

51 Soaring Hill Drive
Elmira, NY 14903

info@soaringmuseum.org

www.soaringmuseum.org

607-734-3128

Winter 2026



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

HARRIS HILL SOARING
57 Soaring Hill Dr.
Elmira, NY 14903
607-734-0641

Soar Harris Hill

HHSC

NEW FLIGHT CENTER

PASSENGER FLIGHTS

JUNIORS PROGRAM

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

NSM NEWS

WINTER 2026

Official Newsletter of the National Soaring Museum

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Director	1
Katie Huss	2
Year-End Donors	3
Winter on the Hill	4
Flight Simulator	5
1-26	6
Norb Wethington	7

MUSEUM STAFF

Adam L. Smith

Executive Director
Curator

Don Rumsey

Director of Operations

Jean Doherty

Newsletter & Journal Editor
Membership Coordinator

Ashley Costa-Stanton

Natalie Fatula

Sara McMaster

Kennedy Parker

Rocky Peters

Nick Peters

Gift Shop Staff

Ron Stokes

Custodian



51 Soaring Hill Drive
Elmira, NY 14903

607-734-3128

info@soaringmuseum.org
www.soaringmuseum.org

From the Director - Adam Smith

As the pace of winter gradually gives way to the promise of a new soaring season, the quieter months at the National Soaring Museum have been anything but idle. While Harris Hill rests between seasons, our staff and volunteers have been hard at work reflecting on the past year and preparing for the upcoming season.

One of the most exciting developments has been welcoming Katie Huss as our new Education and Programs Manager. Katie has already brought fresh energy and ideas to our team as we begin shaping new educational opportunities and visitor experiences for the coming year.

Our programming continues to grow as well. After the enthusiastic response to our Aviation Merit Badge workshops, we are working with the Great Falls Council of the Scouts of America to expand our offerings, including the potential addition of the Wind and Weather Merit Badge. These programs introduce young people to the science and adventure of flight while strengthening the Museum's role as an educational resource for the region.

This winter has also highlighted the strength of our partnership with the Harris Hill Soaring Club. Club members like Jim Cramer have generously volunteered their time at the Museum, helping us keep projects moving during the off season. We are also delighted to welcome Harris Hill Junior Natalie Fatula to our visitor services staff. These connections between the flying community and the Museum are part of what makes Harris Hill such a special place.

Several exhibit projects are also taking shape as we continue exploring ways to enhance the visitor experience. One concept under development is a small interpretive theatre within the fuselage of our CG-4A glider where visitors could view portions of the historical film, *Silent Wings*. Experiencing this film from within the aircraft itself would help tell the story of the brave pilots and troops who flew these gliders during the World War II and bring greater context to this remarkable artifact in our collection.



In our Discovery Space for kids, volunteers from HHSC have offered their talents to help us construct a vertical wind tunnel and a Bernoulli beach ball installation. Together, these hands-on experiences will give young visitors a fun and memorable way to explore the principles of lift and the science behind flight.

At the Heritage Hangar, a major winter reorganization project has been underway. This effort is helping us better care for the aircraft and artifacts already in our collection while preparing space for future additions that will continue to tell the story of motorless flight.

Before long, the skies above Harris Hill will once again fill with gliders and visitors will return to the Museum. While the winter months have been spent working on projects across the Museum, they have also been a time of planning for the future. In the coming weeks we look forward to sharing exciting news about a new initiative that will help shape the next chapter of the National Soaring Museum. Stay tuned as we prepare to offer more details about our future plans for the Museum.





INTRODUCING KATIE HUSS

Hello,

I am Katherine Huss, the new Programs and Administrative Support Manager at the National Soaring Museum. I grew up in the town of Horseheads and love living in an area with beautiful hills and changing seasonal weather. In 2023, I graduated from Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in Art History. I have always gravitated towards art and I appreciate the stories behind historical items, so working at a museum is really exciting. I also love music and play in the Twin Tiers Community Orchestra. My instruments are the violin and guitar, and my favorite genres are rock and classical.

Watching the hills by my house, I would spot planes gliding through the air without making any sound. I later learned these were gliders from Harris Hill and that people can ride in these sailplanes. Despite living so close, I have never been in a glider! That will change when I take my first ride in Summer 2026, so I can experience the exhilaration of soaring. I can't wait to greet visitors here at the National Soaring Museum and I am excited to learn as much as I can about soaring!



What a great shot of the Schweizer Gallery! Executive Director, Adam Smith captured this moment as the days get longer and we still have daylight at the end of the day at NSM.

In Memoriam

Dr. Norbert A. Wethington

September 14, 1943 - November 29, 2025



Norbert A. Wethington, PhD, died on Nov. 29, 2025 in Perrysburg, OH. Born Sept. 14, 1943, in Dayton, OH.

Norbert was a longtime NSM member and faithful donor to our Sponsor-A-Glider fund. He was the son of Norbert and Sophie (Rudzinski) Wethington. He was a 1961 graduate of Dayton's Chaminade High School and a 1965 graduate of University of Dayton. He earned his Masters degree in 1967 from John Carroll University in Cleveland. On August 13, 1966, he married Marti Vannice, who he met while both were Civil Air Patrol Cadets.

Norb was a gifted teacher. He was most comfortable in the front of a formal classroom, whether as high school teacher covering American Literature or Christian Family Living; or a Civil Air Patrol Major

teaching Military Drill and Ceremonies to Ohio Wing cadets; or teaching First Aid/CPR to local Police Academy Cadets; or teaching Church History to Catholic ministry students; or teaching Ethics or modern aviation history to college students.

While a great deal of Dr. Norb Wethington's life has been centered around aviation, he did not complete the requirements for his Private Glider rating until he was 50 years old. Shortly after that, in an orientation for new volunteers at the National Museum of the United States Air Force, near Dayton Ohio, he noticed in passing an unusual side-by-side antique glider on its trailer just sitting in storage. He asked around and found out it was a Pratt-Read LNE-1/TG-32. That query led him to over twenty years of dedicated research on this unusual glider; two presentations at the annual National Sailplane History Symposium, a half-dozen articles in major aviation history journals, and a similar number of speaking engagements on that topic. His papers on the Pratt Read are now a part of the National Soaring Museum's Barnaby Archives.

In 1997, he retired as Dean of Humanities at Terra State Community College and earned his Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Toledo. He then pursued a post-doctoral opportunity at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University in England.

Outside of his faith, family and teaching, his next love was aviation. Norb served 16 years in Ohio Wing Civil Air Patrol and volunteered 18 years at the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

After a short time teaching at Tiffin University, he took on the ministry of leading marriage preparation programs at St. Joseph Church in Fremont. He had served as a deacon since 1978, with assignments at both St. Joseph and St. Ann Catholic churches; and retired from active ministry in 2014.

Deacon Norb is survived by his wife Marti; sister Karol (Jack Handrahan); children Paula (David Rose), Mark, Eric (Margo Gentile), Kristen (Joe Arcilla), Rebecca (Mark Molyet), Lisa, and Bethany; fourteen grandchildren and three great-grand children.



MEMORIAL DONATIONS

IN MEMORY OF
Kittie Sweet Alexander
by
Ray Alexander

IN MEMORY OF
Dinah Schmidt
by
Jeff Byard

IN MEMORIAM

Edward J. Nelson
David Robertson
Charles "Chuck" Comstock
Janet Hallahan
Kay Wilder

20 Things to Love About the 1-26

The editor has "borrowed" the following list of 1-26 attributes from the fall edition of the 1-26 Association newsletter, originally printed under the title, *Twenty very good Opinions on Flying the Schweizer 1-26*. You must admit - the 1-26 is a very loveable sailplane!

1. Retrieves are never very long.
2. It doesn't break my wallet.
3. I prefer to spend most of my flight clawing for altitude instead of cruising.
4. I like to see what I am flying over, and sometimes I get to see it VERY CLOSE.
5. There is a good chance your crew can catch your wingtip when you land.
6. The 1-26 operates within the parameters of a balanced budget.
7. When I learn to fly the 1-26 correctly, then I will try something else.
8. 1-26ers never have to worry if they are being outperformed by the latest sailplane imported from Europe.
9. The picture of 17 identical aircraft in the same thermal has my power-flying friends walking away shaking their heads.
10. The 1-26 Association!
11. The green looks on the high performance pilot's face when a 1-26 pilot beats him.
12. Don't have to fool around with those goofy gear handles.
13. Don't have to take it out of the box every time I want to fly.
14. That great ventilation.
15. The good news: you can land out the 1-26 down anywhere. The bad news: you will get lots of practice doing that.
16. 1-26 wings can provide critters nice, cozy places to build their nests.
17. I can get away with using a cheap marine GPS that craps out at 99 mph.
18. You can land a 1-26 in your back yard, or - if you live in Texas, your front yard.
19. The confidence you have knowing that if there is lift out there, your own 1-26 will be able to climb out of whatever hole you got yourself into.
20. It flies itself - (Only touch the controls in an emergency).



The popular 1-26 was the basis for the creation of the 1-26 Association, which sponsored single design contests and recreational flying in this type of ship. The Association's annual One Design Championship is possibly the fairest type of competition, since it removes the performance differences seen in contests using various ships.



YEAR-END DONATIONS

Henry Gurshman
 Jeff & Denise Stringer
 John Seymour
 Steve Leonard
 Tom & Eileen Henion
 Rob Buck
 Paul Esser
 Jan & Clare van den Blink
 Dave Nadler
 Stephen Parker
 Alan D. Brown
 Duke & Wendy Carroll
 Ira & Sue Blieden
 Phil & Nancy Umphres
 Jay & Robin McDaniel
 Eileen Collins
 Steve & Nancy Sliwa
 William M. Foley
 Greg Madigan
 Darrel Watson
 Ron Martin
 Dianne Black-Nixon
 Mark & Alice Palmer
 Erik & Sarah Nelson
 Bruce Bottoms
 Greg Lincoln
 James Ketcham
 John Good
 Ray Alexander
 Darrel & Maureen Watson
 Bernald S. Smith
 Bill Batesole & Anne Nordstrom
 Greg Madigan
 Fred Sneed
 George & Pat Gera
 John & Peggy Banarhall
 Mary Rust
 Ridge Moreland
 Tom King
 David Welles
 Jeff Byard
 Tom & Edie Decker
 Michael Opitz
 Dr. Alan & Barbara Preucil
 Doug Jacobs
 Roger & Libby Jones

Tim Van Fleet, Elm Chevrolet
 Juan Mandelbaum & Clara Sandler
 Erik & Sarah Nelson
 Al & Barbara Preucil
 Chemung Canal Trust Company
 Rocky Peters
 Cole & Carole Hedden
 Dr. W. Guerry & Alberta Howard
 Stu & Lucy Schweizer
 Karin Schlosser & Heinz Weissenbuehler
 Dr. Richard & Dr. Linda Welles
 Bill Batesole & Anne Nordstrom
 Peter & Kathleen Schweizer
 Phil Westcott
 Jan & Clare van den Blink
 Mike & Fran Koerner
 Paul H. Schweizer
 Robert & Alice Gaines
 Jennifer Bauman
 Les & Bonnie Schweizer
 Sara Shaut
 Dr. Walter & Irene Cannon
 Ann & Rick Lafford
 Mark & Sandy Margeson
 John Schweizer
 Tom Freeman
 John Seymour
 Moe & Sophie Acee
 Jeff Byard
 Doug & Mae Fronius
 Dianne Weiss
 Aaron Alsheimer
 Josh Knerr
 Peter & Evelyn Fuss
 Steve Leonard
 Tim & Paddy Welles
 Kyle Schweizer
 Dave Ochsner
 Bob & Joan Jackson
 Boris Kubrak
 Wick Wilkinson
 John Good
 Lydia Barringer
 Curran & Barbara Sekella
 Elise Eaton



NEW MEMBERS

Individual

James Stollenwerck

Family

Scott & Michele Littfin

MEMBERSHIP UPGRADE

Caley Society

Jan & Clare van den Blink

Diamond

Ken & Michelle Sorenson
 Elise Eaton

Gold

Rocky Peters

Silver

Shaun & Catherine Keller
 Jeff Shingleton
 Chris & Lianne Groshel

Bronze

John & Rosa Hosp

SPONSOR A GLIDER

Dianne Black-Nixon
 Zanon

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

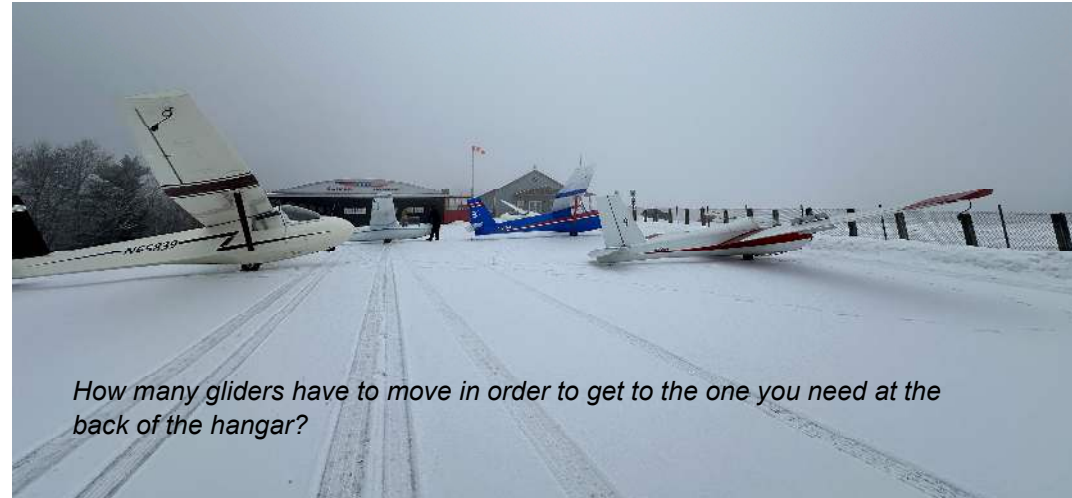
Mark Gross / Gross Family
 Gross Sky Ghost

Stu & Lucy Schweizer
 Schweizer SGP 1-1

Gregory Lincoln
 Schweizer 1-23 D



HHSC WINTER MANUEVERS



How many gliders have to move in order to get to the one you need at the back of the hangar?



HHSC SGS 1-26 getting some (very cold) fresh air



HHSC had the first of two buff 'n wax sessions - preparing their fleet for the upcoming season.

MUSEUM OFFICERS

Bill Batesole
President

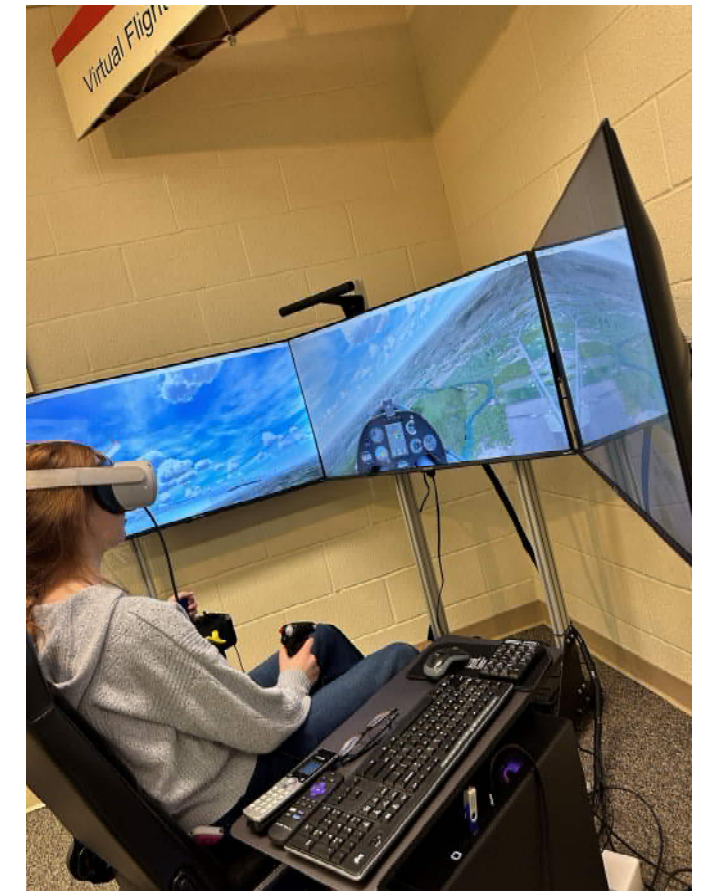
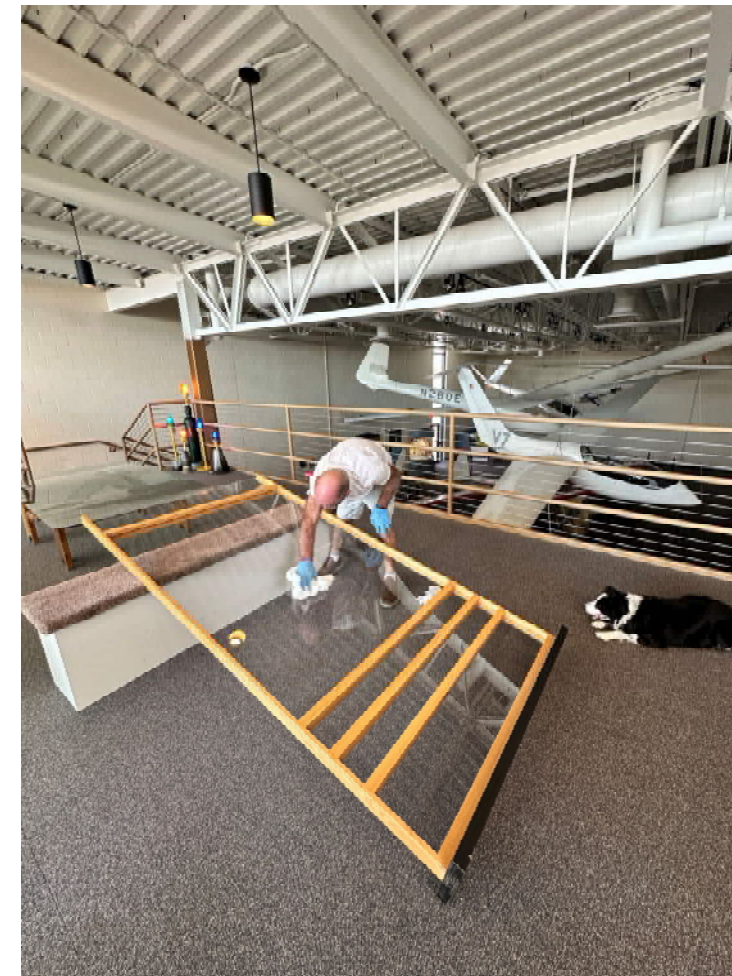
Michael Koerner
Vice-President

Dr. William G. Howard
Secretary / Treasurer

Adam L. Smith
Executive Director

TRUSTEES

Aaron Alsheimer
Jennifer Bauman
Dianne Black-Nixon
Jeff Byard
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



New NSM Staff member Natalie Fatula, setting up a pattern in VR on the NSM/SSA partnered simulator.

Winter provides time to catch up in places that need attention. Really making the Museum shine as the high season returns. No fingerprint is safe when custodian, Ron Stokes, is on the job! Note the supervision from the director's Border Collie, Jennie.



I think we can detect some enthusiasm for the flight simulator here among these young visitors.

Our flight simulator was fabricated as a partnership between SSA & NSM via a Simulator Matching Grant program, which is an application-based grant to help support the creation of glider simulation cockpits for glider clubs. We were grateful to be included. Although we are not a club, we are an important SSA affiliate, and the committee decided to support us in our grant application.