

"The National Soaring Museum preserves and presents the heritage of motorless flight, and promotes through education, a greater knowledge of soaring, aeronautics, and related physical sciences for everyone."



The R-J-5 is secured in place by Dave Welles and Sean Murphy.

R-J-5 Takes its Place in the Museum Gallery

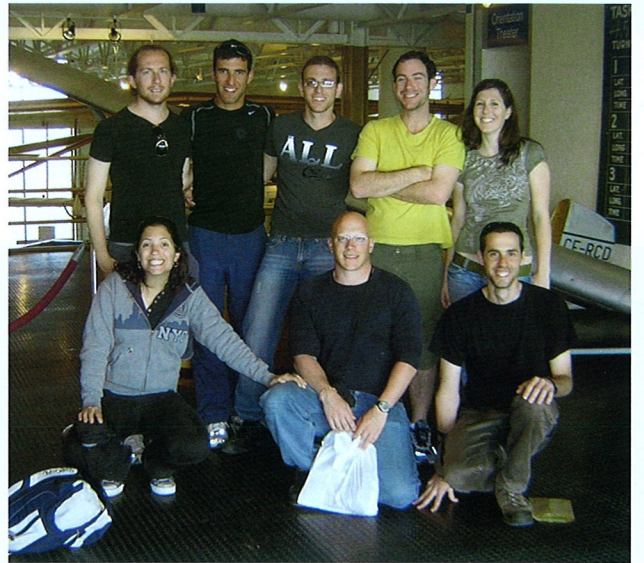
On February 28, 2008, the Ross-Johnson R-J-5 was installed in the NSM's Main Gallery. One of the most significant aircraft in the history of soaring, it was the first sailplane to achieve a 40 to 1 glide ratio. Now it hangs next to the iconic Bowlus-duPont Senior Albatross, in proud testimony to its champion pilot and co-designer, Dick Johnson.

The R-J-5 was donated to the NSM by John Lesser. A replica of its original fuselage was built by George Applebay from drawings by Dieter Ennulat, and finished by Bob Gaines. The staff and volunteer installation crew was supervised by NSM Trustee Dave Welles.

News from the NSM

Waco CG-4A to re-enact Normandy landing

The NSM recently received an inquiry regarding information and parts needed for the construction of a Waco CG-4A glider. DreamFlight, a vintage aircraft organization in California, has been invited to participate in the 65th Anniversary D-Day Celebration in England and Normandy in 2009. The group plans to fly a C-47 to the event and tow the WACO glider from England to a release/landing in Normandy, where gliders actually landed during the invasion. After the ceremonies they will perform a snatch recovery and return the glider to England. It will then be shipped back to the U.S. for appearances at several air shows. As of the present time it would be the only flyable CG-4A. To learn more about DreamFlight's activities, please visit their site: <http://www.thedc3rose.com>



A group from the aerospace department of Technion University in Israel toured NSM while visiting New York State for a robotics competition.



John Pappas prepares to depart with CG-4A parts.

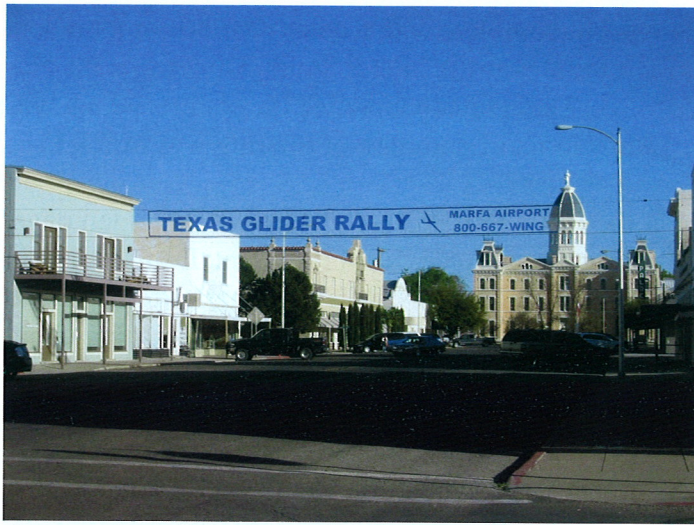
Final distribution received from National Soaring Foundation

The National Soaring Foundation has made its final distribution to the NSM per their 2006 agreement. The funds transferred to the NSM will be used both to support the museum and to purchase materials distributed to Certified Glider Flight Instructors attending Flight Instructor Revalidation Clinics held by the Soaring Safety Foundation. Upon the dissolution of the National Soaring Foundation, the distribution agreement was made through the efforts of Bernard Gross, with recognition of the NSF's founder, the late Jack Gomez.

Dick Butler inducted into US Soaring Hall of Fame

On May 2, 2008, Richard Butler became a member of the US Soaring Hall of Fame in recognition of his achievements as a competition pilot and his extensive work in sailplane design and modification. Having won three Open Class Nationals and flown with three US Teams, many of these using modified sailplanes, Butler is currently focusing on the Concordia Project, creating a new sailplane with a glide ratio greater than 70 to 1.





Center: The historic Paisano Hotel; at right, the Courthouse.



L-R: Burt Compton, George Moffat, Tiburcio Garcia.



The crowd gathers for the landmark dedication ceremony.



ASK-13 landing after mail flight.

The National Landmark of Soaring Dedication at Marfa, TX

by Simine Short

The landmark dedication was at the “tail end” of the annual Marfa wave flying camp, organized by Dick Johnson. There were about 30 participants. With many family members working as crew it was not really a competition event, and it looked like everyone had fun.

Friday evening saw most everyone gathered at the restored Hotel Paisano for a “social,” just as pilots did in the 1960s, looking at slides from days long gone. Among others, Steve Leonard from Wichita, KS, showed and narrated his father’s slides taken at Marfa, when Steve was a lad. Highlighting the evening, two movies were shown: “Goofy’s Glider,” a Disney cartoon showing how Goofy learned to fly in the early 1940s, followed by “The Sunship Game,” the soaring action film that documents George Moffat’s victory in the 1969 Nationals at Marfa.

On Saturday morning, Marfa Postmaster Tiburcio Garcia set up his USPS table in the hangar in preparation for the ceremonial “Glider Mail” flight. At 11:30 sharp, the ASK-13 was ceremoniously rolled out of the hangar, and the orange airmail bag with the mail was handed to George Moffat, who was on this flight the co-captain, passenger and mail carrier. Burt Compton took off in front of the cheering crowd, showing this colorful ship with a bright blue sky as background. After a short soaring flight demonstration over the airport, they made a picture perfect landing right in front of the assembled crowd. *(continued on next page)*

An estimated 80+ people attended the landmark dedication ceremony, complete with a color guard (four members of the U.S. Border Patrol), and Ivonne Barkman singing “America the Beautiful.” Peter Smith, Director of the National Soaring Museum, greeted the crowd, and he and Marfa Mayor Dan Dunlap unveiled the plaque, which was mounted on a post near the taxiway and the sun-shelter. The 15th National Landmark of Soaring was official.

About 150 guests attended the banquet buffet in the evening at the Hotel Paisano- - just like in the olden days. Burt Compton officiated as the MC. Short speeches were delivered by Moses Acee, NSM President; Denise Layton, Administrator of the SSA; Jim Short, VSA President; Simine Short, chair of the NSM’s Landmark Program; and Peter Smith. George Moffat delivered a captivating historic and nostalgic after dinner speech, reminiscing about his early days of flying and especially his time in Marfa. The list of people at this “reunion” read like a who’s who in soaring. The legends of our sport had come to Marfa to relive the past.

On Sunday morning most people said good-bye to an enjoyable Landmark Dedication. Thanks to Burt and Kathie Compton and all the people who made it happen!



U.S. Border Patrol Color Guard stands by; at right: Peter Smith and Dan Dunlap.



National Landmark of Soaring plaque #15.

New Merchandise from the Windrider Gift Shop...



Tankard mugs sport a glider and “National Soaring Museum / Harris Hill, Elmira, NY.” \$11.99



Twilight Ladybug projects the night sky on your ceiling! Twilight Turtle also available. \$35.99



Glass ornament (shown with pink paper to bring out the details) is 4” in diameter. \$14.99

To place an order, e-mail lisa@soaringmuseum.org, call (607) 734-3128 or visit <http://soaringmuseum.org/store>

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