



Spring/Summer
2013

NSM NEWS

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.

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NSM News is a quarterly publication by the National Soaring Museum for all Members and Friends of the Museum.

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Caitlin Stevens



Col. Eileen Collins (USAF Ret.) and Education Coordinator Caitlin Stevens. Col. Collins kicked off our Eileen Collins Aerospace Camp 2013 with a Q&A session with the students. Story on page 4.

*"Wonderful museum, I love it!"
- Molly from Harrisburg, NY*

OUR WORK IN OUR HOME COMMUNITY INCREASES

As does the Harris Hill glider field across the street, the National Soaring Museum owes a lot in terms of its sheer existence to the taxpayers and government leaders of Chemung County. Furthermore, like all similar institutions in New York, NSM is chartered as an educational institution. It has, therefore, an important obligation to the community, which is to offer its facilities and good efforts to support the needs of the community in terms of education and public service. We take that obligation seriously.

That is one of the reasons why we're happy to be working with the local *Susan G. Komen for the Cure* group to host a major fund raiser for them in October. Not only are we providing a location for an early evening reception, but we are working on recruiting men to be "Pink Tie Guys," an honor which includes the opportunity to support the local Komen group. It goes without saying that Komen's work to defeat breast cancer (which, some may not know, affects men, too, in a way that is often particularly dangerous and hard to cure) has raised a tremendous level of awareness among the public in recent years. We are happy to take this opportunity not only to demonstrate NSM's commitment to our community of Elmira-Corning and the so-called "Twin Tiers" of southern New York and northern Pennsylvania, but also to work with such an active and inspirational group as the Komen charity. Look on our Facebook page for more information!

We also are reaching out to other museums in our home region and beyond. We have always had a good relationship with the Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport, which focuses on the achievements of motorcycle racer and aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss. During last year's International Vintage Sailplane Meet we had a display of items from the 1930s—the era when soaring started—that was curated by Erin Doane of the Chemung Valley History Museum. Presently we have a display of Civil War-era items from the History Museum, and it has our model Schweizer 1-34 on display. Just the other day Austin Wadsworth of the National Warplane Museum brought us a poster-size map of other aviation museums in western New York. This is, I hope, the beginning of a relationship among air museums in our region that will be especially useful in marketing.

(As an aside, the National Warplane Museum has returned to its original headquarters in Geneseo, NY. Still here, however, is the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center. This was known originally as the National Warplane Museum when it relocated from Geneseo to Big Flats more than a dozen years ago, but the vicissitudes of museum life led it to change its name, its mission and its physical plant. We continue to work with Wings of Eagles whenever we can. NSM, as a point of fact, is in the Town

of Big Flats, although we have an Elmira mailing address and we can see Corning from the front porch.)

In the area of marketing, we recently revised our basic brochure to include another partner in the enterprise: Tanglewood Nature Center. It is located only about a mile from the museum by air. For those of you familiar with the setting of Harris Hill, you can picture Tanglewood occupying a large part of the ground east-southeast of the glider field near the tall television tower. Tanglewood often supports NSM's education programs by bringing some of its live raptors and owls to show young people the relationship between bird flight and glider flight. Now that Tanglewood is the fourth partner in this brochure (entitled "The Harris Hill Experience") we can print thousands of them for substantially less cost than before. Our other partners are the Harris Hill Soaring Corporation and the Harris Hill Amusement Park.

Some may argue that a soaring museum has no business either advertising other museums or displaying tea cups, but the truth is museums absolutely must work together so that all can have a better chance to survive. Cooperation is basic to survival among nonprofit organizations like ours, the Komen group and our neighboring museums. Reciprocity in exhibits, marketing, event promotion and fund raising is elementary to our future. It falls under the heading of "social capital," and while our balance sheets and audits may reflect the nature of the dollars-and-cents struggle that all museums face, we are working hard to improve the bottom line on our social capital balance sheet because we know that it already is paying off and will so even more in the future.



A tea cup used by Mark Twain when he stayed at Quarry Farm in Elmira. On display in the NSM lobby. On Loan from the Chemung Valley History Museum.

WE REINSTATE CAYLEY SOCIETY TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS

There are around 17,000 museums in the United States, and most of them are pretty small—like this one. In common with nearly all of them, NSM worries about keeping itself open so it can continue to fulfill the mission its founders set out, the preservation of our soaring history and the education of people young and old about this wonderful sport and the science that underlies it. Most American museums struggle to bring in enough money from memberships, admissions, programs and sales to maintain a balanced budget, and most of them can't quite do it year in and year out. They rely on donated support to keep operating. So do we.

Each year, NSM brings in thousands and thousands of dollars in outright gifts. This year is no exception. Thanks to fine generosity from several people whose names are well known to the soaring community and the Elmira area, we have benefited from a substantial income in 2013. Each of them has been thanked more than once for their support. Naturally, without their expressed permission, we will not name them specifically. But they know who they are, and once again, on behalf of all of us who are associated with NSM in one capacity or another, thank you. Your support is vital, and your generosity is beyond commendable, it is admirable.

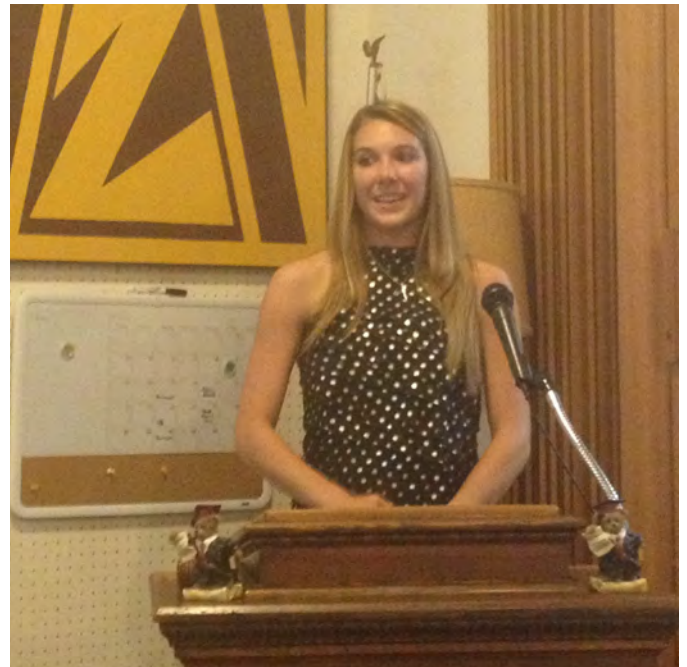
Yet, we could use more. So in the spring we decided to create—well, no, to re-create— a system whereby donors can grace the NSM with larger gifts and, if they choose, be appropriately recognized. When first created more than a decade ago, the NSM called it the “Cayley Society” after Sir George Cayley, who really was the first person to come up with a practical method of flying with a fixed wing. For several months we have been looking at how to create something similar, and it occurred to us one day merely to start the Cayley Society again. So, we did.

In order to explain the Cayley Society it is perhaps clearer to explain what it is not. It is not a vehicle for seeking grants, encouraging membership, designing or building new exhibits or buildings, or creating endowments. It is not a vehicle for planned giving, necessarily. It is merely a category of participation in NSM that offers a significant, personal recognition to those who make a truly substantial gift but who may not want one of the common recognitions, such as the naming of an exhibit. The Cayley Society offers anonymity for those who want it. It offers recognition for those who want it. Most importantly, it offers an avenue for people who want to see the Museum continue to thrive in the troubled years ahead. Cayley Society gifts will not go to exhibits, buildings, or programs, specifically. They will support operations in the broadest sense. They will go to keep the doors open. In the technical term used in

philanthropy, they will be major gifts and they will be unrestricted.

We do not expect many such gifts, but we don't need many. As we wrote in a letter to our trustees, if only a few people can be persuaded to become members of the Cayley Society, NSM will achieve a state that most American museums would find enviable. We would have the resources to weather periodic downturns in activity or sudden and unexpected needs. We could ensure that, no matter what, NSM will continue actively to pursue its mission through its 50th anniversary. Please participate in the Cayley Society!

Former ECAC camper to attend Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, receives local scholarship.



Former Eileen Collins Aerospace Camp attendee Bridget Murphy has been accepted to the aviation program at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona, Florida. Bridget is also a member of the Harris Hill Soaring Corporation as a Junior member, a former ECAC camp counselor and graduated valedictorian from her high school.

Bridget was awarded a scholarship to attend ECAC by the Zonta Club of Elmira, and is pictured above accepting another scholarship from the organization, this time to help her pursue her dream of starting her own charter flight business. We at the NSM would all like to wish Bridget good luck in all her endeavors.

Summer Education at the NSM

Summer education programs are wrapping up here at the NSM. It has been one of our busiest summers on record for the education department, with the addition of new programming, plenty of returning campers, and one special guest.

The summer kicked off with our newest program, put on in partnership with our local Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) Summer of Innovation program. The museum hosted the Introduction to Summer Soaring Academy, as part of this program. Academy students spent a week of half days at the museum studying the birth of flight from when man first marveled at birds through modern soaring. Students flew kites, built and tested models, journaled their observations, and concluded the week with a flight in a sailplane, provided by Harris Hill Soaring Corp.

After a short break, we geared up for our annual Eileen Collins Aerospace Camp (ECAC). This year the camp had several new and exciting aspects. The most exciting of all was a visit by Col. Collins herself! For the first time since the inception of the camp Col. Collins was available to kick off the program. She introduced herself to the students, talked about what being in space was like, and stayed for a questions and answers session with the campers who were eager for first hand tales of what it's like to be outside Earth's atmosphere.

Also new this year was a day trip to the Rochester Museum and Science Center, and an overnight program at the Kopernik Observatory in Vestal, NY. The overnight provided a unique opportunity for students to study stars by looking at them through actual high power telescopes, instead



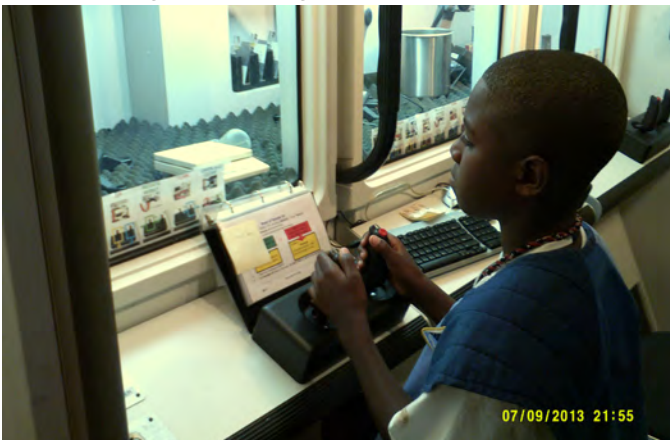
Summer of Innovation student Maren Lutz prepares for her very first sailplane ride.

of through simulated indoor dome shows as we have done in the past.

Held over two weeks, ECAC was once again highly successful. We had around ten campers return from previous years, some of whom have been attending our program for five years running. When asked what keeps them coming back, the answer invariably is the opportunity to fly above the valley in a glider, part of every ECAC camper's week long experience.

Finally, we wrapped up the summer by participating as a host organization to the Chemung County Youth Bureau's Summer Cohesion program. The last two weeks of our summer program saw a different class of students each day, as various Cohesion "Base Camps" from around the area paid us a visit to tour the museum, fly on our simulators, construct and fly paper gliders and have fun learning about the art and science behind soaring.

Just because summer is coming to a close does not mean it is time for the education department to rest. Bookings are rolling in for our Sleeping with Sailplanes overnight soaring encampment program, held on weekends fall through spring, and soon we will be participating in Chemung County's Strong Kids, Safe Kids fair, to help promote soaring as a positive recreational option for youth in our area. We look forward to an active fall and winter, and to continued growth and development in our education department.



ECAC Camper Lamar Williams, hard at work performing experiments "on Mars" at the Challenger Learning Lab in Rochester, NY.

Corning Area Chamber of Commerce and NSM Team Up to Host Business After Hours Event

One of the many programs keeping us busy at the NSM this summer was the Corning Area Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours event. The NSM hosted the event on July 25th, which turned out to be a picture perfect summer evening for ice cream, root beer and social networking.

For many attendees, this was their first visit to our museum, and Ron familiarized them with what we do with a tour of the galleries. According to the Chamber, fifty of their members attended this special event. Many of the businesses represented were gracious and donated great door prizes. "Stitches" from the Elmira Pioneers Baseball Team was on hand to greet guests before heading off to cheer on the team. Ice Guy, from local business Rita's Water Ice, put a smile on everyone's face with Swedish Fish and Mango Italian Ice. You can't have summer and baseball without some popcorn,

so J's Gourmet snacks donated their Finger Lakes Grape popcorn samples.

Whether they were enjoying the ice cream sundaes, root beer floats, the fabulous chocolate chip and peanut butter cookies fresh from the Radisson, or the

brownies from Wegman's our guests had a great time. Culligan handed out their bottled water to wash down the sweet treats. Over all it was a fun evening and great to see so many new faces here at the NSM. A special thanks needs to be given to NSM staff Peter, Ron, Mary, Bonnie, and Jordy, and an even bigger one to our volunteers Mike Harrison, Neil Egan, and Debbie Sullivan, without whose support we wouldn't be able to host these types of events.

Thanks also to our donors

- Tommy Hillfiger
- Don Lewis with the Elmira Pioneers
- Community Bank
- Ageless Integrative Medical Spa
- Harris Hill Amusement Park
- Pembroke Pines Media Group
- Sorges Restaurant
- Old Country Buffet



Corning Chamber members enjoying ice cream sundaes and root beer floats at the NSM's Business After Hours reception. Photos courtesy of the Corning Area Chamber of Commerce.

A Year of Renewal in the NSM Archives

Thanks to Royce See, of Binghamton, NY, a new gem reigns over the National Soaring Museum (NSM) Archives/Collection. The February 1, 1929 masthead of Michigan's American Glider News stated 'Be a Wise Bird – Learn to Fly'. It cost 10 cents! One article informed readers about negotiations with the Boy Scouts to interest them in forming an Air Scout group.

Each year, researchers contact NSM for help finding rare materials, like the newspaper. The scope of NSM's paper collection alone is expansive. We have almost 400 unique US and international glider club newsletters and aviation magazines dating to the 1920's!

While many states are represented in NSM's newsletters, as are current and former clubs (some clubs were multi-state), we should start filling gaps. Would you help NSM obtain newsletters from AK, AR, HI, ID, KY, LA, ME, MS, ND, NE, NH, SC, SD, UT, VT, WV, WY, and

...continued on page 6

US Territories? To donate items, contact Mary Flaspahler first to review NSM's Donation Contract. The NSM Archives 'chill' in the Joseph C. Lincoln Room – 2,400 sq. ft., temperature and humidity controlled. NSM's Archives/Collection categories include Clothing and Fiber, Film, Video, & Media, Paper, Philatelic (stamps), Photographs & Slides, Sailplanes, Trophies & Equipment, 3-D & Other Items (e.g., model sailplanes).

The archives/collection of each museum mirrors its mission statement. A board regularly reviews the management of its archives, including accessions, cataloging, de-accessions, object loans, research fees, legal agreements, annual reports, insurance, security, databases, grants, and more. Physical space, funds for staff and perpetual acid-free storage, best practices, etc. determine what is exhibited to the public or archived.

These actions renew each museum's commitment to preserving its history and educating generations to come. The American Alliance of Museums has an accreditation program that requires five documents: Mission Statement, Institutional Code of Ethics, Strategic Institutional Plan, Disaster Preparedness/Emergency Response Plan, and Collections Management Policy. It's time to 'renew' NSM's documents that have an impact on the Archives/Collection. NSM's Archives/

Collection should be more visible to members and researchers. One researcher from the Southwest recently requested information about Kim Scribner and his Schweizer SGS 2-32. If you can provide additional sources, contact me at Archives@SoaringMuseum.org. (His items are also in the NYC Explorers Club and U. of Miami Pan Am Collection.)

Lastly, thank you to all of NSM's Archives/Collection donors from decades past and decades to come!



A rare 1929 American Glider News from Dearborn, MI greets a 2013 NY newspaper article about the Soaring Society of America Region 3 Contest at Harris Hill.

"FOLLOW" OR BECOME A "FAN" OF THE twitter NSM!



Catch up with the National Soaring Museum on Facebook or Twitter! 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, posts, and comments from soaring enthusiasts around the world! Don't have a Twitter or Facebook account yet? What are you waiting for? Stay connected and join the conversation! Sign up is quick, easy, and best of all, FREE!

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(607) 734-3128

The 21st Annual Community Soaring Day, September 14, 2013

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Looking ahead, September brings the 21st Community Soaring Day. This is a free annual open house event and provides a chance for visitors to become acquainted with the Harris Hill attractions. We will have many returning favorites this year, "The Elmiran" trolley, sailplane rides from HHSC, Magician Tim Cleary, Dr. Chiang's paper airplanes, and the Big Flats Fire Department. Joining us for the first time will be the Keystone Greyhounds, a non-profit

organization dedicated to finding responsible homes for retired racing greyhounds. Arnot Health Community Health will be here. Applebee's will be on site offering food, with take out available. And of course, Cupcake Wars 2. This is shaping up to be a real community event. Visit the NSM September 14th from 10-4 to enjoy the party!

BE A PART OF SOARING HISTORY!

Get involved at the National Soaring Museum

NSM Membership

- Free Museum Admission
- 10% Discount in our Gift Shop
- NSM Publications

Donations

- Add priceless artifacts to our collection
- Donations over \$50 are tax-deductible contributions

Volunteer Opportunities

- Administrative tasks
- Docent opportunities
- Special Events

Contact NSM for more information

E-mail: nsm@soaringmuseum.org

Phone: (607) 734-3128

Our Mission is to preserve and present the heritage of motorless flight and promote, through education, a greater knowledge of soaring, aeronautics and related physical sciences for everyone.

Mark Your Calenders! What's Coming Up at The NSM

Community Soaring Day

September 14, 2013

Susan G. Komen for the Cure
"Pink Tie Guy" Reception

September 27, 2013

Red Cross Blood Drive

TBA (September)



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