

# NSM NEWS

SUMMER 2025

Official Newsletter of the National Soaring Museum

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## MUSEUM STAFF

**Adam L. Smith**  
Executive Director  
Curator

**Emily Meissner Barnes**  
Education & Programs  
Manager

**Don Rumsey**  
Director of Operations

**Jean Doherty**  
Newsletter & Journal Editor  
Membership Coordinator

**Sara McMaster**  
**Kennedy Parker**  
**Rocky Peters**  
**Nick Peters**  
Gift Shop Staff

**Ron Stokes**  
Custodian

**Intern & Gift Shop Staff**  
Vaughn Wagnez



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[www.soaringmuseum.org](http://www.soaringmuseum.org)

## From the Director - *Adam Smith*

### Exhibits & Collections

The Virtual Flight Lab/Learning Space, the area which formerly housed the Miniature Mansions & dollhouse exhibit has been repurposed to accommodate the Glider Simulator, purchased in part through grant funding from the SSA. The simulator has been a great success and is used each day as an interactive exhibit with our visitors.

All ages and degrees of flight experience have used the sim and had a positive experience. With this success, as a team, we have decided to build out the room with further interactive experiences.

Small exhibits related to aerodynamics, weather, and the history of soaring are being curated. Our visitors' interest in interactivity is obvious and therefore, we hope this space can provide several quality solutions to that need while we re-think the overall Museum exhibit experience. Emily Meissner Barnes, Education and Programs manager, has contributed significantly to the planning of this space and hopes to use it for educational programs and merit badge programs.



### Chemung Co. Room Tax Grant

The National Soaring Museum was awarded full funding of our request to initiate and run an advertising campaign through Park Outdoor billboard advertising. The goal of the room tax grant program is to redistribute funds collected by the program to encourage tourism within Chemung County. NSM is now advertised on six billboards just outside of Chemung County with hopes to drive admissions to the Museum and tourism in Chemung Co. (Markets: Corning, Barton, Bath, Dryden, Dix, Elmira – Rt. 414, Rt. 54, Rt. 13, I-86, Rt. 14, Rt. 17) Additionally, NSM partnered with the Chemung County Chamber of Commerce to add their new brand logo to our billboards. This partnership has two benefits – fostering our business relationship with the Chamber and directly naming Chemung County in our advertisements as a nod to their support of NSM through the room tax grant program in recent years.





## Education & Programs

Educational and public programs, workshops, and event schedule can be found on the NSM website: <https://www.soaringmuseum.org/events.php> See Youth Outreach Breakdown for a more detailed look at the impact we are making. Emily Meissner Barnes, Education and Programs Manager, has focused Q2 on continuing school visits to promote soaring education to local schools and implementing her Summer Series of programs.



*Emily Barnes with students*

Group Tours at NSM continue to be a huge success, particularly groups that come via bus tours. Thanks to Rob Whitcomb and Scott Poley for being our volunteer docents and giving expert tours of the museum, especially during the busy summer months.



*Rob Whitcomb gives tour*



*Scott Poley gives tour*



*Emily with young students at Diven Elementary in Elmira*

## Additional Information:

### Youth Outreach Breakdown:

#### Programs, Workshops, Outreach

Date	Group	Count
1/22/2025	Parley Coburn 6th Graders	100
2/8/2025	Scouting America Troop 162	5
2/19/2025	Scouting America	14
2/28/2025	Hope Academy	38
3/15/2025	Girl Scouts	13
3/21/2025	HHCSO STEM night	55
4/5/2025	Girl Scouts	5
4/11/2025	Daycare	40
4/30	Diven Elementary	120
5/2/2025	Elmira College Students	18
5/3/2025	Girl Scouts	5
5/8/2025	HHCSO BOCES tour	45
5/15/2025	Civil Air Patrol	15
6/13/2025	Big Flatts 3rd Grade	60
6/14/2025	Girl Scouts	5
6/25/2025	Soar Into STEM	1
7/2/2025	Soar into STEM	3
7/9/2025	Wind and Weather	3
7/9/2025	Soar into STEM	2

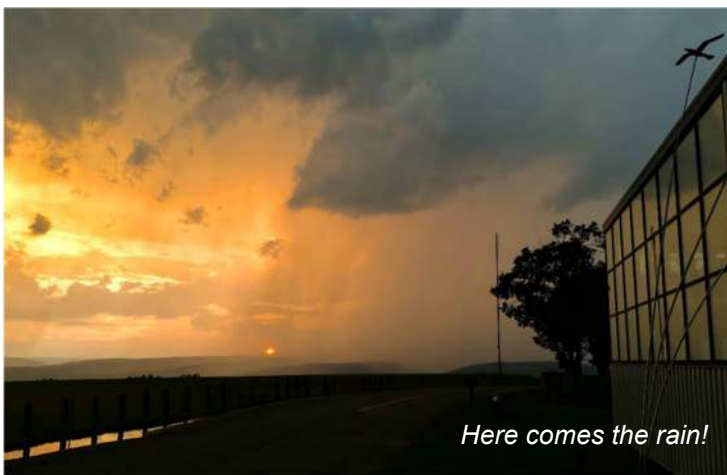
We are planning an event for local children: Ghouls & Gliders: Oct 25 - a trunk-or-treat even with many local vendors present to distribute candy and sell crafts for Halloween. Food trucks, glider rides. Should be a fun event!





**Our Summer Intern:** Hartwick College sophomore, Vaughn Wagnez, is headed into the last days of his internship at NSM. It has been a pleasure to work with Vaughn this summer. He has had opportunities to develop skills in several areas of Museum work including – exhibit design and curation, archival methods, facilitating research requests, museum operations, event set up, and collections management. Of note are two projects which have had a direct impact on our exhibits and our visitors. After the decision was made to hang the wings of the BG-6 in the hallway leading to the restoration shop, Vaughn's goal was to create interpretive labels for both the BG-6 and wing construction. Vaughn organized information related to wing ribs and created a sharp exhibit label, helping explain the different parts of a glider wing and their purpose. More recently, Vaughn supported two projects to digitize records/photos kept on file in the archives related to Flying Wing design and Virginia Schweizer, separately. These digitized collections were then distributed to Jack Derrickson, a young man interested in restoring Marske designs at the Caesar Creek Soaring Club. Information/images related to Ginny Schweizer were distributed to Peter Mayer, Ginny's nephew, who had last seen her when he was 12 years old. Mr. Mayer came to the Museum, indicated his relation to Ginny, and we were able to provide pictures he had never seen. He and his wife were moved to tears upon seeing the amount of information and number of photos related to his Aunt and her career in soaring.

**Summertime!** Summer is the lifeblood of the National Soaring Museum and the majority of local tourist attractions! It brings blue skies, warmer winds, and a surge of opportunity. With Harris Hill buzzing and the Finger Lakes Region drawing travelers from near and far, our museum sees a marked boost in tourism, admissions, and gift shop sales. That momentum is fueled by our tight-knit NSM team - just three full-time staff and a handful of dedicated gift shop crew - who work shoulder to shoulder to make big goals happen. When the soaring club and museum partner up, the hill comes alive with history, flight, and inspiration. Together, we're seizing the day, leaning into the good weather, and re-igniting Harris Hill's legacy as a must-see destination in Chemung County and beyond.



## NEW IN THE GIFT SHOP!

Windshirts - Sport-Tek brand, Small-Xlarge will be \$51.99 and XXLlarge will be \$55.99.

Stop in or call Don to order: 607-734-3128



## NEW MEMBERS

### Individual

Jim P. Hopkins  
Bill Laningham  
Robert Burchard  
Art Bosket  
Michael Marshall  
Kevin Anderson  
Steve Kelly  
Bill Barnes  
Kirk Bittner  
David Zimmerman  
Alan D. Brown  
Boris Kubrak

### Family

Craig Bishop  
John & Peggy Banarhall  
Gary & Chris Carter  
Fred Mueller  
John Godfrey &  
Sandra Danoff  
Wallace & Mary Jo Berry  
Fernando Silva  
Kristin Hill  
Sam & Chris Jones  
Janelle Sudduth

### Bronze

Greg Madigan  
Marc & Jennifer Brinker  
Murray & Lyn Forbes  
Shawn Knickerbocker &  
Trish Clemons

### Silver

Allen B. Reeves  
Jim & Janet Frantz

### HHSC Senior

Adam Smith  
Weldyn Allen  
Jonathyn Thornton  
Grady Booth  
Piyali Mittal  
John Sands  
Tanya Popli

### HHSC Junior

Max Palladino  
Justin Woodard  
Jonah Heard  
Zachary Brink  
Eli Armine



# AACA Snapper's Car Club Visits NSM

On July 28 we had great visit from the Snapper's Car Club on their 2025 Summer Tour. We were so lucky to be chosen as a tour destination this year. 44 antique cars arrived to decorate our parking area along with 100 owners and family members who visited the museum and enjoyed their visit to Harris Hill. Our resident "Car Guy", Don Rumsey, tells us that there were Model Ts, Model As, Cadillacs and even a Pullman - all pre-1925.

Snapper's Car Club was founded August 19, 1993 Ripley, Ohio. The club is dedicated to the restoration, preservation, and enjoyment of Brass Era Automobiles. The club's activities emphasize the enjoyment of old time automobile touring, away from the hustle and bustle of our modern lives in some of the most beautiful parts of the United States and Canada.

The club presents four events annually to include the: Spring Tour, frequently a progressive tour of significant distance; Summer Tour, a family-oriented hub tour, providing fun and frolic for all ages, a 2 to 3-day Hershey Hangover Tour following the AACA annual fall meet, and an Annual Business Meeting held in late winter or early spring in a large city somewhere. They also co-sponsor the Run to Lansing in September. Membership is over 300 families in thirty-three states, Canada and New Zealand.



Winch Truck

← Car club enthusiasts check out the transfer case under the museum's winch truck. The transfer case drives the winch off the main drive shaft.



Pullman

Snapper's Car Club antique cars at the Soaring Museum



## MUSEUM OFFICERS

**Bill Batesole**  
President

**Michael Koerner**  
Vice-President

**Dr. William G. Howard**  
Secretary / Treasurer

**Adam L. Smith**  
Executive Director

## TRUSTEES

Aaron Alsheimer  
Jennifer Bauman  
Dianne Black-Nixon  
Tom Freeman  
Doug Fronius  
Josh Knerr  
Ann Lafford  
Steve Leonard  
Mark Margeson  
Neal Pfeiffer  
Karin Schlosser  
Kyle Schweizer  
Jan van den Blink  
Dr. Richard Welles  
Phil Westcott





# CLUB CLASS NATIONALS 2025

Cumulative Score				
Rank	Points	ID	Name	Glider
1	2299	Y4	Fairbairn, Jacob	Discus aW
2	2188	01	McMaster, David	ASW-20
3	2158	W7	Alspaugh, Jake	Discus 2b
4	2068	JRS	Cernuto, Pat	H-201 St Lib
5	2018	MM	Marshall, Michael	ASW-20C-15
6	2012	ND	Brayer, Andrew	ASW-20C-15
7	2011	92	Anderson, Kevin	DG-400-15
8	1978	HH1	Barnes, Jacob	Discus cs
9	1926	LEL	Sheppe, Rick	MiniLAK
10	1894	XK	Cooper, Jenna	H-201 St Lib
11	1846	MVD	Murphy, Sean	St Cirrus
12	1776	LJ	Chew, Lindsey	ASW-19B
13	1771	L3	Hayter, Michael	LS-4
G	1753	BS	Hart, David	304CZ-17
14	1737	XA	Kubrak, Boris	Discus bT
15	1697	VB	Karasinski, Julia	Discus 2b
16	1656	JB	Bearden, Chip	ASW-24B
17	1576	2B	Furdal, Lukas	ASW-24
18	1535	OH	Nixon, Hank	ASW-28
19	1322	IMO	Long, Taylor	ASW-20B-15
20	1318	PI	Mampe, Charlie	ASW-24E
21	1276	I	McMaster, J.T.	Discus aW
22	1232	PL	Kaleta, Richard	SZD-55-1
23	999	MC	Byron, Tyler	DG-300

*Final scores after four contest days.*

Out of 10 scheduled contest days, we managed to get 4 contest days. We did lots of gridding and some launching with one rain day (rest day). There was a large percentage of juniors (under age 26) participating, and two women who competed and placed well. No damage to any sailplanes or equipment. Lots of camaraderie and war stories!



*From left, Jacob Fairbairn, Winner; David McMaster, Second; Jake Alspaugh, Third. Photo by Ken Hearn.*



*Ready for a fine day of competition!*



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## In Memoriam

### Jacob “Jake” Barnes

May 22, 1965 - August 9, 2025



With great sadness we announce the passing of Jacob “Jake” Barnes. He died on August 9, 2025, at the age of 60, surrounded by his family after a short and courageous battle with cancer.

Jake was born in Newton, NJ, May 22, 1965 to Edward Clark and Louisa (Van Tol) Barnes. After graduating from high school, he went on to study aviation management at Florida Institute of Technology. He began flying gliders at AeroClub Albatross in Blairstown, NJ, under the guidance of his instructor, Doc Solt. Some of his fondest memories from those early years were the long evenings spent in Doc and Cas' garage, surrounded by friends and fellow soaring enthusiasts.

At 14, Jake took his first glider flight in Sussex County, NJ, igniting a lifelong love for aviation. He earned his glider pilot's license at 22 and began his professional flying career in 1989, allowing him to travel the world. Along the way, he developed a refined taste for great food, fine wine, and Swiss chocolate - always enjoying the cultures he encountered with a true connoisseur's enthusiasm.

Jake earned a long list of aviation ratings over his 30-year career, including Commercial Privileges; Airline Transport Pilot, Airplane Single Engine Land, Airplane Multi-Engine Land, G-IV, G-V, HS-125, and LR-Jet.

Jake joined Harris Hill Soaring Club (HHSC) in 2001, where he became an active glider pilot and tow pilot, often flanked by his son, Jacob Jr. Over the years, Jake evolved into a dedicated and passionate competition pilot. His first major competition was in 2015 at the Sports Class Nationals in Mifflin, PA, flying the Duo Discus with Noah Rietter. He was instantly hooked. Jake brought his signature energy and enthusiasm to the soaring community, competing in numerous regional and national contests. With his son Jacob by his side - first as crew, then as a fellow competitor - he proudly earned several podium finishes. Still, for Jake, it was never about the trophies. It was about the friendships, the camaraderie, and the pure joy of flight.

Ironically and poetically, his last soaring contest was at the Region 2 competition in Mifflin County - the very place where his competitive soaring journey had begun. Jake considered Harris Hill a second home. He was a tireless supporter of the Harris Hill Juniors, officially serving as Junior Advisor and unofficially as a mentor, sponsor, and friend. He often brought Juniors to contests, housed them in the oversized camper he rented for the occasion, and even covered their meals - always leading with kindness and humility. Many young pilots looked to Jake for guidance, encouragement, and support, especially in difficult times.

Above all, Jake loved his family. He is survived by his daughter, Lydia Barnes; his son and daughter-in-law, Jacob and Emily Barnes; his mother, Louisa Van Tol Barnes; his brother, Edward Barnes III; and his sister, Caroline VanEeckoven. He is also remembered by the countless friends, students, and fellow aviators whose lives he touched.

*- Jake's memorial written by  
Emily Meissner Barnes and Karin Schlosser*





## **In Memoriam**

### **Elizabeth E. Pataki**

November 30, 1938 - December 24, 2024

Elizabeth was a longtime patron of the National Soaring Museum and daughter of Helen (Schweizer) Pataki, oldest sister of Ernest, Paul and Bill Schweizer.

"Life Dancer," Elizabeth "Erszebet" Emily Pataki, BSN, MS is now dancing among the stars. She transitioned to the celestial plane in her home, surrounded and comforted by family. She was born in Peekskill, NY, where the Schweizer Brothers began their pursuit of soaring and sailplane manufacturing.

She is predeceased by her father, Janos "John" Josef "Gramps" Pataki, II, her mother, Helen Ida "Nana" (née Schweizer) Pataki, her sister-in-law, Lalitha S. Harben, her brother-in-law, Siv Raman, and her sister, Holly Mary Pataki-Bettin. Elizabeth is survived by her husband, Dennis M. Hubbard; her son, Bruce S. Hubbard and his daughter, Jo' Schrader; her son, Barry S. Hubbard and his wife Sally and his stepson Ethan; her daughter, Heather A. Wright and her husband, Matthew and their children Kassandra and Connor; and her son, Jonathan M. Hubbard and his wife Caitlin and his daughter Hannaliese and his son, Marshall and their son, Fisher; and her sister, Margit H. Pataki.

Elizabeth served as a neonatal, psych, and ICU nurse for over 40 years and she was well respected and deeply appreciated by her peers and her patients. She was also an advocate for the common man and for the social safety net. As such, she was a lifelong member and supporter of labor unions; she was a shop steward and eventually a board member of the California Nurses Association, and she regularly spoke to politicians and gave speeches at various national media events. Elizabeth loved arts and culture and began playing the piano as a child at home. She pursued a Bachelor's of Music at CSU - Sacramento and she required all of her children to play an instrument through High School. She was a lifelong member of the Sacramento Saturday Club, an esteemed, local, philanthropic organization that gives scholarships to music students. A private service will be held.



### **SPONSOR A GLIDER**

Dianne Black-Nixon - Zanonla

Hank Nixon - Baby Albatross

Jan van den Blink - Schweizer 1-26

J. R. Daniel - Orlik

Dr. Walter Cannon - Schweizer 1-7

Dr. Norbert Wethington - Pratt-Read LNE-1

Mark Gross / Gross Family - Gross Sky Ghost

Stu & Lucy Schweizer - Schweizer SGP 1-1

Gregory Lincoln - Schweizer 1-23 D

### **ARTIFACT DONATIONS**

Luke P. Orrin  
Ron Sands  
Michael Shoen

### **CONTRIBUTIONS**

Peter S. Fuss  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fennell

### **MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Dr. Guerry & Alberta Howard  
Dr. Richard & Linda Welles  
Steve & Nancy Sliwa  
Rusty & Karen Lowry  
Jerry Wenger  
Elise Eaton  
Jan van den Blink  
Thomas King  
Tom & Jean Riley  
Mary R. Nelson  
Steve Leonard

Ray & Kittie Alexander  
**in memory of Floyd J. Sweet**

J. R. Daniel  
Stu & Lucy Schweizer  
Curran & Barbara Sekella  
Jan & Clare van den Blink  
**in memory of Mary Flaspahler**

Cathy Williams  
**in memory of Corky Gill**

### **MEMBERSHIP UPGRADE**

**Caley Society**  
Jon & Clare van den Blink

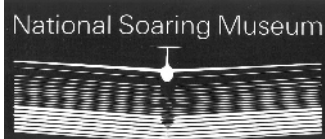
**Diamond**  
Ken & Michelle Sorenson  
Elise Eaton

**Gold**  
Rocky Peters

**Silver**  
Shaun & Catherine Keller  
Jeff Shingleton

**Bronze**  
John & Rosa Hosp





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607-734-3128

**Summer 2025**



**MUSEUM HOURS**

**April 1 - Oct. 31**  
Open daily 10-5

**Nov. 1 - Mar. 31**  
Open daily 10-4

**Museum closed on the  
following holidays:**

New Year's Day  
Easter Sunday  
Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Eve  
Christmas Day



*photo by Lukas Furdal - Club Class Nationals 2025*

## 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