Laszlo started looking toward retirement and sold Estrella Sailport in 1987.

"I met Les when he joined the Iroquois Soaring Association located in Cooperstown. He purchased and flew a Blanik, which I later purchased from him when he decided to resign from his job and move to Tempe, AZ, whereupon he leased a parcel of land near Maricopa, AZ and developed the Estrella Gliderport. He and his wife, Betty ran the operation for many years. Les was not only an excellent instructor but also a premier competition pilot in both the cross country and aerobatic arenas. He competed both here and abroad and promoted soaring throughout his life. I crewed for Les in one of the last Hitachi invitationals held in Minden, NV. Les was the epitome of the American dream and deserves a special place in the soaring community." - Moe Acee

"I met Les here at Harris Hill for the 1980 Standard Class Nationals when I was crewing for my father."
- Peter Smith

"Jason and I flew at Estrella, just after he was soloed in the 1-26 on Harris Hill. A few decades ago."
- Guerry Howard

"I learned to fly gliders at Estrella Sailport in 1974 from Les's two women instructors (both excellent). I was lucky enough to fly wave with him there and shortly after the altitude record was set for that time at 21,500 or thereabout. Both he and Betty were terrific hosts." - Burke Carson



Midwest Utility Glider Comes to Stay!

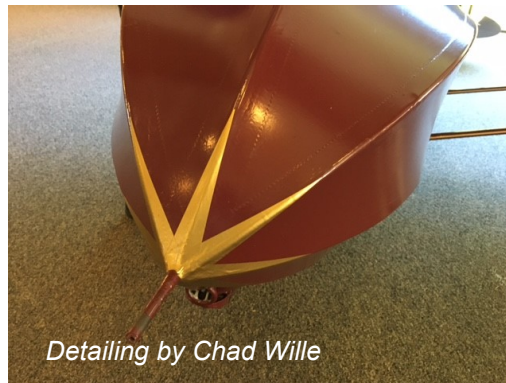
Chad Wille flew his MU-1 here on Harris Hill during this year's IVSM and then donated it to the museum. The MU-1 was built by the Steinhauer Sailplane Co in April 1943. The first owner was John Giomi of McAllen, TX, who purchased it for \$1,275.00 in August 1944; followed by Al Cleave of Mercedes, TX 1951; Don Goode & Tom George of Harlingen, TX 1956; Ken Swanson, Prescott Soaring Club, AZ 1962; Dave Schuur, Flatrock, IL 2011. Dave Schuur gave the MU-1 to Chad Wille in September 2012 at the VSA meet in Wichita that year.

Chad began restoration in late December 2013 and completed it in 2016. During restoration, the stripping of old parts indicated that the original factory color was red. Later, it was painted light blue/turquoise, and still later, white with silver doped wings.

The wing structure is 99% original wood, but has been extensively re-glued. All other parts of the glider are also original, including the unusual "Micarta" wheel and plywood wheel fender. The clear doped cotton on the wings is original to when the glider was first licensed in 1944.

This glider is the last remaining Midwest Utility glider.

MU-1 in flight at this year's International Vintage Sailplane Meet



Detailing by Chad Wille



Traff Doherty & Chad Wille with the MU-1

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In Memoriam

Janice Hagen Armstrong

December 27, 1953 - November 18, 2021

Longtime NSM member, former NSM trustee and Women's Wall of Fame honoree, Janice Armstrong, died of cancer on Nov. 18, 2021. Janice was born on Dec. 27, 1953, in Sacramento, CA, to Dr. William and Mary Jacqueline Hagen. The family moved to Wasco in 1958, where Dr. Hagen established his family medical practice. Janice began helping her father early in her life and later decided to train and work as a nurse. She earned bachelor's degrees in microbiology and nursing and later earned executive master's degrees in business administration and management from the Claremont Colleges. Janice advanced rapidly in her career, becoming the director of the labor and delivery department at the Los Angeles County Hospital. Janice was an accomplished swimmer, competing in age group,



high school, college and masters' competitions. Janice and Dan Armstrong met at a master's swim meet. Janice married Dan on Jan. 3, 1987, and they moved to Tehachapi in July of that year where she worked primarily in home health and hospice nursing. In Tehachapi they became heavily involved in soaring at the Mountain Valley Airport with Dan as pilot and Janice as crew.

A significant part of Janice's story is her effort to have the historic contest site at Arvin, CA included as a *National Landmark of Soaring*. She submitted a formal proposal to the National Soaring Museum Board on May, 22, 1999, which was subsequently approved. On April 29, 2000 Arvin became the 10th national landmark on a list of only 16 soaring locations of similar historic significance in the United States - including the state of Hawaii. In the photo, Janice is standing next to the Arvin Landmark of Soaring site marker on which she worked so hard.

Janice was very involved in many organizations and a common theme in her life was helping others.

United States Soaring Hall of Fame Call for Nominations



Nominations for election to the United States Soaring Hall of Fame are currently being accepted. The deadline for the current year consideration is June 30, 2022

Any member of the Soaring Society of America may submit an individual's name for consideration as a Hall of Fame candidate. Each nomination must be accompanied by a detailed statement setting out the achievements or contributions of the nominee, justifying consideration for election to the Hall of Fame.

Please send nominating letters and support material to:

Trafford L-M. Doherty, Director
National Soaring Museum
51 Soaring Hill Dr.
Elmira, NY 14903-9204

Questions? Please call (607) 734-3128 e-mail: director@soaringmuseum.org



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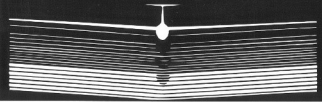
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**FALL/WINTER
2021-2022**



MUSEUM HOURS

May 1 - Oct. 31
Open daily 10-5

Nov. 1 - Apr. 30
Open daily 10-4

**Museum closed on the
following holidays:**

- New Year's Day
- Easter Sunday
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day



Chad Wille lands the MU-1 at Harris Hill

Photo by Guerry Howard

NSM Membership Form

Please check the membership category of your choice and return to:

The National Soaring Museum, 51 Soaring Hill Dr., Elmira, NY 14903

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