

# NSM NEWS

The National Soaring  
Museum Newsletter

Summer 1999 Vol. 9 No. 2

## The Sky's the Limit



*A group of fourth & fifth grade students learn about the different parts of the sailplane.*

part in PARP for many years, set a goal of one hour per week for three weeks. This year's theme was "Read Anywhere...The Sky's the Limit." The reading program kicked off with an assembly and, during the three weeks, guest readers from the community volunteered time to read to the classes. The final incentive was a trip to our



*Executive Director, Jim Swinnich gives one group a tour of the Museum.*

and learned about gliding and soaring from the experts. The children were enthralled and excited when a tow plane and glider took off. Ms. Erin Merrill, PARP committee member and head teacher at Winfield, sent a letter thanking us and stating that the children really enjoyed themselves. Continued on back page.

A recent U.S. study found grade school students' reading levels were below average across the country. This wasn't the case for Winfield Street School in Corning, NY. Two hundred students participated in PARP (Parents as Reading Partners Program). The PARP program encourages parents to read at home with their children for a certain amount of time during the length of the program.

Winfield Street Elementary, which has taken



*Here a group of students gather for a closer look at a glider.*

Museum and the National Warplane Museum on May 21st. The annual program, which runs in the Spring, stresses parental involvement with their children to reach the goal together. This year 81% of the students reached the goal.

While they were here, the students split in two groups, Group A were second through third graders and Group B were fourth through fifth, toured the

Museum, made paper gliders from an Aerogami

## "Soaring Initiative" in Massachusetts



The National Soaring Museum outreach program will take on a different approach in July of this year. The Cape Cod Discovery Museum in Dennisport, Massachusetts, will be hosting a "Soaring Initiative" conference for 20 teachers in the Dennisport area. The idea for the "Soaring Initiative" is to orient teachers to soaring and aviation so they are able to bring back to their classrooms what they have learned. Larissa Fawkner, Executive Director of the Cape Cod Discovery Museum, and Charlette Smith, Administration & Public Relations for NSM, have been in contact over recent months discussing ideas for hands-on activities that NSM can provide for the conference. The Museum provided instructions on paper helicopters and gliders - Aerogami design -, the story of the first National Landmark of soaring located at Corn Hill Beach on Cape Cod; maps showing the historic soaring site and NSM marker, and our *NSM Historical Journal* (Vol. 4 #3). The *Journal* has articles on the National Landmark program's first induction at Corn Hill Beach, Cape Cod, Mass., and

an article by R.E Dowd, originally appearing in *Aero Digest*, about glider flying at Cape Cod. The *Journals* would not only be a welcome addition to the teachers classroom, but also the libraries. Larissa and Charlette also came up with a fun hands-on activity for the students - balsa gliders! Six hundred of them with NSM imprinted on their wings were also shipped for the conference. Larissa is very excited about what we were able to provide to them and the "Soaring Initiative." If you are around the Cape Cod area, their Museum is located at 444 Main Street, Dennisport, MA. They have currently finished a rompin' Jungle Room, with wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling murals! The Museum also features several educational activities, exotic animals, birthday party packages, Circus Slide Show, and much more. For more information on Cape Cod Discovery Museum, call them at (508) 398-1600.

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## From the Editor

I just wanted to start off by saying thank you to everybody who wrote, called, or "stopped" me to say how they liked the new look and design of the *News*. I was very excited about the new look and design, and it has been very well received. But in new and different comes possible mistakes, my first issue being the case. In researching information on our new trustee Bernard Paiewonsky his doctorate degree was listed as being in dentistry. Bernard holds a doctorate in aeronautical engineering from Princeton University. I apologize for the mix-up and again welcome him to the Board. In this issue, there is a guest column by another new Trustee, Karin Schlosser. Karin will tell us about her "movie debut" on page 4. Director of Development Jaye Fish's column has returned, on page 7, which takes an important look at bequests. I hope everybody enjoys this issue as well. Our fall issue will be a special double issue as we at NSM get ready for some very entertaining and educational activities here over the summer.

Thanks.

Charlette Smith - Editor

### Executive Director

James W. Swinnich

### Editor & Production

Charlette J. Smith

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. Hours 10am to 5pm daily. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Years day. Check out our web site at <http://www.soaringmuseum.org>

## Upcoming Events

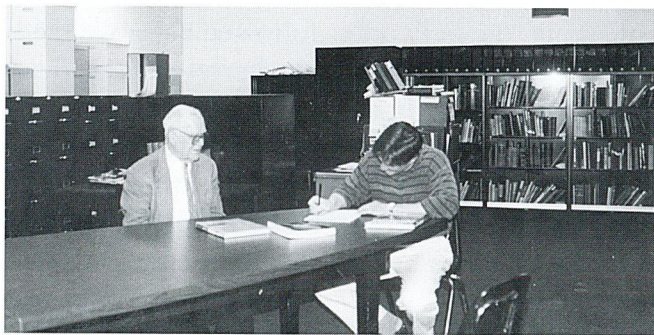
### Eileen Collins Aviation Camp

The dates are set for this year's Eileen Collins Aviation Camp: July 19-23 for girls and July 26-30 for boys. ECAC runs all week long with one overnight stay, and covers topics such as ornithology, rocket construction and launch, tours of National Warplane and Curtiss Museums along with the Eileen Collins Observatory on the Corning Community College campus. There is a engineering career orientation at Orthstar and a helicopter presentation at the Schweizer Aircraft plant. Everyday will be filled with educational and fun activities. The cost is \$275 which includes materials, meals, and overnight stay. Scholarships are available. For brochure and application call the Museum at 607-734-3128. Contact us if you or your company would like to sponsor scholarships to provide a great aviation experience and fun for young people.



*The First ECAC graduating class in 1996.*

### Paul gets full page coverage



*Jim Pfiffer of the Star Gazette recently visited the National Soaring Museum and interviewed our resident sailplane guru Paul A. Schweizer about his new book, *Sailplanes by Schweizer*.*

### Calendar

**July 8, 1999**

#### **Vintage Sailplane Association Symposium**

**July 9-12, 1999**

#### **Sailplane Homebuilders Association Eastern Workshop**

Both events will feature leading historians and aviationists discussing rebuilding and restoration.

*NSM - Elmira, NY*

**July 19-23, 1999 (Girls)**

**July 26-30, 1999 (Boys)**

#### **Eileen Collins Aviation Camp**

Week-long activities for youth ages 10-16

See write up on this page.

*NSM - Elmira, NY*

**September 11, 1999**

#### **Community Soaring Day**

The 8th annual event will be a fun-filled family day with KiteCitement workshop and contest, discounted sailplane rides.

*NSM - Elmira, NY*

**October 16, 1999**

#### **The Ralph S. Barnaby Lecture**

The 27th annual lecture was initiated by NSM in 1973.

The lectures address attuned to historic and noteworthy achievements in motorless flight and delivered by outstanding personalities in the field.

*TBD*

# "The Thomas Crown Affair" Movie Making at Harris Hill

Karin A. Schlosser

On August 6, 1999, United Artist will release the new version of "The Thomas Crown Affair." The original 1967 movie included a glider scene where the lead actor, Steve McQueen, flew a Schweizer 1-23 into a remote, grassy field in Salem, New Hampshire. The pilot who actually flew the glider was Harris Hill Soaring Corporation member Roy McMaster. The new version with actor Pierce Brosnan and actress Rene Russo, was shot during the summer and early fall of 1998 and contains a glider scene that was filmed at Harris Hill and Keystone Gliderport (PA).

The story line of the new version of the movie is somewhat different from the original Steve McQueen movie; this time, a playboy millionaire/banker masterminds an art theft from the Metropolitan Museum in New York City and the insurance company that pays the claim puts an investigator on the case to find out who did it. During the investigation, Pierce Brosnan (the mastermind) courts Rene Russo (the investigator) and takes her along on his various pastime pleasures like sailing a yacht and flying his glider.

Because the script in the new version called for the two lead actors to fly together, it was necessary to find a two-seat glider, and pilot, that could do the many stunts that the script called for. At Roy McMaster's recommendation, United Artist contacted Heinz Weissenbuehler and me in August 1998 and asked us to fly the scene with our ASH-25. At the last minute however, the director decided that the one-piece canopy and the smaller cockpit of the Duo Discus was more suitable for some of the "touch scenes" and Tom Knauff was asked to bring his glider to Harris Hill, and filming started here during the peak of the foliage season in October of 1998. I flew in the front seat of the Duo Discus as Rene Russo's double for four days and 26 flights. Heinz was the tow pilot and location advisor. After these four intense days, the filming was continued for another two days at Keystone Gliderport and Eagle Field (Karl Striedieck's gliderport). All these hours and thousands of feet of film were eventually condensed to about three minutes of film that will be seen in the movie!

The making of a major motion picture requires a crew of thousands! At least thirty-five of them were present at Harris Hill during the filming of the glider scene. The glider field was invaded by a mostly Manhattan-based group of film professionals, headed by director John McTiernan, and at least two assistant directors, two camera men who followed the glider with a big camera mounted on the nose of a helicopter, helicopter pilots, glider pilots, script girls, food service, hair dresser (and wigs!), prop assistants (for the sun glasses!), and many more. During the many hours of flying, the helicopter followed us as we made ridge runs, low passes over the meadow next to our house on Harris Hill, take offs, loops, barrel rolls, and speed passes. One afternoon while we waited for some bad weather to pass, the whole crew toured the National Soaring Museum with great interest. The whole operation worked very smoothly and was extremely professional. At the end of each day the film was sent off to New York City to be reviewed as we went home exhausted. All in all, it was a great experience and a lot of fun. We hope that many people who go to see the movie will come up to Harris Hill and find out for themselves why soaring is such a beautiful and breathtaking sport.

# Wanted: Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart and soul for nonprofits both locally and across America. At the 26th annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon for RSVP (the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Chemung County) in April it was announced that over 750



*Many volunteers are essential for projects to get up and running.*

communities in the U.S., and over 30 foreign countries, host RSVP projects. People volunteer for many reasons: helping others, feeling of compassion, and a desire to become involved with others and their community. Studies have shown that people who volunteer live longer, healthier, and happier lives. You do not have to live near the National Soaring Museum to volunteer. We hold events throughout the U.S. Upcoming events include: IVSM (International Vintage Sailplane Meet) July 1-9, 2000, Barnaby Lecture and

Reception in Silver Hill, MD next year's Hall of Fame Reception at the SSA Convention in Albuquerque, NM in February 2000. If you would like to help, please take a minute to fill out the form below and return it to:

National Soaring Museum  
 51 Soaring Hill Drive,  
 Elmira, NY 14903-9204  
 Fax: 607-732-6745  
 Email: [nsm@soaringmuseum.org](mailto:nsm@soaringmuseum.org)



*Here volunteers help with an exhibit.*

**Yes,  
 I'd like to  
 help!**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Evening Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I can help at the Museum with:**

- Docent (Tour Guide)
- Restoration
- Office Work/Mailings
- Event hospitality
- Educational Programs
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**I can help where I live with:**

- NSM events in my area (IVSM, others)
- Hospitality
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Recognition of Friends of the Museum 3/1/99-5/31/99

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## It's not a Rooster it's a Plane!



*Jim Stuart, of Harris Hill, under his crafted sailplane.*

Jim Stuart, of Harris Hill, and Carle (Willy) Wilson, of Chemung County, crafted this weather vane glider in just two days. Jim said they used a picture of a glider from NSM to make a pattern, then cut the pattern out of metal. They welded it together and mounted it on a metal pole. The glider rotates just enough to keep its nose headed into the wind. The weather vane glider can be seen in front of the Harris Hill Park Visitors Center between the golf course and NSM.

## How to Preserve Soaring History

### Jaye Fish, Director of Development

He loved soaring. And he'd been involved for years, taking his first flight in 1929. He helped found his local soaring association and served as a glider test pilot and quality-control engineer during World War II.

He was a life member of SSA, supported the U. S. Soaring Team in international competitions, and gave to help build the National Soaring Museum's exhibit halls in 1979 and education wing in 1989.

Yes, Howard Blossom loved soaring. And he understood the importance of preserving its history and sharing it with future generations. The Museum lost a faithful friend when he passed away late in 1997. His memory will live on, however, because Howard remembered NSM as a beneficiary of his estate.

When the time came to revise his plans, family members were first taken care of, then the remaining assets were divided among several nonprofit organizations on a percentage basis.

There were no restrictions placed on the gift, so NSM Trustees have been able to use the Blossom gift where it was most needed. We are in the process of hiring a collections manager and educator, and will soon be upgrading some

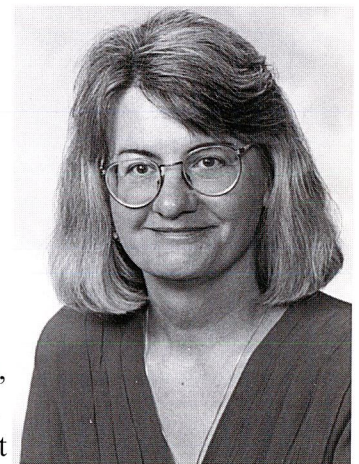
essential communications and computing equipment thanks to income from his gift.

Howard Blossom's bequest was unusually generous, allowing NSM to move forward with some of our most important long-term goals. But anyone, regardless of estate size or family obligations, can leave a future gift to the Museum through your will or living trust.

It's easy to arrange, may help cushion you from possible estate tax liability, and will help ensure that the Soaring Museum continues to preserve and share the fun and science of motorless flight for many years to come.

If you'd like to know more about this lasting way of supporting your Museum, please contact me. I'll send you a special booklet that tells about several ways of planning a gift to NSM. I'm also happy to talk with your tax advisor or estate planner, to be sure that your wishes are fulfilled.

Please contact: Jaye Fish, Director of Development, National Soaring Museum, 51 Soaring Hill Drive, Elmira, NY 14903-9204, phone: 607-734-3128, or Email: [NSM@soaringmuseum.org](mailto:NSM@soaringmuseum.org).



## "Read Anywhere ..." continued

Many students told Ms. Merrill that they would like to return to the Museum. If your school has a similar program, or if you are interested in our outreach programs, call the Museum at 734-3128. We can bring an educator to your group to discuss the Wright Brothers, do an Aerogami session, or even a soaring slide show. We can develop a program to your curriculum or interest. Also don't forget our tours. Our guides can explain soaring and its history, the significance of the many sailplanes currently on exhibit, military use, or we have movies, computer flight simulators, and Aerogami techniques. We can tailor experiences for the youngest school child up to the technical student. The tours are not only a great learning experience but also a fun field trip!

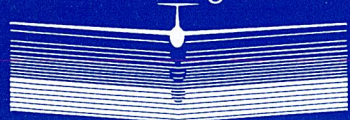


Here one of the Groups looks at a tow plane and glider.



From left to right: Bill Gallagher, Curator of Education, instructs students on the next Aerogami step while Volunteer Jim Dubois (right) helps a group.

National Soaring Museum



NATIONAL SOARING MUSEUM  
Harris Hill  
51 Soaring Hill Drive  
Elmira, NY 14903

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