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It’s a car, it’s a plane...

....no, it’s our brand new Hot Chassis Flight Simulator all set and ready to go to local schools and events in the area. With its big cushy black leather seat, Dolby surround sound, flat panel HD screen and an Intel Quad Core Processor with 4 gigs of RAM, it’s a huge draw wherever we take it. Loaded with Condor software, “pilots” take a seat and try their hand at flying a sailplane from take off and release right down to a hopefully “soft” landing, while being gently prompted by a computerized tutor.

No matter their age, current and prospective pilots alike are captivated by the sound and graphics and the challenge of staying in the air as opposed to falling victim to Isaac Newton’s pesky little principle. Check out its sleek and colorful trailer, the excitement starts as we pull into the lot. If you’re in the area and want more information on getting the simulator to your favorite school or organization, contact Norm Smith at (607)734-3128 or e-mail norm@soaringmuseum.org.

(continued page two)

Community Soaring Day A Success

It’s all about spirit and though the rains came sprinkling down, the enthusiasm was “soaring.” Our 16th annual Community Soaring Day September 13th attracted families and guests of all ages, and many repeat visitors from previous years. As a great way to say “thanks,” the Museum opened its doors to partner organizations and to some 550 visitors from the community. The kids flocked to our aviation partners: Pratt Hobbies from Virginia and their model rocket workshop; the Corning Community College Eileen Collins Portable Star Lab Observatory; the Free Spirit Hang Gliding Club and the Southern Tier Ultra Lite Club. As always a favorite for all ages was our friend Dr. Philip Chiang with his wife Sharon and their amazing Paper Airplane Workshop. Great Fun!

(continued page two)
Two Local “Women In Flight” Chosen For Project

The National Soaring Museum is joining the International Women’s Air and Space Museum for the second in a series of “Women In Aviation & Space” playing cards, celebrating women in flight. Award winning local pilots, Ginny Schweizer and Liz Schwenkler, were chosen to be 2 of the 55 in the collectable card series. Each card includes a different photo of a woman or organization plus fascinating facts. The standard deck has 52 cards and 3 wild cards. Decks will be $11.99 plus shipping and handling and will be a very limited supply. The cards will arrive here in early December and will not be reprinted. Buy one to use and one to keep. We are taking pre-orders now, cards will be shipped when they arrive. Credit card orders will not be charged until the order ships.

Also on hand were the Chemung County Humane Society with a few of their adoptable pets, the Corning Museum of Glass flame-worker (who made a beautiful glass sailplane miniature), New York State Electric and Gas with a gas demonstration and free hula hoops for the kids, health professionals from St. Joseph’s Wellness, American Cancer Society, Cancer Services Program and the YMCA. “Becky Thatcher” and “Tom Sawyer” from the Chemung County Chamber’s Mark Twain Country were greeting the guests. Those who were hungry enjoyed Harris Hill Soaring Corporation Juniors’ Bake Sale, and outside the West Hill Fire Dept. cooked lunch under the big tent, while the local ham radio club did an amateur radio broadcast of the soaring event. New this year was a wood carving artist forming animals from tree trunks with a chain saw. He drew a steady crowd of admirers all afternoon. His beautifully formed bald eagle was raffled off.

Plans are already underway for next year’s event.

Community Soaring Day A Success (cont’d)

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It’s true, there just aren’t enough weekends. Our wildly successful weekend Soaring Encampments continue to develop and grow. This year prior to June we had 15 encampments with four more so far this fall and another four already booked for later this year and early next. At this point the majority of them are scouting groups using the experience to earn badges in aviation, though marketing efforts are now reaching to home schoolers, a perfect match for our curriculum. Campers learn about weather, aeronautics, history and the space program, all while having a whole lot of fun (and good food, too).

ECAC --- Wild And Crazy

Sixty youngsters had more than their heads in the clouds this summer at the 2008 Eileen Collins Aeronautical Camps held here at the Museum. At our largest camps ever, 32 girls and 28 boys enjoyed week long excursions into the history, principles and excitement of aeronautics, lessons and experiences that will change their perspective on flying.

This year we had some exciting additions to the camp including a team-building exercise at BOCES which worked well in getting the campers comfortable with each other quickly. Also new to the camp was a trip to the Kopernik Observatory in Vestal, where they were given lessons in astronomy and shown first-hand how telescopes work and how to use them to find all sorts of exciting things in the sky.

Feedback from campers and parents alike has been phenomenal and calls are already coming in to reserve space in next year’s camps.
Greetings from NSM! It’s hard to believe that November is here already. This was my fifth summer here and it was a busy one with many guests coming by plane, trolley and an amazing mixture of automobiles.

June brought a Model “A” Car Club from Pennsylvania and Ohio that was spending a week in the Finger Lakes. During their visit to Harris Hill, 16 of them were able to take sailplane rides. Thanks to Jim, Cindy, Joel and Todd at Harris Hill Soaring Corporation for making that possible.

In August we were visited by the Horseless Carriage Club of America, with members from both the United States and Canada. Their cars are pre-1916 and some couldn’t make it up the hill, their drivers being picked up by cars that could. The club had a wonderful time here visiting the early days of flight.

The Chamber of Commerce’s trolley returned for its 3rd season, bringing tourists up to the Museum from July through Labor Day. Early this fall we were visited by a unique pair, retired Major Claude Roy and Patrick Vimet, both of Canada, who had been on a “road” trip and flew in to see the Museum, both in QuadCity Challenger II airplanes on Paddlejumper amphibious floats.

Check out the insert for great gift ideas and have a happy holiday season.

The Art Of Soaring

Looking for a really special gift for the holidays? We have six beautifully done oil paintings of various soaring landscapes done by none other than Bill Schweizer, one of the three brothers who founded Schweizer Aircraft Corporation. Mr. Schweizer has graciously donated the art work to the museum for sale. The titles are:

* On Airplane Tow At Harris Hill
* SGS 1-35 On An Off Field Landing
* SGP 101 Shock Cord Launch At Peekskill in 1931
* Harris Hill In Action From The Rear Seat Of A Piper Cub
* SGS 1-21, SGS 1-26 And a Glass Sailplane Soaring Over Harris Hill
* SGS 2-32 Soaring

The paintings are framed and matted and sell for just $150 apiece. Each is a wonderful one-of-a-kind gift created by one of the pioneers in the world of soaring.

New Members
Robert Carroll
J. Arthur Kieffer
Dennis Pollard
Robert Wegman
Raphael Warshaw
Carl Herold
Jimmie Coulhard
Yves Nollet
Lawrence Timpson
Mary B. Kemberling
Mark Varvayanis
Erik Thompson
Carolyn Morse
John Bogacki
David Carton
Brian Bell
Russ Haigh
Tom Conte
Paul Duncan
Pete Hamilton
Donald Lunsford
Martin Galyon
Susan Sherwood
Edward Casson
James Storta
James Cantrill
Ray Lunc
Adam Guterman
Harry Clayton
Frederick Tanis
Alexander Lising
David Pixton
Duane Eisenbeiss

Soaring History Comes Alive

The Fourth International Vintage Soaring Meet will be held here on Harris Hill June 27th through July 4th, 2009. Pictured on this year's poster is the “Yankee Doodle Two.” For the pilots it’s a journey back in time as soon as they begin their ascent. For the spectators there is an amazing display of color and style gracing the skies and the gliderport.

Mornings begin with briefings, followed by all day flying. Social events are planned for most evenings and of course lunch will be available at the field.

Participants and spectators alike will want to mark their calendars for this don’t miss event.