

# NSM NEWS

Newsletter  
of the  
NATIONAL  
SOARING  
MUSEUM



Jan/Feb 1992

Vol. 2 No. 1

*A message from NSM President George H. Edwards*  
Your Museum faces many challenges in 1992, but each challenge represents an opportunity to advance the institution. The Trustees are challenged by such diverse needs as a self-evaluation process and a comprehensive long-range plan. The staff looks toward constructing and installing the exhibit on the Evolution of Gliders and Sailplanes, and to an increased visitor

## From the Trustee's Chair

load as the economy improves this year. To name a few, as they say. Like Pogo, we seem to be surrounded by insurmountable opportunities. We can take pride in the accomplishments of 1991, as the Museum held up well in a difficult economy. Attendance was up slightly in a year when area tourist attractions were generally down. Gift shop sales were up dramatically. All this was the result of dedicated, creative effort by the staff.

I don't think 1992 is going to be easy for the NSM. We still have opportunities to surmount in such areas as staffing and financial support. But all the elements for success are in place.

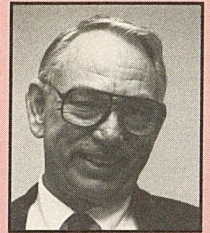
The prospect of raising \$60,000 to construct the first

phase of a storage facility is exciting. We need this facility badly, as the present inadequate storage threatens the preservation of our collection of historically important aircraft. The Trustees have pledged 25% of the needed funds, and we are seeking additional support from area foundations. You can help.

We expect 1992 to be a year of closer cooperation with the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian. They are embarking on an exciting new exhibit program, and we hope to participate.

Past accomplishments never would have happened, and future challenges could not be considered, without the tireless efforts of our small but skilled staff, and the seemingly endless enthusiasm of the Board of Trustees.

But most of all it is the support of you, the general membership, that provides the force to drive this complex enterprise. We have a wonderful small museum, one that is destined to take its place with the great aviation museums of the world. Our thanks to you for making this possible.



George H. Edwards  
Board President

## The NSM hosts its community luncheon

About 100 members and guests attended the 1991 Community Soaring Luncheon at the NSM in December to watch Chemung County officially accept the new section of the Museum, now complete with its \$1.2 million expansion, as a County facility.

County officials had agreed to take over ownership of the facility when construction was completed. The last stage of that project was finished last summer when the outside of the building was painted.

Harris Hill was covered with snow, not ideal soaring conditions, but Museum Board members, volunteers and guests on hand were warmed both by the great hot chili and the cooperation between the County and the Museum.

Chemung County Executive G. Thomas Tranter accepted a plaque of appreciation for the County's help in completing the 12,000-sq. ft. project. "This is our premier tourist attraction, this mountain and all that goes with it," Tranter said. Walt J. Archynsky, County Buildings and Grounds Superintendent, called the expansion project a "special partnership" between the County and the Museum.



Above, a crowd of nearly 100 attend the 1991 Community Soaring Luncheon. Right, NSM Trustees Paul A. Schweizer (center) and Fred Molter (right) present a plaque to G. Thomas Tranter, Jr. (left).



Paul A. Schweizer, Museum Trustee and chairman of the expansion fund drive, praised the County for aid in developing the soaring site. He said runway work county crews did back in 1966 led to the location of the Museum on Harris Hill, and that County support can be traced back to the first national soaring meet held here in 1930.

Dr. Charles D. Smith, NSM Executive Director, told the group that about 35,000 visitors toured the Museum and participated in Museum activities during 1991, an increase of about 5 percent over 1990. He also previewed a new exhibit of about 120 models showing the evolution of motorless aircraft to be added to the museum this spring. He

said it would be a "centerpiece exhibit for the museum," and "more enticing to young people."

Monty Sullivan, President of the Harris Hill Soaring Corporation also talked about cooperation - that between HHSC and the Museum. He said HHSC "was not just a bunch of guys flying planes up on the hill," but they were committed to the county to provide passenger rides to the public and provide an education program through the Junior organization.

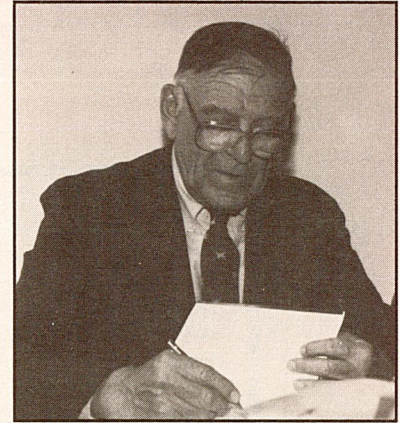
## Schweizer book-signing draws

Crowd to the NSM

There were a lot of local people curled up with a good book over Thanksgiving vacation. A week before the holiday the NSM held an evening reception

for William Schweizer's new book, "Soaring With the Schweizers: The 50-Year History of Their Aviation Adventures."

Bill was on hand to greet each person who bought a book that evening and to personally sign the inside cover. And nearly 100 people showed up to shake hands with the author and swap soaring tales. By the end of the evening more than a case of books was gone, and another case was sold prior to Christmas.



William Schweizer autographed over a case of his books at the NSM event.



"Soaring With the Schweizers" details the aviation efforts of three brothers pictured above, left to right: Ernest Schweizer, William Schweizer and Paul A. Schweizer.

The book begins in 1930 when Schweizer and his two brothers, Ernest and Paul, built the world's first all-metal glider in their father's barn. The story ends with a Big Flats, NY aviation manufacturing company employing 500. The company is believed to be the only aircraft manufacturer pre-dating World War II that is still family-owned.

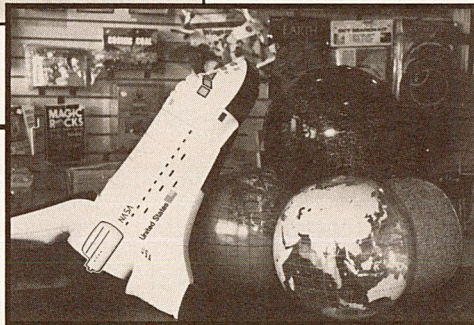
Bill said they could have merged with somebody, but that would have limited their dream. All three men have since retired, and three of their sons run the company.

Bill wrote the book in long-hand over a two-year period. It details products that were successful, and several that were not. The story is interweaved among national and local events that took place during Schweizer milestones. It even contains some great personal anecdotes.

Most of all, the book reveals Bill's formula for succeeding in a business where others have failed, "We've been flexible and willing to change. We've made a lot of mistakes, but we haven't made a big one."

### Gift Shop Hotline

Ever feel the world is deflating around you? Well, this won't happen if you have one of the fascinating inflatable globes from the NSM gift shop - just keep away from sharp objects! This month we are featuring our inflatables: 2 earth globes - one glows in the dark, a moon globe, a celestial sphere,



and a space shuttle. These inexpensive items are new in the expanded gift shop - check them out on your next visit. They are fun, educational and even make good beach balls!

A

By Dr. Charles D. Smith

As we enter the new year we can look back on 1991 as a good year for the NSM. While we suffered through the recession like everyone else, we expanded the gift shop and added several new exhibits. An active drive boosted our membership with new members being added every day.

We have a new Board President (George's message can be found on page 1). Our outgoing Board President is John C. Lincoln II, who steps down after serving the last three years in that leadership role - John was also Board President for two years in the mid-80's. He guided the Board and the Museum through a major expansion and capital fund raising campaign, giving countless hours to help the

## Director's

Corner

cause. And it wasn't always too convenient for John to just drop by Harris Hill since he was living in Arizona at the time. Our thanks go out to John for his efforts and guidance during a major period of growth and change for the NSM. Of course, he isn't completely off the hook as he remains an active Board member and Committee chairman.

Thanks also go out to two departing Board members, Les Schweizer and Christopher Woods for their help and support as Trustees. A warm welcome is extended to their replacements W. Stuart Schweizer and Harold D. Buck.

## We welcome letters

The NSM News welcomes letters from readers. Please keep submissions brief and to the point. We reserve the right to edit submissions to fit the space allotted. Send letters to: NSM News-Editor, National Soaring Museum, Harris Hill, Elmira, NY 14903.

Executive Director: Dr. Charles D. Smith  
Editor: Carla Page

NSM News is published bi-monthly by the National Soaring Museum for all members. Membership is \$25 per year (individual), \$35 (family membership). Address inquiries to: NSM, RD#3, Harris Hill, Elmira, NY 14903; 607/734-3128



## Anyone can be a pilot at NSM

Soaring isn't just an outdoor sport anymore. Now at the NSM visitors can sit in a motorized flight simulator and head for the clouds outside the window in front of them.

The simulator is a mockup of a sailplane cockpit donated to the Museum by Schweizer Aircraft Corp. about 10 years ago. Originally it was an exhibit that people could just sit in. The 1-34 was converted last summer by Dick Kurzenberger, Museum Conservator, with a hydraulic system using a farm machinery piston and a four-way valve.

Kids, both small and large, enjoy having more action. Instead of just wiggling the stick, now their weight triggers a motor enabling the rider to go up several feet when the stick is pulled back.

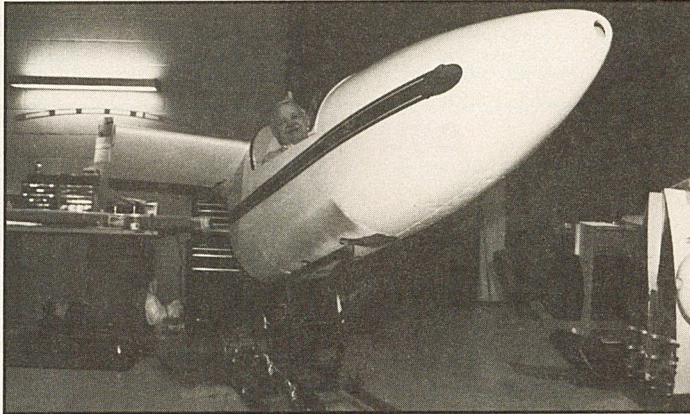
Materials for the simulator were found in a variety of places. Eastern Metal Co. supplied the tubing to mount the simulator; Smith Enterprises donated material for the base; cutting, welding and

**Our new simulator is a real lift!**

fitting was done at the Stuka Works where their scrap pile yielded many usable odds and ends; and volunteers

offered suggestions, painting, and hauling the unit back and forth to the restoration shop.

But the simulator is definitely a hit with all the families and school groups who



*Richard Kurzenberger test flies the new cockpit simulator prior to placing it on the exhibit floor.*

visit the Museum. Dr. Charles D. Smith, Executive Director, says he would like to add more interactive exhibits to the Museum in the future.

## C.A.L.E.N.D.A.R

**1992**

**March 6**

Spring Trustee Meeting  
SSA Convention  
Charlotte, NC

**April 7**

Community Aviation Dinner  
sponsored by  
HHSC, EAA, NSM  
NSM Community Room

**April 25**

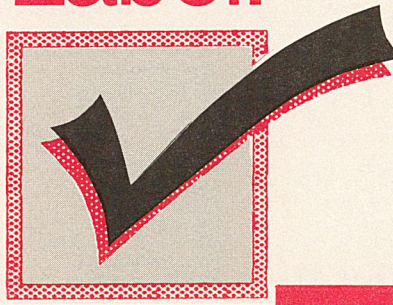
Spring KITE-CITEMENT  
Harris Hill

## Check Your Label!

If your mailing label below indicates 1/92 or 2/92, you are now due for membership renewal.

Look for the enclosed envelope in this issue, and mail your renewal dues today to continue receiving the NSM News, NSM Journal, and a variety of other great benefits of National Soaring Museum membership.

We really grew in 1991. Don't miss out on all 1992 has to offer. Send your check in today!



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