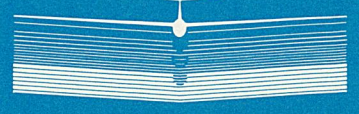


NSM NEWS

Newsletter
of the
NATIONAL
SOARING
MUSEUM

National Soaring Museum



Spring 1993

Vol 3. No. 2

New director navigates successful take-off

The Museum's new Executive Director is a hard worker. When the Trustees arrived recently for their Annual Meeting, they found the new leader downstairs with his sleeves rolled up working on exhibit graphics alongside his staff members.

James W. Swinnich comes to the NSM from the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Servicemen's Park in Buffalo, NY. With a master's degree in history and certification in museum studies in his background, Jim has already initiated improvements in the Museum's archives.

He hired Jim Moser to organize the NSM archives (See related story on Page 2), and he is beginning efforts

to computerize the archival records and collection. He has developed an intricate volunteer network with coordinator Jim Reinsmith at the helm (See story on Page 4). He coordinated two NSM booths at Elmira's Arts in the Park and led kite-designing in the educational booth. He met a host of Museum trustees and friends only two weeks into the new job by attending the Seattle Board meeting.

Jim trekked to Maine to acquire a 1902 Wright glider replica and he's met a lot of Museum people at two board meetings. That's a lot of groundwork covered in just four short months on the job. But best of all, the NSM staff thinks he's tops - a real nice guy and a great asset to the National Soaring Museum.

Model exhibit steals the show at 1993 Hall of Fame

EOGASE, the Evolution of Gliders and Sailplanes Exhibit, was the focal point of the 1993 United States Soaring Hall of Fame Weekend on May 20-22 at the NSM.

The grand view of 122 intricate models and illuminated information consoles captivated an audience from the railing above, and then drew them down closer to examine the history of sailplane flight in the United States.

Model builders and designers met each other, shared statistics and stories and posed proudly for photos. About one-third of the 91 model designers, builders and sponsors came to Elmira to dedicate the showpiece exhibit.

Paul A. Schweizer, NSM Trustee and Exhibit Chairman, who spearheaded the exhibit's progress, received a standing ovation at the United States Soaring Hall of Fame Banquet Saturday evening as he accepted a meritorious certificate for his efforts. He cut the ribbon earlier that day to officially open the

exhibit - the same ribbon that opened the new Museum in 1979, the Edward A. Mooers Community Room in 1985 and the expansion to the building in 1989.

One of the first arrivals for the weekend was Per and Inga Danewid, who flew in from Sweden to attend. A symposium on Friday provided some high-tech entertainment as model designers discussed their historic designs and builders talked about the models they had constructed.

The Museum welcomed its visitors on Friday evening with an informal barbecue. Staff and volunteers flipped burgers and hot dogs over an open fire while 100 people dipped up salads and baked beans and shared soaring tales.

Paul Schweizer honored each of the designers, builders and sponsors with a certificate following the barbecue.

Pilots continued oral history tapings on Saturday while the NSM Board of Trustees

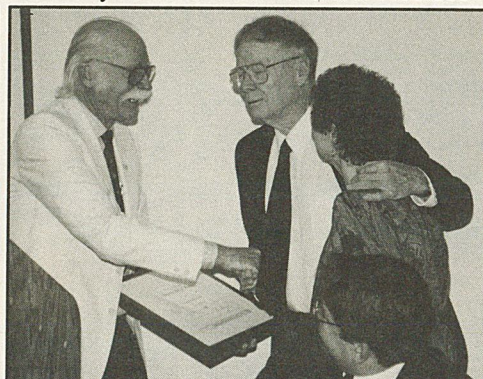


Above, Steve Lewis, the 1992 Harris Hill Gross Scholarship winner, attends the Hall of Fame banquet with his brother, father, and (right) Dr. Frank Gross' son, Mark.

convened their Annual Meeting.

The weekend was capped off with the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The 1992 award recipients, Doug & Lianna Lamont, long-time editors of SOARING Magazine; and Ed Byars, Soaring Society of America Vice President, will be featured in the next NSM Journal.

Also honored that evening was the 1992 Gross Scholarship winner, Steve Lewis, Big Flats, NY. Steve is the Harris Hill winner of the award for young sailplane pilots inaugurated last year by Dr. Frank Gross. The national Gross Scholarship winners were not in attendance. They are Margarita Brito, El Paso, TX, and Frederick G. Ernsting, III, Charlotte, NC. The Museum awarded the 1992 Hugh Whitney Scholarship Award to Gregg Leslie, Castle Creek, NY.



Above left, U.S. Soaring Hall of Fame inductee Ed Byars reminiscs about his soaring days. Right, Trustee Bernald S. Smith hands Hall of Fame certificate to inductees Doug and Lianna Lamont.

Kite-making and gift shop sales are an art in the park

It was the first time that the National Soaring Museum participated in Elmira's annual Arts in the Park on May 15-16, 1993. And what a success!

At the merchandise booth new employee Jim Moser eagerly demonstrated Tim birds and other flying items from the Museum's Gift Shop. The activity drew a lot of onlookers and shoppers.

Volunteer Coordinator Jim Reinsmith made calls to the volunteers for sales assistance and set up the schedule to keep the booth manned during the two-day event.

In the education booth, Jim Swinnich, Executive Director, and Paul Prunier, Curator of Education, led a kite-making activity for 65 youngsters. The project coordinates with the Museum's Annual Community Soaring Day, to be held September 11, 1993, which features KiteCitement, a kite-flying contest. The Museum had one of only two educational booths at the event. The Arnot Art Museum, which sponsors Arts in the Park each spring, had a booth for face painting and pottery.

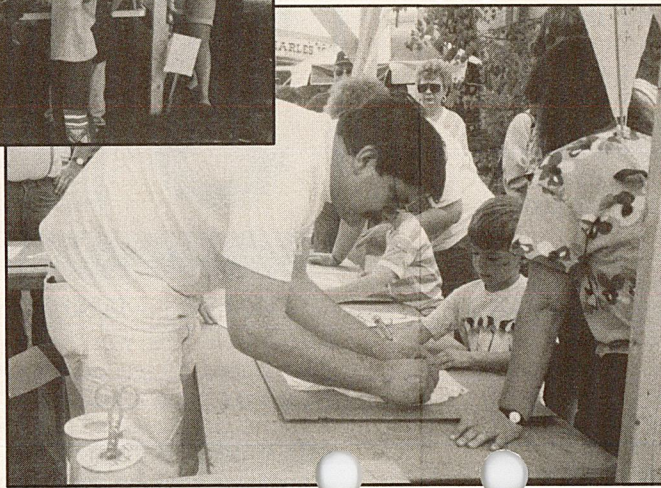
Over 30,000 people visited the various food, crafts and novelty booths. The NSM fit in among several other museums including Corning's Rockwell Museum.

Mr. Swinnich said he enjoyed working with the Arnot Museum, working in cooperation with other museums, and especially seeing so many new volunteers working for the NSM.

When the staff tallied up the booth sales and the new friends that were made over the two days, they realized that Arts in the Park was a real hit - both fun and profitable! The event is sure to become a tradition for the NSM each spring.



Above, The NSM merchandise booth attracted many interested shoppers. Right, Jim Swinnich demonstrates kite design. Children are invited to come to Harris Hill to fly their homemade kites on Community Soaring Day Sept. 11.



This Jim's a dynamo

There's an energetic new kid on the block who has been rummaging through the Museum's archives. He's a brand new graduate from Elmira College who stumbled upon the Museum through his required community service project and found a perfect career match.

Jim Moser hails from Connecticut. When visiting his Dad's summer place on Long Island, the two of them discovered soaring. Jim soloed at 14 and now plans to continue on and get his license. A graduation present may enable him to do just that.

Matching a soaring hobby with a history degree makes Jim an ideal archivist at NSM. He has jumped right in to organize the archives, implement a new accounting system in the Gift Shop and help prepare exhibits.

Maybe it's just coincidental that Jim's favorite historical period is World War II, and this year the Museum's focal exhibit deals with glider use in WWII. (See story at right) Jim just says he's lucky to get a job related to his degree.

Jim is a man of many talents. He plays piano, synthesizer, drums and trumpet. He has led an 8-piece rock and roll band and particularly likes to compose his own music. He's also a chess whiz.

Jim is engaged to Angela Cucinelli whom he met at Elmira College. Angela plans on a teaching career in Elmira.

He's thrilled being at the NSM, and eagerly displays the old photographs he finds as he works on reclassifying the archival items. And what does he have to offer the Museum? "A lot of energy and dedication," he says. The staff would certainly agree.

Sixth Soaring Landmark Dedication planned in Waynesboro

The Sixth Soaring Landmark Dedication will be held September 18-19, 1993 in Waynesboro, VA. Sponsored by the National Soaring Museum and Eagle's Nest Aviation Community, the dedication will commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Richard C. duPont's flight from

Waynesboro, VA to Frederick, MD. Saturday's events will include glider rides, a glider mail flight, hot air balloon flights, Primary Glider demonstration, bungee launch, models and a banquet. Following the dedication on Sunday will be the launching of the commemorative flight

from Waynesboro to Frederick, MD, which is open to all types of sailplanes and will be run as a Sports Class contest. Local soaring and glider rides will be available each afternoon.

Watch the mail for your invitation to this event or call the NSM at 607-734-3128 for more details.

NSM focuses on WWII

The raising of the Laister-Kauffmann LK-10A in the Museum's Exhibit Hall (left) has prepared us for a lively celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first use of U.S. gliders in World War II. Designed by Jack Laister and sponsored by John Kauffmann, the LK-10A was the most common U.S. ship design until the 1-26 surpassed it around 1960.

WWII Glider Pilots are planning to assemble at the NSM for a reunion July 9-10. Board Trustee Jeff Byard will be bringing his TG-2 to give rides at the reunion and will then loan the training glider to appear beside the LK-10A. They will be the focal point of the NSM WWII Exhibit.

The Waco CG-4A troop-carrying glider and military glider photographs around the Museum's featured 1993 exhibit. A short hike to the flight center next door shows the plaque marking Harris Hill as the first training site for WWII glider pilots.



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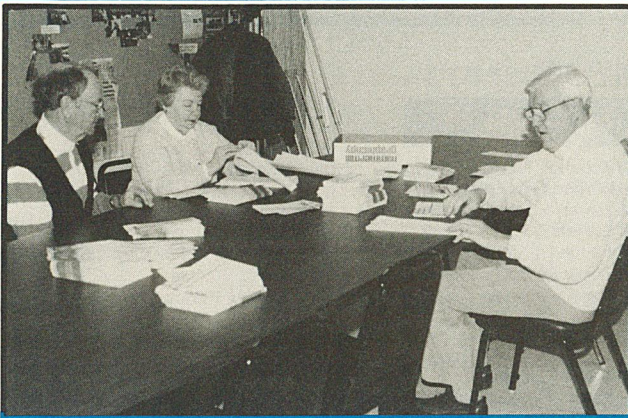
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Orono Elementary School, Orono, Maine Wright 1902 Glider replica

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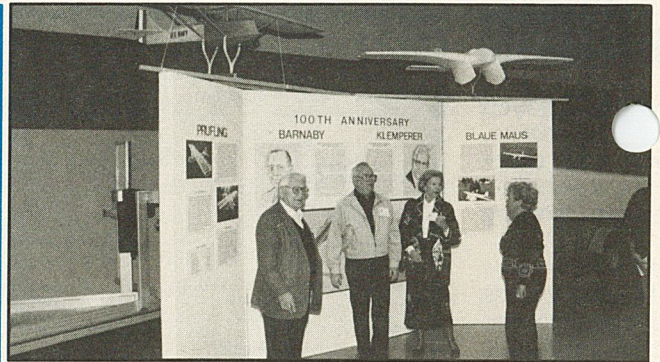
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Volunteers help the Museum

Above, volunteers Bill and Florence Bruning and Ralph Gemert label addresses on the last issue of the NSM News. Jim Swinnich has met with volunteers several times to develop a pool of talents and abilities needed at the Museum. The turnout has been tremendous! Volunteers were busting in the kitchen last month to help host two luncheons and a barbeque for 100 people, and they are clamoring to help in the Gift Shop and give tours during the Museum's heavy tourist season. If anyone would like to donate their time to the NSM, give us a call at 607/734-3128.

Exhibit on soaring pioneers goes on the road



Left to right, NSM Trustees Floyd Sweet and Harold Buck with Sally Buck and Isabel Bonnett visit the traveling exhibit at the Seattle convention in February.

The Barnaby/Klemperer traveling exhibit made its inaugural appearance at the Soaring Society of America Convention in Seattle in February.

Sponsored by the NSM, SSA and the Seattle Glider Council, the exhibit features the 100th anniversary of two soaring greats - Capt. Ralph S. Barnaby U.S.N and Dr. Wolfgang B. Klemperer. Designed by volunteer Franklin Hurtt, the exhibit shows photos and histories of both men. Hovering on top are large models of the gliders in which they flew.

Visiting the exhibit were both Klemperer's son and daughter, Walter and Eleanor who memorialized their father fondly with personal soaring stories. Klemperer breathed life into the U. S. soaring movement by pointing out that Elmira's terrain would provide an ideal site for America's first gliding competition.

NSM Trustee Floyd Sweet remembered when Barnaby asked his advice on a title for the Wright Brothers memorial plaque. Floyd asked Barnaby, who had known Orville, what first came to mind about the Wrights, and Barnaby said, "They taught us to fly." That title stands today on the plaque at Kitty Hawk.

An NSM booklet entitled "Soaring Pioneers" covers the histories of both Barnaby and Klemperer. Several copies were sold at the convention and are currently available from the Museum at \$3.00 each plus postage & handling.

The exhibit is currently on display at the Museum where it will remain until it travels to the 1994 Soaring Society of America Convention in Chicago.

Executive Director
James W. Swinnich

Editor
Carla Page

NSM News is published four times a year by the National Soaring Museum for all Museum friends. Address inquiries to: **National Soaring Museum, RD#3, Harris Hill, Elmira, NY 14903 607/734-3128**

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July 9-10

50th Anniversary - WWII Glider Pilots
NSM

Annual Vintage Sailplane Association
Regatta/Membership Meeting
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July 15-18

Sailplane Homebuilders Association
Eastern Workshop
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September 11

Annual Community Soaring Day
KiteCitement
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