

NSM NEWS

FALL
2020

Official Newsletter of the National Soaring Museum

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MUSEUM STAFF

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Curator

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Museum Services

Jean Doherty
Operations Manager
Special Events
Newsletter Editor
Membership Coordinator

T. Curran Sekella
Archivist

Alexis Bower
Rocky Peters
Don Rumsey
Gift Shop Staff

From the Director - Traff Doherty

Most of us are pretty hard-pressed to come up with something positive that occurred in 2020. And I am no exception – especially when regarding the truly frightening things that appeared daily on our televisions. That having been said, there are actually some things of benefit that we have experienced here at NSM that we should be thankful for. Take note of our new museum sign pictured here. Late last summer,

someone roared past our museum, down the road and drove right over the existing sign, effectively vaporizing it. This took place on a busy Saturday afternoon and, by incredibly good fortune, nobody was hurt. The destruction of the old sign gave us the opportunity to put up an attractive (and effective) new sign; something that the old sign definitely was not! Stu Schweizer and I worked with JH Design – an Elmira sign maker – and among us, we

came up with this simple, yet effective, design. I learned the hard way back at the Curtiss Museum that it is important to make a sign as simple as possible. People need to be able to take in the necessary information quickly – and at a distance. Our new sign achieves both objectives very effectively! And I'm greatly relieved to say that we've gotten a lot of positive feedback on this project.



As pleased as I am about the sign, it pales by comparison to the delight that we - all of us here – feel when we reflect upon the generosity shown by our members, trustees and friends in their support of our museum in these very difficult times. Over the last 4 years, we have been increasing the annual amount of budgeted member donation revenue. It's simply a matter of growth and whether we achieve it or not, it gives us a positive target to shoot for. For 2020, after we set our financial goal, COVID-19 came along and we naturally expected all revenue areas to be severely affected. Well, Admissions and Gift Shop got clobbered, and between them showed about a 60% reduction. This was anticipated; we were closed April-June and when we did start back up, we experienced a further reduction due to a general slowdown in tourism. As the reality of this was becoming apparent, Jean started asking renewing members to make larger donations whenever possible to help the museum in this time of trouble. She also placed similar emphasis on the annual year-end gifting appeal. The result was a truly magnificent financial response, greatly exceeding all expectations.

This solid support, combined with a PPP loan that we received - thanks to a lot of hard work by Jean, Mary and Guerry Howard (NSM Treasurer) - our museum is emerging from this awful period in reasonably good shape. To all of you who were able to contribute – and also to those of you who would like to have contributed, but were unable to – let me express from all of us here, our heartfelt thanks for your support and good wishes.



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Elmira, NY 14903

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fo@soaringmuseum.org
www.soaringmuseum.org

HHSC HANGAR GETS A FACELIFT!



Some significant improvements were made to the HHSC hangar this summer. Lots of painting and restoration was involved! The club members who worked hard on the hangar doors are: Dave Graham, Evan Harshbarger, Ryan McMaster, Heinz Weissenbuehler, Jake Barnes, Phil Chidekel, Noah Reitter, Deirdre McMaster, Brenna O'Brien, Jack Vakiener, Zack Graham, and Josh Graham. In addition, firehose seals were replaced with Corky's help.

WARREN EATON on SPEAK-O-PHONE - Jean Doherty

We recently discovered a 1933 aluminum Speak-O-Phone recording of a talk given by Warren Eaton on the early soaring competitions at Elmira. It is in very good condition, with just a little corrosion. We are looking into getting it cleaned and digitized.

Speak-O-Phone was a brand of aluminum phonograph disc for recording and was introduced by the Speak-O-Phone Corporation of New York in 1926. Aluminum was used as a recording medium from the time electrical recording was introduced in the mid 1920s until probably the early 1940s when aluminum was required for the war effort. I remember that my father's voice teacher in the 1930s had recorded my dad's singing right in his studio - cut the record on the spot. I do remember that the recording was quite good.

Speak-O-Phone discs seem to have been available in various sizes including 6,7,8, and 10-in diameter versions and were electrically recorded at 78 rpm. Playback required the use of needles supplied for use with the discs, bamboo or fiber needles - the standard steel needles of the time would damage the grooves. Speak-O-Phone discs, like other aluminum discs of the time, are not likely to break or warp, but they are subject to corrosion.



MUSEUM OFFICERS

W. Stuart Schweizer
President

William Batesole
Vice-President

Dr. William G. Howard
Secretary / Treasurer

Trafford L-M. Doherty
Executive Director

TRUSTEES

Gary Adams
Robert Briggs
Dianne Black-Nixon
Kevin Christner
Warren Cramer
Michael Koerner
Rusty Lowry
Mark Margeson
Tom Sweet
Dr. Richard Welles
Phil Westcott

NEW MEMBERS

Individual

Charles P. Colomello
Steve Messner

Family

Chelsie & Andrew Mitchell
Tom & Eileen Henion

Bronze

Matthew Dunaif & Patzi Nilsson
John Schweizer

Silver

Mark & Sandra Margeson

MEMBERSHIP UPGRADE

Family

William P. Clarke



Beautiful certificate from SSA in honor of Roy McMaster's induction to the U. S. Soaring Hall of Fame - presented to Roy in a private ceremony due to COVID-19

Sponsor A Glider 2021

By sponsoring a glider for the annual donation of \$500, the National Soaring Museum will designate the glider of your choice as being sponsored by you for 2021 and will display near the glider a photo (if desired) of the sponsor and a brief biography. At the sponsor's option, the biography may include a reference to the particular glider and its importance to the sponsor.

A list of gliders currently in our collection can be found on our website. Please call the museum 607-734-3128 with any questions

SPONSOR A GLIDER 2021

My name(s) as it is to appear in printed matter :

GLIDER being sponsored: _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Home phone _____

e-mail address _____

___ My check for \$500 is enclosed

___ Please bill my Credit Card# _____ exp.date _____
(MasterCard-Visa-Discover-American Express) V-code _____

Signature _____

YEAR-END MEMBER DONATIONS

Stu & Lucy Schweizer
Guerry & Alberta Howard
Calvin W. Weiss
Jan & Clare van den Blink
Merrill & Lydia Lynn
Don Moser & Linda York
Jay & Robin McDaniel
John & Rosa Hosp
Steve & Nancy Sliwa
Wick Wilkinson
Moe & Sophie Acee
Jerry Wenger
Ron & Linda Bors
Peter & Lynn Smith
Barbara H. McDowell
Peter & Angela Mozer
Pat Costello
Frank Sneed
John & Jan Reidenbaugh
Steve Leonard
Pete & Bonnie Hamilton
Corky Gill
Jim & Tracy Cook
Paul & Lauren Schweizer
Mike & Fran Koerner
Ira & Sue Blieden
Alice C. Johnson
Les & Bonnie Schweizer
Lee D. Jarrard
Gary Fogel
Rev. John A. DeSocio
Robert T. S. Colby
Dr. Norbert A. Wethington
Karl Striedieck
Don Schlafer
Tim Welles
Lanier Frantz
Ann & Rick Lafford
Gerald & Lois Giddens
Tom & Jean Riley
John & Ellen Slack
Joe & Nancy May
Thomas E. King
Patrick J. Reynolds
John Seymour
Neal & Karen Pfeiffer
Ray & Kittie Alexander
Robert McKinnon
Curran & Barbara Sekella
Rob Buck
Jeff Byard
Ken & Michelle Sorenson
J. Raul Blacksten
Doug & Mae Fronius
Bruce Bottoms
Rex Wells
Bill & Linda Sweet
Dean Gradwell
Wick Wilkinson
Hank Nixon &
Dianne Black-Nixon
Greg Lincoln
Walter & Irene Cannon
Rocky Peters
Ellie Gross Pendleton

NSM Gift Shop - You can now shop online on the NSM website!



Balsa Gliders and Airplanes



Books on Soaring and Local History



New Caps and Bucket Hats



Toys and Games of all sorts. Lots of Puzzles. And our usual great assortment of T-Shirts, Sweatshirts and Hoodies.



IVSM is on for July 10-17, 2021

Hoping for a much healthier and safer 2021 - IVSM is back on for this summer and the list is growing for those planning to attend.

Sign up on the NSM website or give us a call at 607-734-3128

If you are registering with a sailplane, remember to get a photo of you and your sailplane to Jean for the **2021 IVSM Yearbook**.



In Memoriam

E. Gene Hammond

U. S. Soaring Hall of Fame 1996

January 6, 1935 - November 12, 2020

Long time NSM board member, Gene Hammond, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at his Minooka, Illinois, residence, surrounded by family after a courageous battle with numerous health issues.

Son of the late Eldon and Hazel (Allphin) Hammond. Survived by his wife, Mary Lou (Scott) Hammond, children Robert Hammond and Karen Buchanan, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and his brother, Tom.

Gene was a distinguished U. S. Army veteran and a pilot for United Airlines for 32 years. After retirement, he continued his passion for aviation, flying sailplanes and seaplanes. He was also an avid golfer, skilled skier, both water and snow, and an accomplished musician.

Gene belonged to several aviation-related clubs and organizations including, Quiet Birdmen, Chicago Glider Club, Soaring Society of America, Soaring Safety Foundation, Experimental Aircraft Association and the National Soaring Museum. He was also an inductee to the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame.

An accomplished man in many ways, he will be fondly remembered and greatly missed.



John B. Hintz

December 24, 1929 - November 16, 2020

NSM member and former NSM Trustee, John Hintz, passed away on November 16, 2020 from complications of Covid-19.

John was born on December 24, 1929 to Benjamin P. and Leah M. Brown Hintz of Elmira. He was predeceased by his wife, Loretta C. (Collins) Hintz, who passed away in 1999 and his wife, Mary Esther (Costello) Hintz, who died in 2019; his brother, Edward T. (Mary) Hintz; sisters Margaret A. McDonald, Ann "Pat" Bennett and Rosemary O' Buckley.

John and Loretta, married for 49 years, raised two daughters, Alice H. Boxer of Mt. Kisco, NY, and Eileen H. Maslowsky of Fairfax, VA, and two sons, Timothy C. Hintz of Torrance, CA, and Gregory J. Hintz of Hammondsport, NY; five grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. John is also survived by several cousins, nieces and nephews.



John graduated from Elmira Free Academy in 1948, attended Villanova University and graduated from Elmira College. With the exception of three years of service in the U.S. Army in the early 1950's, John lived his entire life in Elmira. He retired as Executive Vice-President of Chemung Canal Trust Company, where he had worked (and met his wife, Loretta) for 44 years. As a commercial loan officer, he assisted many local businesses. He and Loretta joined St. Mary's parish in 1955 and remained communicants there until their respective deaths. He and Mary Esther were also active members of St. Mary's parish. John was a member for more than 50 years of the Elmira City Club and contributed to the efforts of various other local and state organizations.

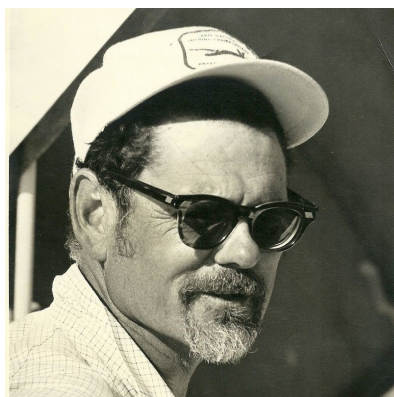
John was an avid reader who, until recently, remained a daily consumer of the New York Times and several books per year. He could learnedly discuss local history, world affairs, sports, and finance. He was also a talented gardener whose flowers and vegetables were widely admired. The results produced through his cooking and baking skills were renowned and often at the center of family gatherings. His family was paramount in his thoughts and deeds, as exhibited by his devoted care of Loretta and Mary Esther during their respective illnesses. He was always eager for conversation with children and grandchildren to hear of the latest antics of the younger members of the family.

In Memoriam

Ed Byars

U. S. Soaring Hall of Fame 1992

March 22, 1925 - December 24, 2020



Edward Ford Byars, 95, died peacefully on December 24, 2020 at his home in Seneca, SC. He was the son of Edward Hayes Byars, II and Lois Ford Byars Williams. Ed Byars was born March 22, 1925 in Lincolnton, NC and grew up in Charlotte, NC and Rock Hill, SC. He earned his BSME and MSCE from Clemson University, and a PhD in Engineering Mechanics from the University of Illinois (1957). After WWII service in the Army Signal Corps he was a member of the Clemson faculty from 1947 to 1960.

He was Professor and Chairman of Mechanical Engineering at West Virginia University from 1960 to 1980, and Dean of Engineering from 1979 to 1980.

He returned to Clemson University in 1980 as Executive Assistant to the President and retired in 1985. He was Professor Emeritus at Clemson and West Virginia Universities.

He was a lifelong aviation enthusiast and pilot. In 1969 he joined with Bill Holbrook to create the very successful series on Competition Soaring and Cross-Country Soaring. In 1985 he joined with competition pilots Holbrook and Striedieck to form the Sailplane Racing Association to lobby for more pilot input to competition rules. He owned and flew his various aircraft for 65+ years. He served several years as SSA Vice President. He was inducted into the U.S. Soaring Hall of Fame in 1992 and served as Chairman of the Board of the SSA. He became Chair of the SSA Development Board in 1996 and was in charge of the Planned Giving Program of the SSA Eagles Program. He also served on the Board of Trustees for the National Soaring Museum. His hobbies were racing sailplanes and restoring antique aircraft. He holds Silver #274 (1957), Gold #203 (1964), Diamond #102 (Int #728, 1969), 1000 K Diploma #34 (Int #134, 1990), Symons One Lennie #257. He was awarded the SSA Exceptional Service Award in 1974 and 1998.

In 1950 he married the love of his life, Betsy Cromer Byars. They were married for 69 years until she passed away earlier this year. He is survived by his four children: Laurie Myers (Michael) of Augusta, GA, Betsy Duffey (Bill) of Atlanta, GA, Nan Byars (Don Boekelheide) of Charlotte, NC, Guy Ford Byars (Nellie) of Cincinnati, OH; and his nine grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.

George Allan Taylor

January 8, 1932 - June 9, 2019

Born in Brooklyn, NY, George became a radio operator in the Air Force and enjoyed a year on an isolated post, Kwajalein Atoll, in the Marshall Islands. After the Air Force he worked at Republic Aviation and Brookhaven National Laboratory where he met his future wife Kathleen Karen Taylor. They were married in 1971.

George joined the Long Island Soaring Association where he towed gliders and gave many hours of instruction and rides in gliders. This pattern continued after they moved to Colorado and joined the Soaring Society of Boulder. He was an enthusiastic ambassador for soaring, talking up soaring and offering free glider rides to everyone he met. They moved to Los Alamos in 1998 and continued flying sailplanes from the Moriarty airport in New Mexico. Much of his cross country flying was in the Schweizer 1-34 (in which he flew diamond distance) and the Schleicher ASW20 which they owned for 15 years.

George is survived by his wife, Kathleen and one daughter, Jennifer Taylor Perry.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of
Ginny Schweizer
by

Betsy Dalrymple

In Memory of
Dale A. Busque
by

Lorraine Busque

In Memory of
Roger A. Hrasdzira
by

Stu & Lucy Schweizer

In Memory of
Eleanor McClelland
by

Guy & Anita Bennett

IN MEMORIAM

Nancy Sproull

GRANTS

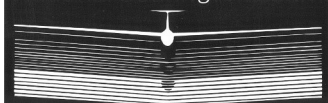
Robert B. McKinnon Donor
Advised Fund at the
Community Foundation
of Elmira-Corning
and the Finger Lakes

SPONSOR A GLIDER

Gross Family
Hank Nixon
Dianne Black-Nixon
Jan van den Blink



National Soaring Museum



51 Soaring Hill Drive
Elmira, NY 14903

info@soaringmuseum.org

www.soaringmuseum.org

607-734-3128

FALL 2020



MUSEUM HOURS

May 1 - Oct. 31

Open daily 10-4

Nov. 1 - Apr. 30

Open daily 10-4

**Currently Closed on
Monday and Tuesday**

**Museum closed on the
following holidays:**

New Year's Day

Easter Sunday

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Now – Sept. 2, 2021

**The Aviation Art of
Ted Williams Exhibit**

May 15, 2020

**U.S. Soaring Hall of Fame
Induction**

July 10-17, 2021

**International Vintage
Sailplane Meet**

NSM Membership Form

Please check the membership category of your choice and return to:

The National Soaring Museum, 51 Soaring Hill Dr., Elmira, NY 14903

☐ Basic \$35 ☐ Family \$50 ☐ Bronze \$100 ☐ Silver \$250

☐ Gold \$500 ☐ Diamond \$1000 ☐ Cayley Society \$2500

My name(s)

as it is to appear in printed matter : _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Home phone _____

e-mail address _____

☐ My check is enclosed

☐ Please bill my Credit Card# _____ exp. date _____

(MasterCard-Visa-Discover-American Express)

V-code _____

Signature _____

**Additional tax-deductible donations will be used for museum improvements, including
upgrading facilities, restoration shop and new exhibits.**

My additional donation _____

Membership Benefits: Unlimited free admission • Invitations to exhibit openings and receptions
Guest passes • Subscription to the museum newsletter & journal • Volunteer opportunities
Discounts on museum programs and events • Discounts in the museum shop