

# NSM NEWS

SUMMER  
2017

Official Newsletter of the National Soaring Museum

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## MUSEUM STAFF

**Trafford L-M. Doherty**  
Executive Director / Curator

**Mary Flaspahler**  
Bookkeeper / Museum  
Services

**Lisa Bartlett**  
Gift Shop Manager / Visitor  
Services

**Jean Doherty**  
Administrative Assistant  
Newsletter Editor  
Membership Coordinator



## From the Director - Trafford Doherty

In the last newsletter I talked about changes that were taking place regarding the Restoration Shop, the hallway leading to it, and the Schweizer Gallery. Over the past several months a lot of effort has been put into realizing the potential of the Restoration Shop as a contributing element of our exhibit structure – and we've done it!

The 1-26E is all set up (and being used as a demonstrator), the BG-6 is in place as a very convincing project sailplane, and an excellent collection of large-scale sailplane models are suspended from the roof trusses.



They look down that way and see a well-lit silver glider fuselage and, beyond that, a large, colorful Restoration Shop sign. So, down the hallway they go! I brought the Cadet up for two reasons: to shine more light (no pun intended) on how – and why – Elmira became the US Soaring Capital in 1930, and to draw visitors towards the shop. And it is working well with visitor response being very strong. We have a lot of interesting things to share here – and we will continue to find better and better ways to present them.

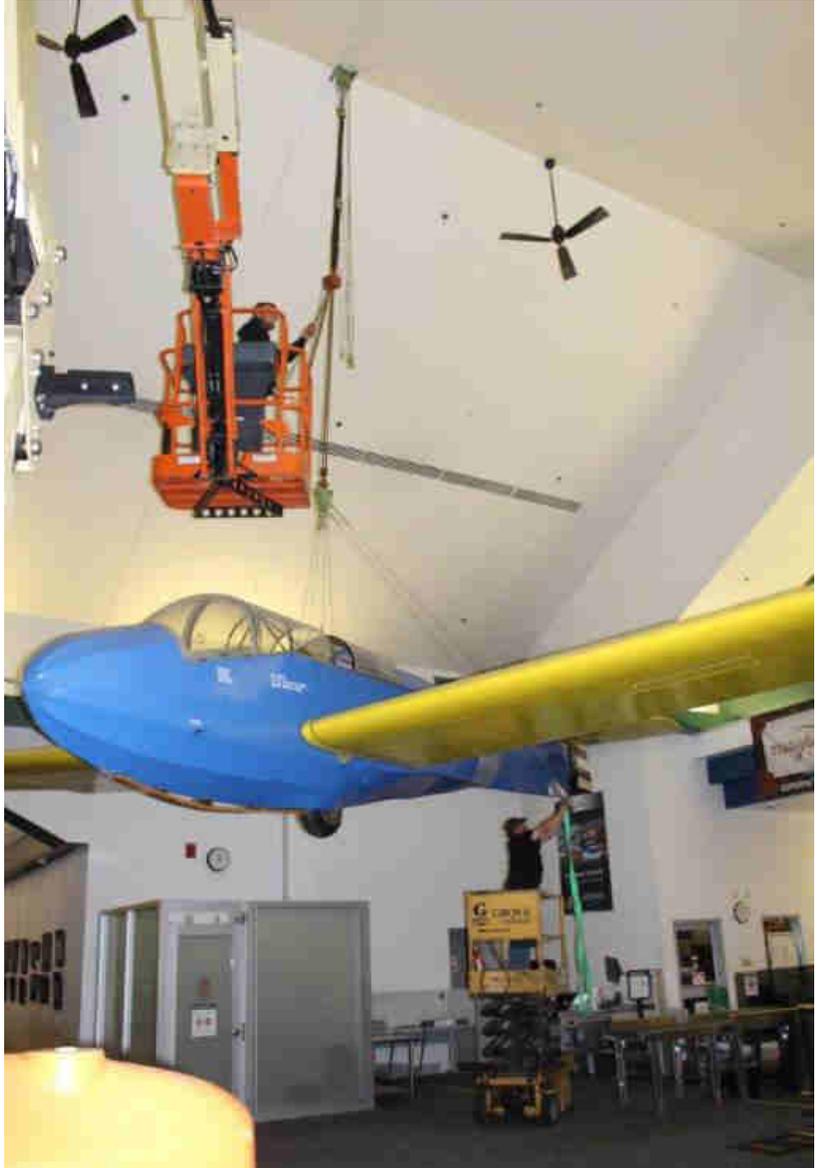
They all combine to make a very compelling presentation. The only remaining challenge was to entice visitors to go down the hallway to actually see the Restoration shop. The hallway was uninviting; poorly lit with no indication of what might be of interest at the far end, so visitors rarely went down there.

Nowadays, visitors see a sign beside the main stairway indicating "Elmira's First Sailplane" and "Restoration Shop", down the hallway to the right.



Speaking of presentation, the Schweizer Gallery has a new look! I previously told you about the upcoming “opportunity” regarding our TG-3 that had been hanging in the local airport terminal and the fact that we were going to get it back – all 860 pounds of it! One of my brighter moves was to convince the airport manager to hire professional movers to lower it to the floor. *Dimon & Bacorn* provided four burley guys with some *serious* equipment and they, with the assistance of our NSM crew of seven, managed to get the thing down without a scratch. We had to wait until the last arrival of the day, so we didn’t get started until about 10:30 PM. We had it down by midnight, apart by 1:00 AM, and up into Harris Hill storage by around 2:00 AM. It was quite an adventure, but all things being equal, it went very well - which was a direct result of having excellent help at all stages of the operation. I should mention that this job was well beyond the scope of what volunteers are normally called on to do. My sincerest thanks to the Schweizers: Les, Bonnie, Stu and Kyle plus Dave Welles, Guerry Howard and me. This was done on a Tuesday night and, on the following Saturday, we brought the TG-3 fuselage, and a 2-22A fuselage, up from the storage shed. We placed them both in the Schweizer Gallery and they complement each other very well. And nobody got hurt!

We’re not going to run out of things to do real soon, but we did make a real dent with the improvements in these three areas.



TG-3 now on exhibit in the Schweizer Gallery

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Katherine Nelson Mooers van den Blink 1934-2017

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, the National Soaring Museum lost an excellent friend with the passing of Katherine Nelson Mooers van den Blink. Nelson's father, Edward A. Mooers, was a long-time proponent of soaring in Elmira, as far back as 1937, when he played a major role in the formation of the *Elmira Area Soaring Corporation*. More recently, in the late 70's, his efforts on behalf of NSM led to the 1980 dedication of our Community Room in his honor. For many years, the *Hilliard Corporation* has been the Mooers family business, and through their foundation, our museum has enjoyed continuing generous financial support. This is a direct result of Nelson's honoring a commitment that her father made years before. Nelson is remembered by her many friends here at the soaring museum as a delightful person to work with, and an extremely capable and effective leader. Her husband "Han" and her son "Jan" have both flown sailplanes and Jan also served on our Board for several years. Jan is now CEO of Hilliard Corp. and continues to support to our museum. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to this wonderful family.



Nelson was born on Oct. 26, 1934 in Elmira, NY, the youngest daughter of the late Edward Allen Mooers and Nellie Welles Mooers. She was a 1952 graduate of the Dana Hall School, in Wellesley, MA, and a 1956 graduate of Smith College, Northampton, MA, with a B.A. cum laude in Political Science. She joined The Hilliard Corporation in 1978 as a Director, and was the CEO and Chairman of the Board of Hilliard from 1982 until her retirement in 2010. Under her leadership, Hilliard grew significantly and added many new product lines. She was also President of the Hilliard Foundation and guided the foundation's numerous community donations.

Nelson was strongly committed to community service as Director of the Chemung Canal Trust Company, Director and Chairman of Southern Tier Economic Growth, President and Director of the Girl Scouts Seven Lakes Council, Director and President of the Arctic League, Elder of North Presbyterian Church, Director of the John W. Jones Museum, Director and Chairman of the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce, Director and Chairman of Capabilities, Inc., and Trustee and Treasurer of the National Soaring Museum. She was honored by the YWCA of Elmira with the Tribute to Women Award, the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce Community Builder Award, and many other awards throughout her career. She had a lifelong dedication to politics and was elected to the Borough Council of Princeton, NJ, in 1974, 1977, and 1980. She served as President of the Borough Council for four years.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, the Reverend Dr. Arie Johannes "Han" van den Blink; her children, Arie Johannes "Jan" van den Blink (Clare), Sarah Welles van den Blink, Katherine van den Blink Miller (John), 3 granddaughters, and great-granddaughter. She is also survived by a brother-in-law, and several nieces, nephews and cousins. She was predeceased by her sister, Mary Welles Mooers Smith. A service in honor of Nelson's life was held Wednesday, July 19, at Grace Episcopal Church in Elmira, NY, with her husband, Han, officiating.

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### DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF NELSON VAN DEN BLINK

Stu & Lucy Schweizer  
Elmira Kiwanis Club  
John Crandall & Lauriann Kloppenburg  
John Brockett & Nancy Herrin  
Darlene Niver & Children  
Tom & Beth Tranter  
Gerald Schichtel & Winona Cahue  
Les & Bonnie Schweizer  
Peter & Elizabeth Hedrick  
Gordon & Lisa Webster  
Chemung Canal Trust Company  
Roxanne & Philip Ragan  
Connie & Joseph Stachowski  
Mary & Carl Lofy  
Judith Merrill  
Deacons of North Presbyterian Church

Mary Flaspaler  
Dr. James & Jane Marshall  
Barbara H. McDowell  
Peter & Lynn Smith  
Patricia Benson  
Ruth & Michael Hosey  
Paul & Lauren Schweizer  
Myra & Jerry Sterman  
James & Wendy Barr  
Hilliard Corporation  
Elmira Savings Bank  
Surface Finish Technologies, Inc.  
John & Krista Updyke  
Katherine & Michael Buckley  
Lake Wesauking Association  
Arie & Clare van den Blink

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## THE HARRIS HILL SOARING CORP JUNIOR PROGRAM

by JOHN "CORKY" GILL - "THE OLDEST SURVIVING JUNIOR MEMBER"

When I go to a soaring contest or a SSA Convention I am always asked, "How does your club get so many junior members and keep them in soaring". Answer: "word of mouth"! These kids go to their school, church, or any other place where kids gather. They say, "I am a pilot." That gets a lot of attention! Some of them come to Harris Hill and join the club. Sometimes families come to beautiful Harris Hill and their kids see other kids their age flying. They join the club. We have several families in the club.

I joined the club in 1946. Started flying, went to contests as crew and helped where needed. Then, in Jan. 1953, I went into the US Air Force. I even spent three years in the USAF Thunderbirds. While in the Air Force, I was sent to Germany and I joined a German glider club for two years. I even got a German pilot's license. When I came back to the states, I got my American pilot's license, and I've been flying ever since. But enough about me, back to the Junior program.

Here is a partial list of our past juniors and what they are doing today. Remember, they all started at age 14.

Janine Acee	Reg. 2 Soaring Director.
Andy Brayer	2017 National Sport Class Champion
Tom Cassetta	CFI, Tow pilot
Brian Doan	Active USAF
Jacquie Doherty	Soaring Competition Official
Harold Ennulat	Past USAF
Nikolay Filippov	Airline Pilot
John Fessenden	Past USAF, Active Soaring Pilot
John "Corky" Gill	USAF, (21 years) Schweizer employee inspector. Member of Thunderbirds
Dave Graham	USAF L/COL flying F-16s, Squadron Commander
Evan Harshbarger	Aerospace Engineering student at Penn State
Garey Hudson	Corporation pilot
Jason Howard	Corporation pilot
Todd Knapp	Active CFG
Steve Lewis	UPS Pilot
Wayne McMaster	Capt UPS pilot
Justin McMaster	UPS pilot
J.T. McMaster	Airline pilot
Ryan McMaster	Active CFG
Mike McCann	USAF Capt Flying F-16s Going to Korea soon
Bridget Murphy	Graduate Embry Riddle Aviation School - Planning aviation career.
Sean Murphy	FEDEX Pilot
Justin Poet	Airline Pilot
Noah Reitter	Active CFG Tow Pilot
Jason Riegal	Active USAF
Mike Rought	Airline Pilot
Liz Schwenkler	First woman to become a USA National Soaring Champion
Tom Smith	CFG, Owner of <i>Smitty Sailplane Repair</i> (deceased)
Lee Smith	Airline Pilot
Corey Sullivan	Corporation Pilot
Monty Sullivan	CFG, Chief Pilot - Corning, Inc.; Half owner of M and H Soaring
Tim Walker	Corporation Pilot
Heinz Weissenbuehler	Airline Pilot, CFG, Tow Pilot, USAF U2 Pilot; Half owner of M & H Soaring
Dave Welles	Active CFG, Retired from Schweizer Aircraft Corp
Diana Winebolt	Chief pilot of Island Airlines, Hawaii. Still flying sailplanes
Nick Wirz	Aerospace Engineer

Of the 36 people listed above, 25 are still flying sailplanes. Of the other 9, most are in flying jobs. I know there are many, many, many, more, but I don't know where they are or what they are doing today.



Everyone in this picture was or is a Harris Hill Soaring Junior at one time. Corky in front in white shoes



Above and left: Recent group photos of Harris Hill Juniors.



Liz Schwenkler

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Silver**

John & Sandra Godfrey

**Bronze**

Dennis & Patricia Linnekin  
Roy & Mary Cummings

**Family**

Henry & Nanette Retting  
Robert Leonard  
Skip & Jackie Walls  
Tom & Patty Tubbs

**Individual**

Addison Pennington  
Wallace & Mary Berry  
David Harsanyi  
Kieran Spaulding  
George Crowell  
Pierre Grellet-Aumont

**Sponsor-A-Glider 2017**

Dianne Black-Nixon - Zanoia

Hank Nixon - Baby Albatross

Jan Van den Blink - Schweizer 1-26

Peter & Joyce Daniel - Orlik

Walter Cannon - Schweizer 1-7

Dr. Norbert Wethington - Pratt-Read LNE-1

Mark Gross / Gross Family - Gross Sky Ghost



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# Edward S. Evans Trophy

This was the original National Championship trophy, presented by Edward S. Evans, early patron of soaring and founder of the National Glider Association, under whose auspices the first two National Soaring Contests (1930 and 1931) were held. The Evans Trophy became the permanent property of John Robinson in 1946 when he won the National Championship three successive times.



*Evans trophy at the National Soaring Museum today and seen in 1930 over Amelia Earhart's shoulder when she and Edward S. Evans sat in his office for a photo.*

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## Updates to the NSM Board of Directors

The museum would like to recognize retiring board president, Walter Cannon; vice-president, Dianne Black-Nixon, and retiring board member, Bob Jackson - and thank them for their years of service to the museum. Walt and Dianne will continue on as board members, and Bob will be available for consultation.

Taking over as president is Stu Schweizer, and as vice-president, Bill Batesole. We also welcome new board member, Phil Wescott.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1 - November 1 - **Nature Photography - works of Matthew Burroughs**

June 1 - **Opening of Museum Restoration Shop and Elmira's First Sailplane Exhibit**

November 15 - April 1 - **Dollhouse & Miniatures Exhibit**

Sunday, November 26 - **Dollhouse & Miniatures Vendor Show & Sale**

December 1 - October 1 - **Art Exhibit - works of C.F. Lawrenson**

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## NATIONAL SOARING MUSEUM OFFICERS

**W. Stuart Schweizer**  
President

**William Batesole**  
Vice-President

**Steven Leonard**  
Secretary

**Dr. William G. Howard**  
Treasurer

**Trafford L-M. Doherty**  
Director

### TRUSTEES

Gary Adams  
Dianne Black-Nixon  
Dr. Walter Cannon  
Kevin Christner  
Warren Cramer  
Ann B. Crook  
Donna L. Draxler  
Robert Jackson  
Michael Koerner  
David Manchester  
James McDaniel  
David Pixton  
David Welles  
Phil Wescott  
Dody Wyman

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## MATCHING GIFT

### Textron

Steve Leonard

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## MEMBERSHIP UPGRADES

### Gold

Les & Bonnie Schweizer  
Jim & Simine Short

### Bronze

Rocky G. Peters

### Family

Dave & Jan Raspet

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## Warren E. Eaton Memorial Trophy



The Eaton Trophy is awarded each year to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the art, sport, or science of soaring flight in the United States, as determined by the SSA Awards Committee with the approval of the SSA Directors. It is considered SSA's highest award. The trophy is in the form of a tall, vase-type silver cup, depicting in bas-relief soaring planes and clouds. It was presented to SSA in 1939 by Mrs. Genevieve Eaton in memory of her husband, Warren E. Eaton, founder and first president of SSA, who died in a glider accident at Miami, Florida, on December 1, 1934.

While usually awarded to a person who has made his contribution during the previous calendar year, this is not mandatory and in certain instances the Directors have gone back in years to pick up some outstanding person not before suitably recognized.

Shortly after October of each year, the chairman of the SSA Awards Committee sends to all Directors a request for nominations for the award for the current calendar year. From the list thus acquired, a ballot is prepared of not more than four candidates (selected on best-qualified basis) and submitted by mail to each Director for voting. The balloting should be completed by January 1st so that the chairman of the Awards Committee may notify the recipient in confidence, in order that he may have the opportunity of being present to receive the award in person.

### **Current NSM Members who have received the Eaton Trophy:**

Stirling Starr 1974

Bertha Ryan 1996

Jim & Simine Short 2011

Bernald S. Smith 1977 and 1997

Jim & Jackie Payne 2003

Ken Sorenson 2012

William Sproull 1992

Dianne Black-Nixon 2009

Phillip Umphres 2013

E. Gene Hammond 1993

Burt Compton 2010

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## ***Miniatures Vendor Show and Sale - Nov. 26***

On Sunday, November 26, the National Soaring Museum will hold its first Miniatures Vendor Show and Sale during museum hours, 10-4. Dollhouse and miniature vendors will be offering for sale their most exquisite products. Even if you do not have a dollhouse or miniature project going on at the moment, this show and sale is not to be missed! It's all fun to look at, and you might get inspired! Take a break from Christmas shopping and come on up the hill!



