

Museum Luncheon Thanks Contributors

Honored at the 1998 Community Soaring Luncheon were volunteers Pat Ragan, trustee Wade Hooker, and Jim DuBois. DuBois' contributions in 1998 included being a docent for tour groups, lending a hand at social events, and working the Eileen Collins Aviation Camp and 1-26 Sailplane Meet. Wade worked with Carla Page over the last 18 months to get what is actually the second NSM web page up, operating, and maintained. Carla worked earlier with volunteer Ralph Miller in uploading and maintaining a page on local system. Wade also obtained a grant for NSM through IBM for computer hardware. Wade really took the lead on both projects. Pat Ragan is one of the volunteers we see weekly at NSM. She and Mary Lou Peterson work tirelessly in entering data. Without the efforts of these two volunteers we would not be able to maintain membership and mailing lists. Their work is invaluable to the museum.

Resident craftsmen Dick Kurzenberger, Erwin Jones and Dale Gustin were also recognized for their work in restoring the German "Wolf" glider. This story has received ongoing coverage in the NSM News, and there are photographs of the ship in this issue.

In addition to recognizing the volunteers, the luncheon is a chance to thank Chemung County and Harris Hill Soaring Corp. Chemung County Executive Thomas G. Tranter and HHSC member Steven Garner spoke on behalf of the two organizations. Tim Welles, the Region 3 SSA (Soaring Society of America) Director and HHSC member, talked about collaborative efforts between the SSA and NSM in expanding soaring's audience.

Executive Director Swinnich thanked volunteers, staff and trustees for their efforts in advancing the institution in 1998. He noted several of the events from the year - the Eileen Collins Aviation Camp, 1-26 Association Meet, OSTIV Sailplane Development Panel and SSA Directors meetings here, Aerotow '98, and the Sailplane Homebuilders Eastern Workshop.

Swinnich also noted the passing of Oran Nicks and Frank Hurtt. Thanks to Paul A. Schweizer, a number of Frank's Christmas card designs were on display for people to view. The NSM Board also passed a resolution recognizing Frank's creative work for the museum; it will be presented to his wife Betty.

Following the meal and brief program, the 125 plus people in attendance were invited to view the Wolf sailplane (now hanging over the main exhibit floor) or view the new six minute film titled "Soaring At Harris Hill."

Chemung County Executive Thomas Tranter addresses the luncheon audience.



Jim DuBois says a few words as NSM Director Swinnich looks on.



Debuting

"Soaring At Harris Hill", a 1998 film by Elmira native Dan Pickering, debuted at NSM for several "test" groups for reaction. The screenings, conducted by NSM Executive Director Jim Swinnich, resulted in the work being offered to all visitors to the museum. "Wow the flying must be spectacular!", "what a great attraction for the community"; and, "I never knew all this history took place up here (on Harris Hill)" were some of the comments.

Flying footage was shot during the 1997 Region 3 Contest on Harris Hill with a strong commitment from the Harris Hill Soaring Corp. Interiors were photographed during 1998 visits and the NSM supplied archival material.

The work includes a musical score by Pickering, who also did the editing and production. Now operating his own film and sound production company - Daniel Pickering & Sons - in Connecticut, he felt like documenting his hometown. He is also looking at doing a short biographical piece on Ernie Davis.

The audience is given a sail-plane ride, a short history on soaring activity here, and is introduced to some of the individuals who soar from Harris Hill.

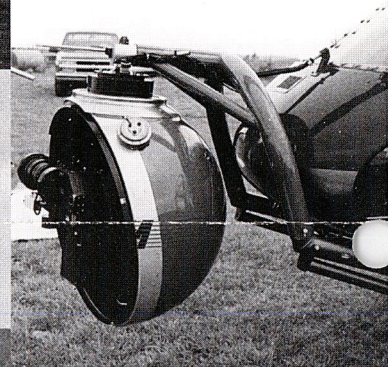
The footage provides the NSM with another resource. "We are often asked if there is film available which captures soaring from Harris Hill", says Swinnich, "but until recently we had little to offer in the way of anything current."

The film is shown in conjunction with a 20 minute video titled "Discover Gliders: An Introduction of the World of Soaring." Both films are meant to provide audiences who are not familiar with soaring with a context for their museum visit.

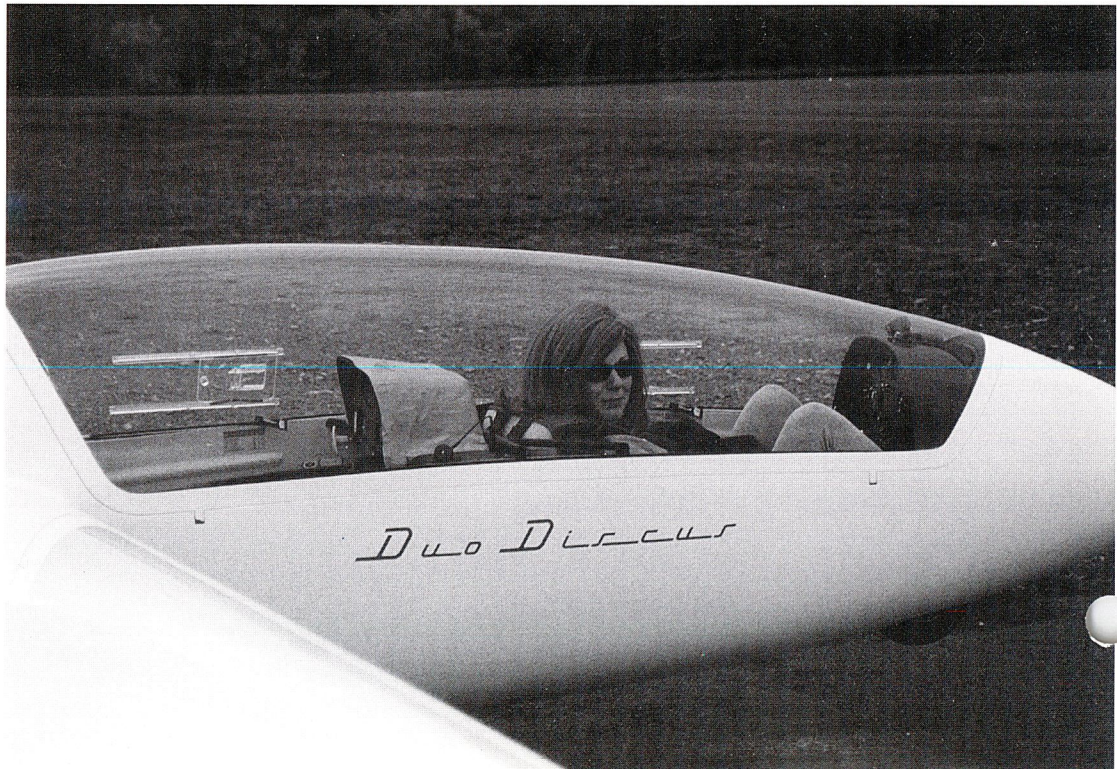


Filming

All sorts of things happen up Harris Hill. Recently, a film crew used the site, the flying skills of Heinz Weissenbuehler, Jr. and Karin Schlosser (a new NSM Trustee), a Schempp-Hirth Duo Discus, and a heavy armed (with camera) helicopter to shoot footage. The work was for a re-make, due out next summer, of the 1969 Steve McQueen film titled "The Thomas Crown Affair." In the film, the action is supposedly taking place around New York City, but we won't tell anybody if you don't. Photographs by John Derstine.



Is that Renee Russo or NSM Trustee Karin Schlosser?



Recognition of Friends of the Museum

Annual Giving 9/1/98 - 11/30/98

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Hilliard Foundation

PATRON

Robert H & Marion Ball

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SPONSOR

Stuart Komer Family

Joseph & Dorothy Monte

Lee & Vivian Robbins

Martha F Saudek

Soaring Club of Houston

In memory of Oran Nicks

SUSTAINING

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Edward C & Sandra Dalrymple

Kirke B & Beverly Everson

Robert G & Sandra Finn

Robert A Jr & Diane Gingell

Dean & Marilyn Gradwell

Walter T Hartung

Robert L & Grace Henbest

James O & Dianne Howell

Richard F Hutton

Harry & Marilyn Meline

Robert Lee Moore

L & Marjorie Myers

In memory of Oran Nicks

Christopher Olszewski

Irving O & Ruth Prue

Billy J & Sylvia Singleton

Bernald S & Marilyn M Smith

Peter W & Lynn Smith

Albert Uster

Jacob Van Dyke

Robert N Whittemore

Tuffee J Yunis

FAMILY

Rolf W & Tita Bahrenburg

James R & Eileen Becker

Thomas G & Carole Beltz

Raul Blacksten

David A & Erleen Boehmeer

William C Boehmer

Gerald D & Janet Burk

Howard E & Helen Burr

In memory of Frank Hurtt

In memory of Oran Nicks

John F & James Cadwallader

P E Carroll

In memory of Oran Nicks

F & Betty Chardon

L & Douglas Courville

In memory of Oran Nicks

O L Creighton

John & Elizabeth Crompton

In memory of Oran Nicks

Paul S Cushman

William R & Diana Dade

M Lynd & Marigene Daggett

Thomas R & Edith Decker

Daniel J & Angela Donahoe

Richard R & Phyllis Drake

F B Dunning

In memory of Oran Nicks

Wolf & Frauke Elber

Richard H & Elizabeth Evans

Eberhard F & Trudy Geyer

Carl D Herold

Henry S & Jean Herr

Paul F & Mary A Hill

William V M & Phyllis Iszard

Michael Jenner

In memory of Oran Nicks

Robert N & Jean Johnson

Dana S & Dotty Johnston

Ernest A & Jacquelyn Kampe

Bill & Nancy F Kistler

Karl W & Dora Kretschmer

Richard & Edna Kurzenberger

Michael Lachowski

Jervis E Jr and Irene Langdon

Steven E Leonard

Barry L & Rachel Leslie

Gregory & Patricia Lincoln

Stephen P & Janie Lindenbaum

Charles V & Elinor J Mange

Boyd & Barbara McDowell II

Richard J & Mary J Miller

Robert A Mitchell

John Murray

John D & Dawn Newell

William P & Linda Patterson

Roger E & Mary Payne

Pine Valley Mobilehome Park

Logan Pomella

William & Caroline Prickett

Sherry & Esther M Proctor

Neal & Gerry Ridenour

S Roberts Rose

Sailplane Homebuilders Assoc

Ron & Betty Schwartz

Harry V & Veronica Senn

Timothy & Gretchen Sharlow

Forrest G & Sonia Shaw

Robert B & Delores M Smith

Myron A & Margaret Smith

William T & Dorothy Smith

Guy W Snyder

Geral E & Mae F Starner

Finley M & Fannie Steele

Albert Stirling

In memory of Oran Nicks

Stefan F & Lenka Strassmayr

G Thomas Sr & Mary Ellen

Tranter

Treu Office Supply

Allen & Ruth Van Name

Darrel & Maureen Watson

Hans Weichsel Jr

Wayne Wolf

In memory of Oran Nicks

Paul B & Louise Wolfe

Otto & LauraJean Zauner

INDIVIDUAL

Milton S Adams

Joseph L Agostini

Kurt Akesson

James W Allen

Arnol H Andrijeski

George Applebay

William R Batesole

John R Battersby

Richard H Benbough

Karl Biermacher

Delbert N Blomquist

David E Boehmer

Ben F Brasch

David P Burleson

Howard S Burr

Elaine M Carlson

Mell D Cassidy

Stuart Davidson

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Frank W DeFriece Jr

John G Dean

Stephen duPont

Dr Karl Elias

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Joe Feather

Herbert Franke

Mary Ann Garlock

Siegfried K Groh

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Eric A Sturley

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W R 'Tommy' Tucker

Dominick J Viscardi

Theodore H N Wales

Nicholas H Warner

Martin E Weaver

Hans Weichsel Jr

Norbert Wethington

Dan N Williams Jr

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In memory of Oran Nicks

Dan & Janice Armstrong

In memory of Ruth Lauman

John B & Loretta Hintz

To honor Dick Kurzenberger

Wendell Scott

In memory of Oran Nicks

History Full Circle

Two legends of early glider design were Germany's Wolf Hirth and Martin Schempp. In 1935, their company—now Schempp-Hirth—produced the wood-and-fabric Go-1 or Wolf. About 130 were made, including kits. Only three are now left worldwide. One was assembled in C.E. Summerville's shop at Champaign (Illinois) Senior High School in 1945. Two years later, it was purchased by H.H. Taylor, a sales representative for Schweizer Aircraft. Among those who flew the Wolf from Harris Hill were Paul A. Schweizer, Frank Hurtt, Larry Creighton, and Bernie Carris. In 1951, Nathan Frank bought the ship, using it from his first solo flight to the altitude and duration legs of a Silver C. William Clark acquired the Wolf in 1964 and had its control surfaces and delicate plywood repaired. In 1982, a Wolf was donated to the National Soaring Museum. Open less than three years and without today's Restoration Facility, NSM nevertheless brought the ship back to Harris Hill and kept it safe. Museum staff have researched this specific ship, the Wolf's design requirements, and how best to restore it with the least change to original parts. The goal: an airworthy ship on the Harris Hill runway in 2000 for the International Vintage Sailplane Meet. Dick Kurzenberger, Dale Gustin and Erwin Jones have worked the last two years on the ship in Restoration. There was extensive painstaking work on both wood and fabric. It sports a cream and blue sunburst "D-Chicago" paint scheme as flown by Joseph Steinhauser. In November, NSM volunteers hung the now beautiful craft over the main exhibit hall.



CALENDAR

February 24-27, 1999

SSA Convention - *Knoxville, Tennessee*
U.S. Soaring Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony and
NSM Reception

July 1-9, 1999

Sports Class Nationals - Harris Hill
50-60 high performance sailplanes and
pilots from across the U.S. and Canada
compete in the most popular racing class for
the national championship.

July 19-23, 1999 (girls)

July 26-30, 1999 (boys)

Eileen Collins Aviation Camp - NSM Day
camp for those between the ages of 10 and
16 featuring science, technology, history
and fun on Harris Hill and at aviation
related sites throughout Chemung and
Steuben counties.

July 1-11, 2000

International Vintage Sailplane Meet
50-60 sailplanes, each at least 25 years
old (and most over 40!) from around the
world in friendly competition. In 1995,
the first IVSM drew ships from a dozen
countries and visitors from every
continent. Two weeks of old time
aviation fun on *Harris Hill!*

The NSM News is published four times a
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NSM

NATIONAL SOARING MUSEUM

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