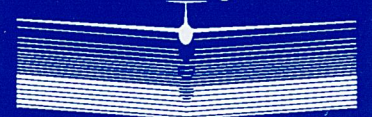


NEWS

Newsletter
of the
NATIONAL
SOARING
MUSEUM

National Soaring Museum



Spring/Summer 1997

Special Double Issue

Vol. 7 No. 2-3

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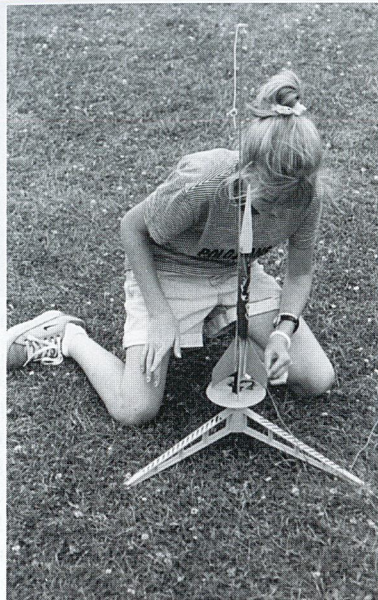
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Museum's new summer day camp program enjoys successful liftoff



Upper left: Rachel Kennedy sets up her rocket for liftoff. Upper right: WENY newscaster Christine Persichette interviews Rachel Kennedy about her glider flight off Harris Hill. In the background, left to right, are Dave Smith, Kris Reuland, Jessica Hughey and Lisa Hamilton. Above, the male campers bond on their first day at Adventure Camp sponsored by the Schuylar-Chemung-Tioga Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). Lower left: Schweizer Aircraft Corp. displays the range of motion of a helicopter for the campers.



Months of coordinating schedules, activities and aviation group leaders came together on July 14 as four teenage girls were delivered to the care of NSM Executive Director James Swinnich for 60 hours of intense education on the skills of science and aerodynamics. The new Eileen Collins Aviation Day Camp Program, sponsored by the Museum and the BOCES Career Development Council, had begun!

The following week, nine boys ages 13-16, gathered for an identical experience with gliders, helicopters, power planes, rockets, kites, and tours of businesses offering aviation related careers. The teenagers enjoyed an overnight encampment in the Museum, went swimming nearly everyday, and mixed some classroom/lecture experiences with many hands-on exercises.

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Flying Wing Symposium is a great start to the annual SHA Weekend

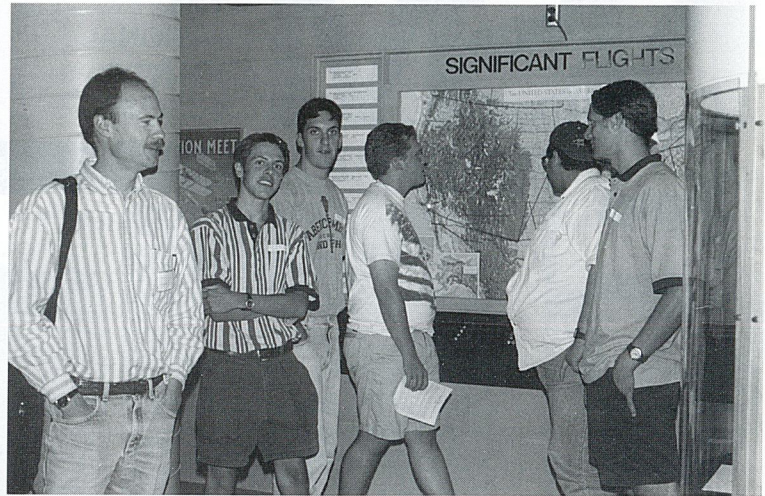


Paul A. Schweizer orchestrated an impressive international arena of experts for the Flying Wing Symposium at the National Soaring Museum July 17, 1997.

Included were Paul B. MacCready Jr., both national and world soaring champion and pioneer of solar powered flying (see photo above).

The Symposium also featured Rudolf Opitz, a test pilot of tailless aircraft for the research team of Dr. Lippisch and for the delta winged Messerschmitt Me 163; Jan Scott, founder of the Vintage Sailplane Association and past president of the NSM; Jim Marske and Al Backstrom, two U.S. flying wing designers; and Karl Nickel, a German mathematician who worked with the Horten brothers and who wrote a book on tailless aircraft.

The weekend was attended by (photo below, left to right) Natalie Lee, Registrar at the Air & Space Museum; Russell Lee, Curator of Aeronautics at the Air & Space Museum; Richard Horigan, Chief of Restoration at the NASM Garber Facility, and NSM Director of Museum Operations Mary D. Flaspaler.



Karl Nickel

Also attending the Symposium were several R.I.T. students from Rochester, NY (see photo above) who built the 1896 Chanute bi-plane glider replica currently on exhibit at the NSM.

Other speakers were: Dez George-Falvy, Albion H. Bowers, Jack Lambie, and Bob Chase. For more information on this superb program, look for the next issue of the *NSM Historical Journal* later this year.

Harris Hill Soaring Corporation member Mat Redsell pulled together an informative and fun Eastern Division Workshop of the Sailplane Homebuilders Association at the National Soaring Museum July 18-20, 1997. Many of the Flying Wing Symposium speakers stayed on for further coverage of flying wing material. Paul B. MacCready and Al Backstrom gave additional talks, Jim Marske provided a sample spar construction workshop, and Jack Lambie put on a session on working with carbon.

Below, the group in the Edward A. Moers Community Room received detailed instructions and tips from the speakers.



Linn Buell finds herself in great company

One of the NSM's Trustees can now be found in print! Linn Buell of Herndon, VA, is featured in a new book by Carolyn Russo and the National Air and Space Museum/Smithsonian Institution entitled **Women and Flight - Portraits of Contemporary Women Pilots**.

The book highlights 35 women from all walks of aviation including helicopters, commercial aviation, small-business aviation, sport aviation, space flight, military aviation and "living pioneers." Seventy-five black and white photographs in the book reveal dramatic images of women in flight: cross country journeys, aircraft used to put out forest fires, even voyages into space. The hard-cover, 102-page book sells in the Museum gift shop for \$40.00.

Linn is featured as the only glider pilot, although she says one astronaut, Marsha Evans, "has more glider time than I do!"

"They're incredible stories," Linn says. "Ida Van Smith-Dunn didn't learn to fly until she was 50 years old because no one would teach her. She makes it her business to introduce kids to aviation."

Carolyn Russo is a staff photographer at the National Air and Space Museum and spent months covering the country in search

of these women.

Linn said Russo wasn't looking for famous women, although some like Eileen Collins, the first U.S. woman pilot in space, are included. For Linn's story, "the vintage glider angle is what made it unusual."

The book was converted into an exhibit at the Smithsonian last summer. Linn attended a book signing at the June 12th opening, where 29 of the featured women



The photo above of NSM Trustee Linn Buell appears in the new National Air and Space Museum book, *Women and Flight*.

appeared in person beside large backdrops of their photos from the book. The exhibit closed in September and will now travel until the year 2002.

Linn said her parents thought flying was crazy. Then they opened the book and saw her picture and said, "Oh, this thing must be a big deal!"

Linn joked that her photo was in the center of the entire book. "I'm the centerfold!"

She was impressed when she met the women who attended the exhibit opening. "They're really neat gals." One of the Alaskans is an Eskimo. There were three African-American pilots and one a captain for UPS. There was a balloon pilot, and two WASP's - one of which could still wear her uniform from 1944.

Virginia moths migrate north

NSM Trustee Linn Buell and Former NSM President Jan Scott found a unique way to get to the Flying Wing Symposium/Sailplane Homebuilders Weekend at the Museum in July. They flew here from Virginia in their Tiger Moths!

They left at 10 in the morning and landed in Elmira on Harris Hill across from the Museum steps at 2:30 p.m. in quite a grand entrance. Linn said that Jan could soar circles around her, but she managed to keep up. The pair were taking their Tiger Moths to an airshow event at the Old Rhinebeck Museum in the Catskills of New York following their stopover in Elmira. Old Rhinebeck was featuring Tiger Moths that weekend.

The Tiger Moth was a military trainer originally from Great Britain. The prototype flew in 1931; approximately 1000 were built. Linn's glider was restored in 1988. Jan's ship was completely restored in 1996 and won the year's best Tiger Moth restoration at Woburn, England.



Photo at right: Jan Scott, left, and Linn Buell, right, next to their Tiger Moth ships in front of the National Soaring Museum.

R/C Symposium

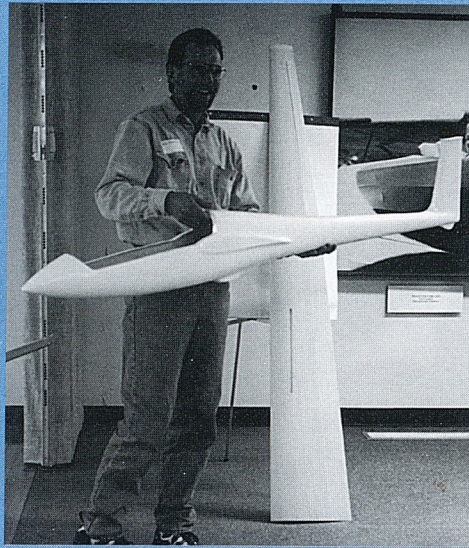
The opening of the National Soaring Museum's new radio-controlled sailplane exhibit in May was ushered in with an R/C Soaring Symposium featuring a slate of international leaders.

Martin Simons, noted author from Australia, discussed documentation for accurately coloring and marking the model sailplanes to match their full-sized counterparts. "You will need plenty of color photographs," he said.

Gary Fogel, a biologist from Los Angeles, CA, and vice president of the International Scale Soaring Association, outlined the different types of R/C soaring including precision, thermal, and scale. He said the future will include more instrumentation and video cameras.

Larry Sanderson, President of the Soaring Society of America in Hobbs, NM, wrapped up the discussion by saying, "We all want to see more youngsters brought into the sport. Modeling has the ability to interest young people." He said five million copies of **Microsoft Flight Simulator** have been sold. "Where are our kids today?" Larry asked. "Let's catch them at 8, and get them interested in modeling."

Below, left, John Derstine, president of the Harris Hill Lift over Drag R/C Club, displays an R/C model for the symposium audience. Below, right, Martin Simons, noted author from Australia, enjoys the discussions.



Aerotow '97

Scale sailplanes/towplanes waft in the Harris

"We had three perfect days of good weather. Full scale and scale models double thermalling together over Harris Hill! Our spotters were kept busy, as it was difficult to tell the big boys from the models if you didn't pay attention!"

-John Derstine

R/C Modelers and spectators alike came away from the June 13-15 Aerotow '97 on Harris Hill with an unequaled enthusiasm for soaring. Organizer John Derstine said there were well over 100 pilots in attendance, and the event went on record as the largest Aerotow scale soaring event in North America.

Left: Enjoying the banquet, left to right, are: Larry Fogel, Virginia Schweizer, Paul A. Schweizer and Maynard Hill. Below: A full room greeted the speakers at the Aerotow '97 banquet, which was described as "one of the best programs in a lot of years that I've been to."

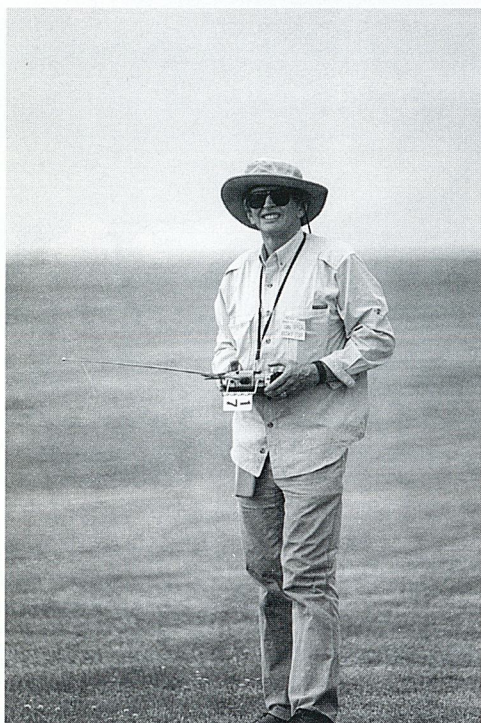
Canada, Germany, and ten U.S. states were represented on Harris Hill. Three pilots, their mechanics and officials from the DMFV, the German model association (the equivalent of the U.S. American Model Association) brought their state-of-the-art model aircraft for some spectacular demonstrations. Theo Arnold, a test pilot for EMS, a German model shop, displayed the unlimited aerobatic potential of the 5.25 meter Duo Discus to the delight of the audience below.

Computer technology champions from Germany adopted the NSM office computer for the weekend and uploaded photos of the action on the field to a German web site as it occurred. Museum staff watched in amazement as they purchased a digital camera and computer hardware and loaded software from CD's in order to optimize their performance.

Aerotow '97 was the second annual scale soaring event on Harris Hill. It all began with a small demonstration during the International

Below: John Derstine, Mrs. Derstine, Robin Lehman and Michael Schellberg.





Hill sunshine !

Vintage Sailplane Meet in 1995. Organized by Derstine and Robin Lehman, Rochester, NY, this year's event made the connection through e-mail to **Flying Circus Magazine** in Germany. Since the Germans have flown models in competition for many years, they were eager to join in the American fun. EMS decided to underwrite the trip.

"The biggest barrier was language," Derstine said. "But they were very conscious of not showing off. People pulled them aside and got their opinions."

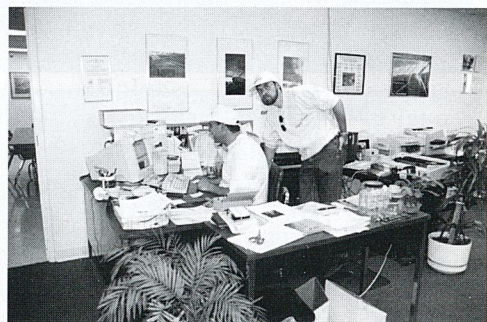
Aerotow '97 "exceeded all my expectations," Derstine said. It fostered information about scale modeling and showed that we could get together on an international level.

The National Soaring Museum hosted the event's banquet on Saturday evening. Derstine said the evening was "flawless," and the audience of over 100 people were mesmerized by the speakers. "Paul A. Schweizer was like a little kid. He was so honored to get up and represent the group. Maynard Hill outdid himself with humorous anecdotes." Larry Fogel talked about scale model versus full-scale soaring - "that was the keynote of the whole weekend!"

Perhaps the best feature was the side-by-side activity of scale soaring and Harris Hill Soaring Corporation's standard operations. Derstine said that was the best factor of all - that the scale modelers learned a lot from the full-scale sailplanes and towplanes. In at least one instance, a sailplane pilot found himself sharing a thermal with a scale sailplane.



Top left: Robin Lehman, co-organizer of the Aerotow '97, controls his model. Top right: Pilots, spectators, and scale models dotted the airfield outside the Museum's front door for three days of beautiful weather. Above, John Derstine poses by his Wilga Tug in the middle of the action.



Above, Michael Schellberg sits at the controls of NSM News Editor Carla Page's computer as he delivers up-to-the-minute photos of the action happening outside. Left, the scale models were immaculately decorated and featured very life-like pilots.

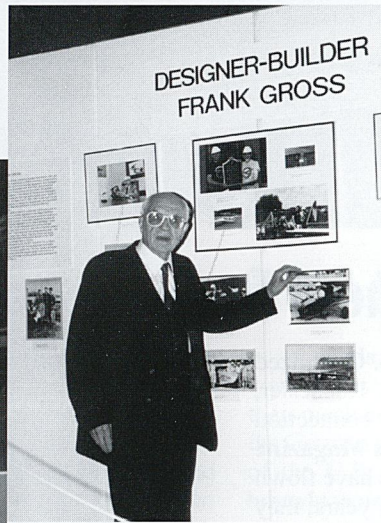


The NSM remembers Dr. Frank R. Gross

A beloved friend of the National Soaring Museum, Dr. Frank R. Gross, of Ohio, died July 16, 1997. Dr. Gross was inducted into the U.S. Soaring Hall of Fame on his last visit to the National Soaring Museum in May 1996. The photo below shows him with his family at the induction ceremony next to his Baker McMillen design.

At right, he steps up to the podium as he accepts his award.

He was featured as the



National Soaring Museum's Designer/Builder of 1995 as part of our annual series. The exhibit featured several of his designs - the Akron Condor, the Cadet II, the Darmstadt II, the Sky Ghost and the Gross four-place. The photo at left shows Dr. Gross in front of his exhibit.

In 1992 Dr. Gross unveiled the Gross Youth Scholarship award, now given annually to a Harrison Hill Soaring Corporation junior and a Soaring Society of America junior

pilot to help them advance to their next flying level.

Above, Dr. Gross is shown unveiling the youth plaque in 1992 with its first recipient, David Graham of Horseheads, NY.



Hall of Fame Banquet awards

Attending the U.S. Soaring Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet at the NSM on May 3, 1997 were, at left, Gary Fogel, Paul A. Schweizer, Virginia M. Schweizer, and Larry Fogel. The Fogels, NSM members from California, were speakers earlier that day at the R/C Symposium (*see page 4*.)

Inducted into the U.S. Soaring Hall of Fame were E. Gene Hammond, a former NSM Trustee, and Carl Herold. (*See NSM History Journal, Vol 19, No 1, 1997 issue for more details*).

The Museum also awarded the annual

Visitors love to build their own sailplanes

The NSM office staff hears a lot of laughter and shouts of encouragement from Museum visitors as they play with the new computer exhibit in the Hilton Honors Gallery hallway. The second of two computer exhibits allows guests to build their own sailplane from a selection of different wings, fuselages and tails. Some combinations will fly. Others crash, which is usually followed by laughter and a determined attempt to try again.

Alan Jackson of Lightforms near Albany, NY created this unique program from three-view sailplane drawings in the Museum's collection. He had to coordinate several pieces of software and two computers to prepare for all the choices a visitor could make. The program uses seven different flight patterns.

Since there are five different selections in each of the three categories, Jackson said he had to come up with 125 different "answers" the computer could produce. The screen then shows the would-be engineer how his creation looks from all sides before the new ship is launched.

Jackson spent nearly 1,000 hours in



Left, Volunteer Coordinator Tom Welles tries his luck at building a sailplane on computer. All ages have been enjoying the new exhibit.



Above, visitors to the Museum this past summer were enthralled with the new computer exhibit allowing them to design and fly their own sailplane. The first computer exhibit where visitors can land their own sailplane, in the background, is also still a success. Both exhibits were made possible by funding from the Corning Foundation and former NSM President Lee Robbins.

Frank R. Gross Youth Scholarship to Harris Hill Soaring Corporation junior member Mark Glauner. The Penn State sophomore from Corning, NY, earned his private glider pilot's license in 1996 before his 18th birthday. He encouraged other junior members to advance their ratings and provided study sessions and "back seat" practice sessions. Mark also spearheaded a project to re-mark the club's emergency landing strip.

Mark has spent many hours on daily ground operations at HHSC. At the annual Snowbird Contest at the NSM last year, he was awarded the Bernie Carris Memorial Award for Outstanding FAI (5 hour flight) and shared the award for Best Junior Team. He is studying aerospace engineering at school and has joined the Air Force ROTC program.

At right, NSM Trustee John "Corky" Gill accepts award for Mark.



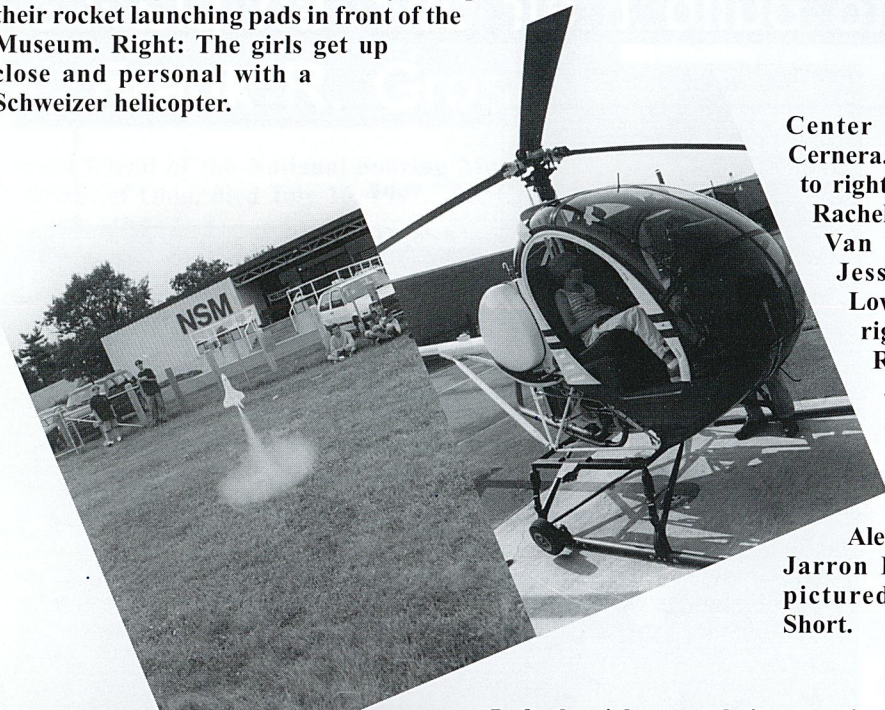
producing this program. "Even if you have zero engineering background," he said, "you can see what flies and what doesn't." The experience gives the Museum visitor a very hands-on lesson in aerodynamics.

"I enjoyed guessing if my combinations were going to fly or not," Jackson said. "It appears very simple, but there's a lot to it. That's the hallmark of a good design."

The exhibit appeals to all ages. "Kids are so able to use computers," Jackson says, "that as long as they can reach the buttons, they can get something out of the exhibit."

Eileen Collins Aviation Camp Soars!

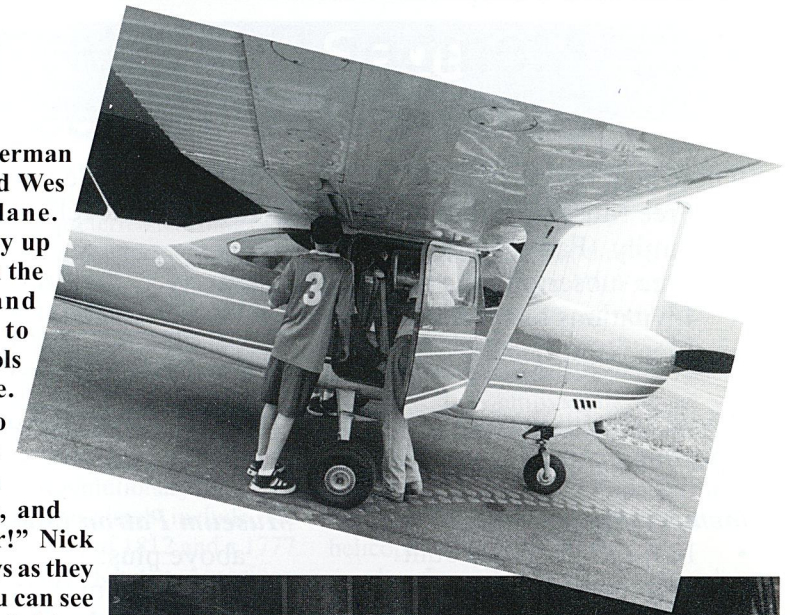
Left: Following construction, the boys set up their rocket launching pads in front of the Museum. Right: The girls get up close and personal with a Schweizer helicopter.



Center left: Anthony Cernera. Center right, left to right: Lisa Hamilton, Rachel Kennedy, Shelly Van Blarcom, and Jessica Hughey. Lower center: left to right: Christopher Ross, Joe Gross, Jesse McGovern, Jeffrey Clark, Stephen Ketcham, Jason Brown, Alec Immerman, and Jarron Leisenring. Not pictured: Johnathon Short.

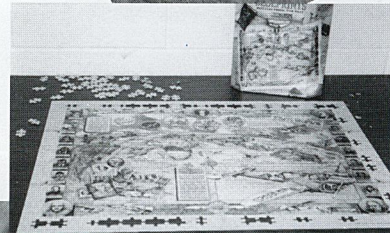


Right: Alec Immerman prepares to board Wes McKinney's plane. Wes flew each boy up to Seneca Lake in the front seat and allowed them to handle the controls for a short time.



"One thing to remember in an airplane is you push forward on the stick, and the houses get bigger!" Nick McKinney told the boys as they arrived at E.A.A. "You can see the history of the land. It's a remarkable opportunity to see what the glaciers did (to the Finger Lakes)."

Left, the girls spent their spare time assembling an Amelia Earhart puzzle.



Left, top: Orthstar Enterprises, Inc. Chairman James E. Orsillo orients the girls in the flight simulator at his company. Left, bottom: The boys view the runway from the airport tower and learn a little bit about tracking airplanes on radar. Below: the boys enjoy a picnic outside the airport grounds.



Right: Kris Reuland, left, and Dave Smith, center, join the girls in constructing rockets. In the forefront newscaster Christine Persichette tries her luck on building a rocket, too.



(Continued from Page 1)

Mr. Swinnich discovered that the kids loved to eat everything from Kraft Macaroni and Cheese to hot dogs and plenty of potato chips. There was even a three-foot long submarine sandwich.

A local television crew followed the girls through their activities each day and produced a "mini-series" on the evening news all week. Good weather followed the campers throughout most of the two weeks, thankfully, since rides, rockets and kites were all weather-dependent. Most of the teens agreed that the glider ride was the highlight of camp.

The girls who participated were: Lisa Hamilton, Bath, NY; Rachel Kennedy, Horseheads, NY; Jessica Hughey, Beaver Dams, NY; and Shelly Van Blarcom, Columbia Cross Roads, PA.

The boys who participated were: Jason Brown, Elmira, NY; Jeffrey Clark, Elmira, NY; Jarron Leisenring, Bath, NY; Jesse McGovern, Wellsburg, NY; Johnathon Short, Owego, NY; Joe Gross, Corning, NY; Alec Immerman, Elmira, NY; Stephen Ketcham, Big Flats, NY; and Christopher Ross, Erin, NY.

Two full scholarships were donated for campers. Patricia C. Cusick, Venice, FL; gave one in memory of Peter J. Cusick, a classmate of Eileen Collins. Peter died in 1985. Esther and Harvey Barnett, Elmira, also donated a full scholarship. Partial scholarships were given by Heist & Morri, Inc. of



Elmira, and Carpenter's Funeral Homes, Inc. of Corning. An anonymous gift funded four full camperships.

In addition to thanking these donors, the Museum would like to thank all the following who provided programming for the camp for little or no cost: S.C.T. BOCES, Harris Hill Soaring Corporation, Schweizer Aircraft Corporation, Elmira Corning Regional Airport, Elmira Aeronautical, Experimental Aircraft Association, D & B Hobby Shop, Chemung County Parks & Recreation; Glenn H. Curtiss Museum, and Orthstar Enterprises, Inc.

We particularly appreciate BOCES Work to School Specialists Kris Reuland and Dave Smith for leading much of the camp with Mr. Swinnich.



Above: The girls and Dave Smith tour the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum.

Photo at right: Who's interviewing whom here? A camper takes over the microphone.

Member Benefits: Good-Faith Values

These benefits carry no IRS value so do not affect deductibility:

- Free Museum admission for you (Individual level) or immediate family (Family & higher)
- Free subscription to *NSM News* quarterly
- Invitations to special events
- Free NSM decal

These benefits have a good-faith estimated value. If you waive your membership benefits, you will no longer receive:

All membership levels (\$30+):

- 10% gift shop discount
- Free subscription to *NSM Historical Journal*

Museum Patron (\$600+): All of above plus:

- Premium Pass - Free ride, tows, other services at 60+ soaring sites nationwide

Museum Sustaining (\$125+): All of above plus:

- Free Museum admission for all your guests

Museum Benefactor (\$1,200+): All of above plus:

- Free admission for 1 to a year of NSM events

Museum Sponsor (\$300+): All of above plus:

- Your choice of select, signed soaring books or original artwork

Silver and higher Benefactors

- (\$3,000):** All of above plus:
- Free admission for second person to a year of NSM events

Development News

Continued from Page 15

members won't be able to bring free guests, and higher levels lose their additional benefit as well. (See accompanying list at left)

If you have questions about this or other membership issues, please call me at (607)734-3128. I'm always glad to discuss how both you and the Museum can best benefit from a charitable contribution.

[NOTE: Because tax regulations change, we suggest that you consult your tax, legal, or investment advisor about your personal tax liability. This article does not directly quote federal law or IRS regulations, and is no substitute for legal advice.]

Welcome!



The NSM wishes a warm welcome to the new caretaker at Harris Hill, James Stuart. Jim has already spent a lot of hours in the Museum changing lightbulbs and even serving as a judge for the September KiteCitement contest. He is shown above, left, with volunteer Milt Adams.

Michael Belosky joins Board

The National Soaring Museum would like to welcome a new trustee to their board, Michael Belosky. Michael, 44, is a native of the Elmira area and has run his own construction business here since 1974.

He received an elementary education degree from the University of Miami-Florida and a masters in elementary education from Elmira College. He tried out the building and remodeling trade while a junior in high school and still enjoys it.

Six months ago Michael ran into Chemung County Executive Thomas J. Tranter Jr. who discussed the County Buildings and Grounds Supervisor position with him. "It seemed it was right up my alley," he said. "I had no idea the county was involved in so much." But it has been a good initiation. He likes to see things getting done - like the new National Warplane Museum hangar at the airport, remodeling the county parks, and repaving the front road up to Harris Hill.

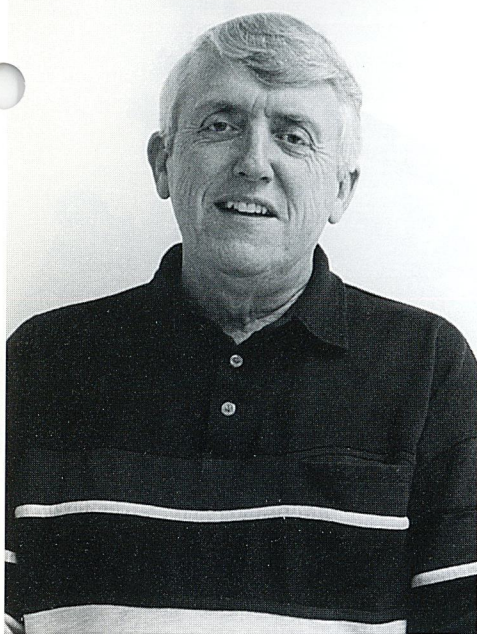
Michael and his wife, Susan, have two

children, Michael, 14; and Michelle, 12. Susan manages 40 apartments that they own and drives a school bus for the Horseheads District.

His hobbies include hunting and fishing. For the past several years, Michael has taken a trip every fall. Last year he went on an Alaskan Brown Bear Hunt. He had his trophy mounted in a special trophy room at his home. He has also hunted goat in British Columbia and caribou below the Arctic Circle.

Michael says he is approaching the NSM Board with a completely open mind. "I'm going into it as a complete novice," he said. "I have never been in a glider." What a fresh approach! Welcome, Michael, to the NSM Board.

The National Soaring Museum has entered into its first phase of a joint admission ticket with other local aviation museums. The new ticket (\$6.00 for adults, \$5.25 for seniors and \$4.00 for youth) can be purchased at either the NSM or the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport and includes admission to both museums.



What better combination could the Museum find for a salesperson in the Gift Shop and Lobby but someone who was a teacher and loves history? That is exactly what we have in Lou Saxe.

Lou is a native Elmiran who went into the Army in the late 1950's and earned his college degree in social sciences after attending colleges in Elmira and Bowling Green, Ohio. He then jumped right into teaching science and social studies at an elementary school in Elmira. He quickly moved on to high school History and Government, where he remained until his retirement in 1995.

"I've always had a thing about history,

and I like to read historical works," he says. Although he finished a masters and doctors degree, he realized he preferred teaching over handling disciplinary procedures. "I enjoyed kids in the classroom."

Lou's interest in history also led to a unique hobby - antique gun collecting. He specializes in 18th and 19th century weapons, but doesn't use them. He just enjoys the collection because "they're a form of art."

His guns span 200 years and include weapons from the Revolutionary War and Napoleonic era. His ten pistols include one long gun used in the War of 1812 and a 1777 French pistol from which the American pistols were patterned.

"They are operable," he says. "But I wouldn't want to destroy them by trying to use them."

Lou discovered the National Soaring Museum through a newspaper ad last spring asking for a gift shop salesperson. "I like meeting people," he said. "And I have the

greatest admiration for Eileen Collins. She has made her mark on the world." So it seemed like the perfect match!

He remembers his family bringing him up to Harris Hill in the 1940's. "We would sit in our car by the gate and watch the gliders take off the hill by trucks - probably the same truck we have downstairs in the Museum!"

Now Lou enjoys talking to Museum visitors of differing backgrounds from all over the world. "Pilots are very interesting people to talk to," he says. "One Canadian pilot gave me all sorts of background on military helicopters."

Lou's wife, Anita, worked for a pediatrician and taught nurses at the Arnot Ogdan Medical Center in Elmira before her retirement. The couple have one daughter, Jennifer, who has followed in Lou's footsteps to become a math teacher in Elmira. Even his daughter's fiancé is a teacher. The younger couple both completed their masters earlier this year from Elmira College.

We were saddened by the sudden loss of Lou Saxe on Wednesday, October 29, 1997. He was a warm and wonderful person. We will miss him greatly, and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends.

Mike Mikolas

Gift shop Manager Dianne Storch watches over the Museum lobby on Tuesday through Thursday each week, but the "weekends" - Friday through Monday - are often the busiest times at the NSM. So it is important that we have the right people for this service to the public. Lou Saxe (see story above) is only half of the "weekend staff." Our other new person in the lobby is Robert "Mike" Mikolas, also a native of this area.

Mike is retired from work in industrial electrical wholesaling. Following his official retirement, he worked at a local lumber company. "I got doing a little electrical...a plumbing..." and he found himself with a hobby.

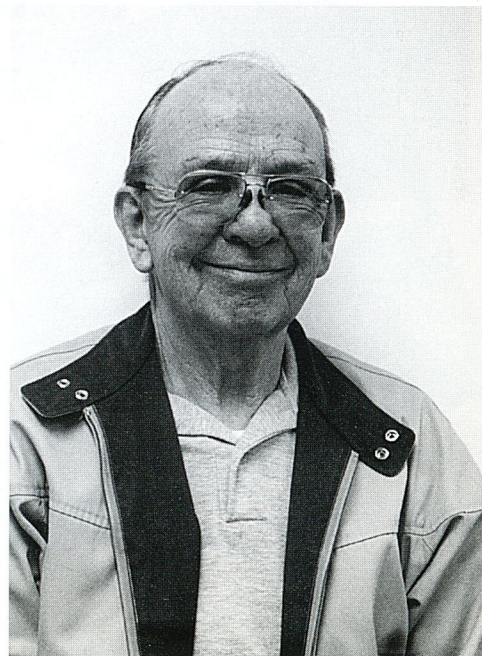
He is also a self-described "nut for aviation." He says, "I've been interested in aviation all my life." Mike loves to build

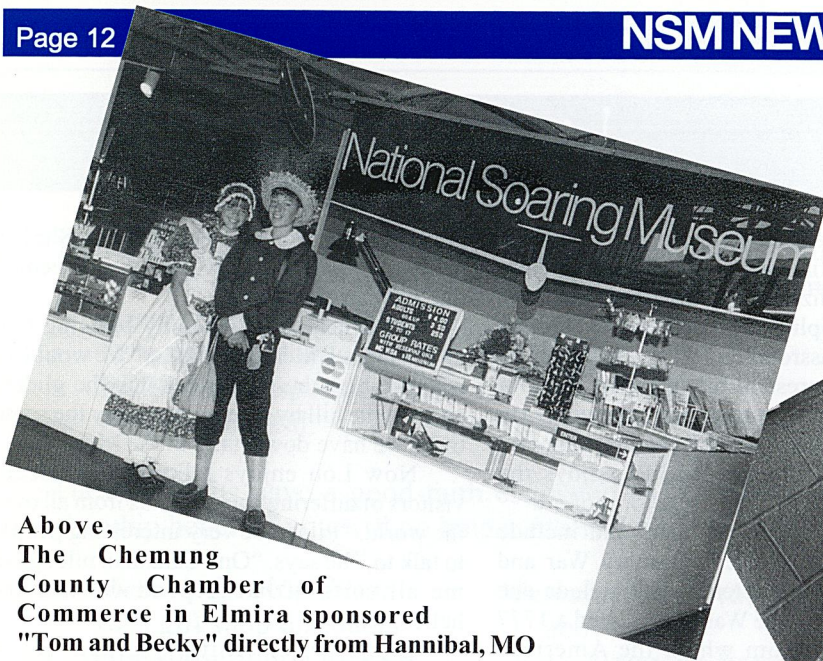
models and enjoys radio-controlled aviation. He is a member of the Flying Sparks Radio Control Aircraft club and currently owns two aircraft "that are flyable."

Mike is a natural in the lobby because "I enjoy talking with people." He delights in exchanging aviation knowledge with the visitors and in talking with people from all over the world. In speaking of Harris Hill, Mike says, "I'd give it all of a nine (out of 10). The whole hill is a sign of relaxation with the picnicking and all."

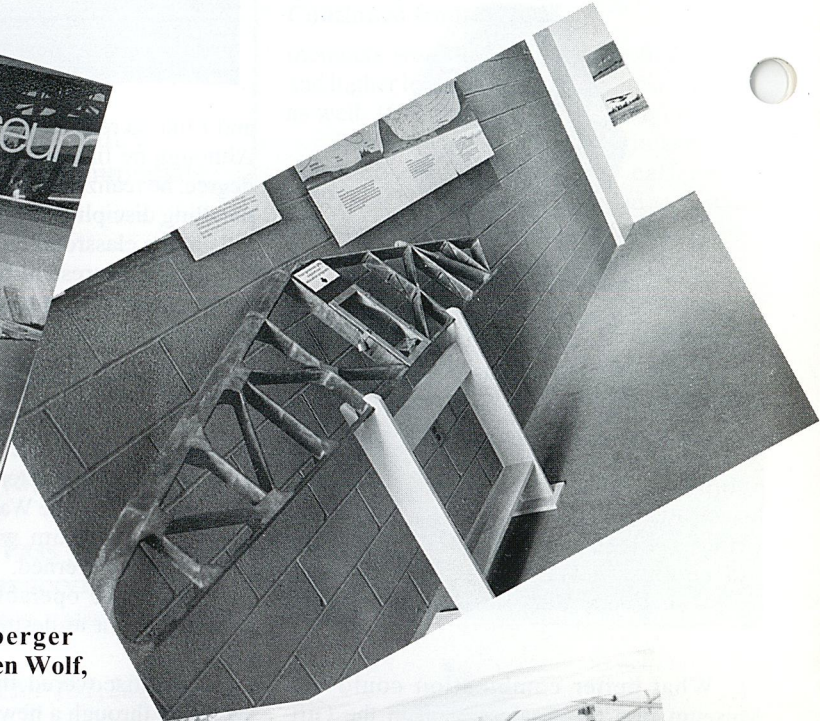
Mike and his wife, Mary, live in Big Flats. The couple have a daughter who lives in New Jersey with her family.

We welcome Mike, his aviation enthusiasm and friendliness to the National Soaring Museum.





Above, The Chemung County Chamber of Commerce in Elmira sponsored "Tom and Becky" directly from Hannibal, MO to travel through Mark Twain Country - including a visit to the NSM.



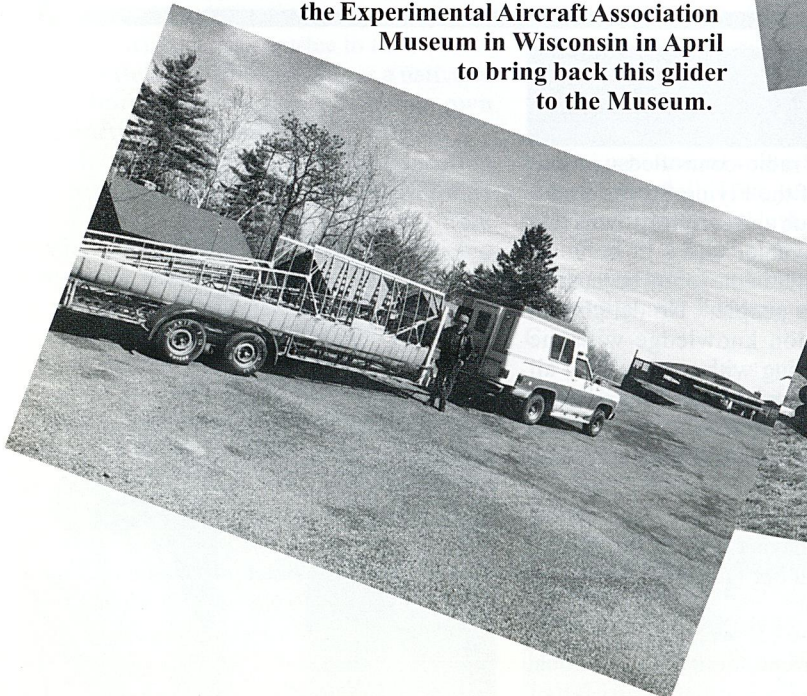
Upper right: Restorationist Richard Kurzenberger converted a horizontal stabilizer from the Goeppingen Wolf, Serial #1, currently being restored in restoration, into a profitable display on the exhibit floor. It doubles as a donation box, which helps support NSM's education programs.

Center right: Volunteer Walt Tunison displays Gift Shop merchandise at the annual Arts in the Park Festival in May on the streets of downtown Elmira.



Lower right: NSM Executive Director James Swinnich lowers the front of the Primary Glider at the Wings of Eagles Airshow in August so a guest can try out the glider controls.

Below: Trustee Robert Ball made a trip to the Experimental Aircraft Association Museum in Wisconsin in April to bring back this glider to the Museum.



The NSM Summer Scrapbook

During a June visit to Elmira, the Tuskagee Airmen, photo at right, stopped to enjoy the Museum and accompanying glider rides from Harris Hill Soaring Corporation. Left to right, are William Richardson, George Reed, Charles Washington, Barbara Terrelonge, NSM Curator of Education William Gallagher, Andrew Keys, and Victor Terrelonge.



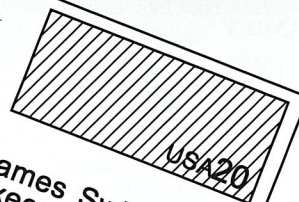
Left, NSM Restorationist Richard Kurzenberger holds up the Wolf wing to show how the restoration is progressing. The ship is now ready for a new paint job.

Right, Paul A. Schweizer visited with artist Gerald Pomeroy in front of Pomeroy's paintings hanging in the Museum.

Below, Executive Director James W. Swinnich leads an aerogami contest with a school group in front of the NSM.



Dear James,
Thank you for making the paper airplanes with us.
Thank you for making the paper helicopters with us.
Your friends,
Steven, Josh and Jason



James Swinnich
Executive Director
National Soaring Museum
51 Soaring Hill Drive
Elmira, NY 14903

Recognition of Friends of the Museum

Annual Giving 3/1/97 - 8/31/97

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Richard H & Alice Johnson
For restoration of RJ-5

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DEVELOPMENT NEWS

"But I'd Rather Have a Bigger Deduction"

By Jaye Fish
Director of Development

If you itemize deductions, the Internal Revenue Service changed the rules in 1994. To comply with the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, any charitable gift deductions on your federal income tax return cannot include the value of any premiums or benefits you received because of your gift.

For instance, if you contribute \$100 to a nonprofit theater and receive tickets worth \$30 in return, you may only deduct \$70. Small items that mainly advertise the charity are an exception—such as a key chain or mug bearing the theater's name or logo, or anything valued at no more than 2% of the gift (with a cap of \$50).

You and millions of other charitable donors are now required to make these calculations, and nonprofit organizations must give you a good-faith estimate of the value of donor benefits. (Actually, this disclosure is mandatory for donations of \$75 or more, and optional for smaller gifts.) Some nonprofits may still not be fully disclosing this information yet, but that doesn't excuse the taxpayer who received those theater tickets.



The National Soaring Museum has, for many years, offered a series of membership clubs with more valuable premiums given as the size of your annual gift increases. We have felt that these benefits allow you to feel closer to and become even more involved with the Museum.

To comply with IRS regulations, our membership form fully discloses the value of each level's benefits. This information is usually important only if you itemize your deductions. The standard deduction assumes that you give an average amount to charity—and receive an average amount of thank-you gifts in return.

But what if you *do* itemize? And what if you'd rather have a larger tax deduction, even if that means receiving fewer benefits? The rule only applies to benefits you *receive*, so when you renew your membership you may waive any benefits that effect deductibility by checking a box on the renewal form.

Send the form with your contribution, and we'll adjust your acknowledgment to reflect a greater deductible amount. If you do not itemize your deductions after all, this should have no effect on your tax return.

But before you check that box, consider what you'll be missing. Following IRS rules, your benefits would be limited to *NSM News* (this publication), admission for you (Individual) or immediate family only, event invitations, and NSM sticker. Gone will be your 10% gift shop discount and free subscription to *NSM Historical Journal*. Sustaining and higher

Continued on Page 10

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE B FOOTE

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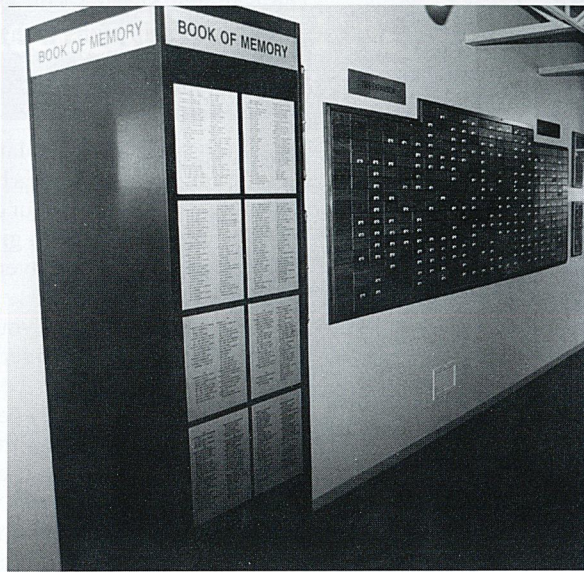
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Glacier Lakes Inc (formerly Jtronics)
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A special place for our beloved soaring friends

The National Soaring Museum provides a permanent remembrance to those soaring friends who have passed on. The Memorial Pylon, shown at right, lists for posterity all the donors that give a gift in memory of a loved one. Or, families can purchase a brick for the brick wall, shown to the right of the Memorial Pylon. These gifts are a living memorial - they live on in the Museum's interpretation of soaring to the general public, by supporting the NSM educational programs, in maintenance of the Museum's sailplane collection, and in exciting new exhibits. For more information about this program, please contact Jaye Fish, Director of Development, at the NSM.



NSM WISH LIST

The National Soaring Museum has a need for donations of both items and time from generous donors and volunteers. Currently our needs are:

- A person to help in the office with paperwork, cleaning, mailing, etc.
- A person that enjoys doing data entry on computer to come in once a week.
- Older computers (windows compatible, however) that we could use in exhibits.
- Kitchen utensils, pots, dishes, cutting boards, can opener, hot food trays and stands, etc. We would be happy to receive items like these from rummage sales, if someone had the time to find them.

CALENDAR

October 10-12, 1997

Northeast Aero Historians Meeting
NSM

November 15, 1997

25th Annual
Ralph S. Barnaby Lecture/Banquet
in conjunction with the PASCO Annual Banquet
Speaker: Henry G. Combs
Dublin, CA

December 5, 1997

Annual Community Soaring Luncheon
NSM

February 26-28, 1998

SSA Annual Convention
Portland, OR

Executive Director

James W. Swinnich

Editor

Carla Page

NSM News is published four times a year by the National Soaring Museum for all Museum friends. Address inquiries to: **National Soaring Museum**, Harris Hill, 51 Soaring Hill Drive, Elmira, NY 14903 607/734-3128 FAX: 607/732-6745 EMAIL: nsm@soaringmuseum.org. Check out our web site at <http://www.soaringmuseum.org>.

On sale now in the NSM Gift Shop

1997

Soaring Sailplane Directory

\$9.00

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