

NEWS

Newsletter
of the
NATIONAL
SOARING
MUSEUM

National Soaring Museum



Winter 1994

Vol. 4 No. 1



Volunteers put in a busy year at the National Soaring Museum

Left to right: D. Storch, D. Storch, C. Pokines, J. Reinsmith, V. Schweizer and R. Miller.

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The NSM
celebrates its
25th
Anniversary
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the NSM's new
President
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1993 was an intensely busy year with museum activities, and the turnout at the Community Soaring Luncheon on December 3rd proved it! Almost all 50 NSM volunteers were on hand to receive much-deserved recognition for the many hours of work they put in on Harris Hill. Over 160 people, including Chemung County & government officials and museum members, attended the annual event and were treated to the staff's warm hospitality and the new Director's super chili.

Special volunteer honors went to:

Ralph Miller for assisting the office staff with hundreds of hours of computer expertise - complete with his razor-sharp wit and fun personality,

Cathy Pokines for years of directing the Chemung County Parks and Recreation with a flair, **James Reinsmith** for taking charge of the volunteer program, bringing in many smiling new faces and scheduling timeslots for eight big events and numerous mailings,

Virginia M. Schweizer for her soaring expertise, working with her husband, Paul, in gathering historical data and reaching out to other soaring pioneers, and

Dale & Dianne Storch for their dedicated care of the Museum grounds during Dale's term as Caretaker.

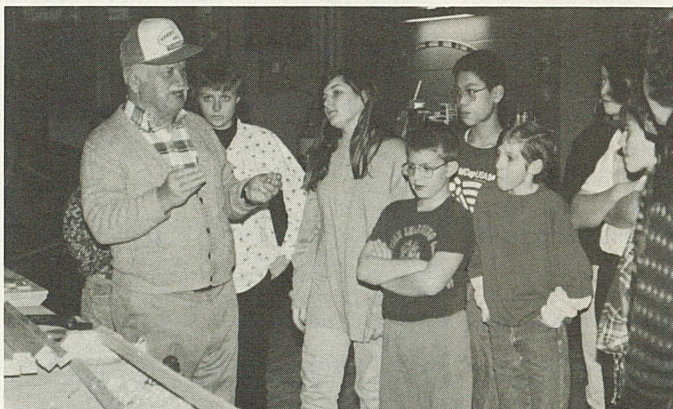
Former NSM President George H. Edwards, Elmira, NY, turned the gavel over to incoming President Jan Scott, Lovettsville, VA, who described his excitement for the Museum's future including the celebration of its 25th anniversary in 1994 and co-sponsoring in 1995 the first international vintage sailplane regatta ever held in the United States.

New Executive Director James W. Swinnich came off his first year at the helm running. He praised the volunteers for making possible so many successful events in 1993 including the annual SSA Hall of Fame, Arts in the Park, the airshow, the World War II Glider Pilots Reunion, The Vintage Sailplane and Sailplane Homebuilders Associations and a tremendous Community Soaring Day.

"We're utilizing volunteers in new ways - especially in archives where the work is tedious." Mr. Swinnich said. "It's good to see the volunteers, community and county come together."

NSM Trustee William J. Cummiskey represented the county and Nick McKinney the Harris Hill Soaring Corporation.

Area students start building a 1902 Wright Flyer



Above, 30 eight- to ten-year-old students from Corning listen to Richard Kurzenberger's (Restoration Manager) instructions on building struts for a full-size replica of the Wright Brothers' 1902 glider. A similar glider built by Maine students at-

tempted a flight last fall. This replica will be launched on Community Soaring Day in September.

In their first two sessions the students built 13 of 54 required ribs and prepared the curves on half of the spars and struts.

After a rather difficult year I am happy to report that your museum is healthy, well managed and the staff is making good progress in the long overdue task of sorting out and registering our archives.

Our Director, Jim Swinnich, has put this very important item high up on his list of priorities. Many of our members keep their old flying magazines and other soaring related artifacts in their attics and basements for years. Eventually they or their heirs send it all to Elmira to be preserved in the museum. While some of the artifacts are of questionable historical value, there are often "jewels" hidden in the pile. Their value may not be immediately apparent, therefore every item must be scrutinized and registered, then stored in a protective environment until they can be properly evaluated. We expect that the influx of these private collections will increase dramatically in the next few years as our soaring pioneers reach their golden age.

We are encouraging the donations of private gliders and memorabilia and we hope that we will be able to continue to do so. Unfortunately proper storage is very expensive, and our storage areas are nearly filled to their capacity. (The National Air & Space Museum has similar problems and is no longer accepting private collections of any kind). I am therefore asking those of you who have donated artifacts in the past, and those who are planning to do so, to also consider a generous monetary donation to help us preserve and manage your collections.

My immediate goal for the museum is to provide sufficient operating income so that we can retain and properly compensate our very dedicated staff without worrying about the ups and downs in the general economy. Admissions and counter sales fluctuate with the number of visitors that find their way to Harris Hill. A cold and rainy summer is all it takes to put us in distress. This year we are off to a bad start because a bridge on the main access road to the museum is being replaced, closing the road for several

A Message from NSM President Jan Scott



months. I would like to see sufficient income from endowments to cover day to day expenses, and thus free us from the anxieties that come with these unpredictable income fluctuations. Our Planned Giving Program is a good first step in that direction.

In the long run, we must be prepared to make some changes if we are to prosper. While soaring as a sport is still growing, soaring in large sailplanes, like those most of us are used to, has levelled off at best, while new entrants into the sport are choosing less expensive and less regulated variations such as foot launched gliders and parasails. We must be prepared to include these in our programs sometime in the future.

We will continue to seek cooperation with other air museums and contact airline terminal managers around the country for the purpose of lending our sailplanes for display when appropriate. This frees up precious storage space for us while giving the museum excellent public exposure.

Your museum enjoys a unique and beneficial relationship with several groups and individuals that contribute invaluable support, such as the Chemung County Administration, which owns our building and provides for utilities and maintenance. There is a large and dedicated group of about 50 volunteers, who are providing us with free professional services like legal advise, aircraft restoration and computer programming, just to name a few. Then there is the Harris Hill Soaring Corp. which provides a live soaring operation practically at our doorstep. Their members are assisting us in many ways.

With theirs and your continued support, I am looking forward to a great year for the National Soaring Museum.

Volunteers in Action!

There were 15,000 letters to get out in one week, and with the dedicated efforts of over a dozen volunteers - we did it! It was tedious work, but as each volunteer would agree - it was fun because the NSM staff really knows how to throw a party!



Recognition of Friends of the Museum - Annual Giving 10/1/93 - 12/31/93

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Theodore E. Sharp

Community Soaring Luncheon

Sweet-N-Saucy
Tops Friendly Markets

NSM displays its silver lining

The NSM is celebrating a very special birthday, and we want you to join us on September 23-24, 1994.

It's been 25 years since the SSA designated Harris Hill as the official repository of America's soaring heritage. Back in the beginning we only had some archives, a few models and one lone sailplane. Today we curate the largest collection of sailplanes and gliders in the world - all housed in a modern 28,000 sq. ft. facility.

In honor of this special event, the NSM is combining a couple of our fall events into one big weekend. The **21st**

Annual Ralph S. Barnaby Lecture, featuring sailplane designer/builder Stan Hall, and the **Third Annual Community Soaring Day** (with **KiteCitement**) will join with a special anniversary speaker, Paul B. MacCready, an aviator who sports that innovative spirit from the early soaring days.

Mr. MacCready will discuss the evolution of motorless flight by paralleling nature with the science and technology of soaring and how that can benefit us in the future.

Watch for more details in the next **NSM News** or call (607) 734-3128.

St. Louis tops landmark wish list

Left to right: Charlie Laister and Jack Laister visit the Evolution of Gliders and Sailplanes Exhibit (EOGASE) with Virginia M. Schweizer, Paul A. Schweizer and NSM Executive Director James W. Swinnich.



In recognizing the importance of the National Landmark Program in introducing soaring to the people of the United State, the NSM's Landmark Committee is busy pursuing a goal of one new landmark dedication per year.

The aim in 1994 is to commemorate the Laister-Kaufmann series of training gliders and the CG-10 cargo gliders built during World War II in St. Louis. Jack

Laister is spearheading the efforts to secure a location for the landmark. A Fall 1994 dedication is currently projected.

Future sites for landmark dedication may be in Hawaii and at Point Loma, San Diego, CA.

Landmark Committee chairperson George H. Edwards invites nominations for future landmark sites to be submitted to the committee.

CALENDAR

1994

February 26

SSA Convention
NSM Trustees Meeting
Chicago

May 14

United States Soaring Hall of Fame
Induction & Banquet
NSM Annual Trustees Meeting
NSM

September 23-24

NSM's 25th Anniversary Celebration:
3rd Annual Community Soaring Day
KiteCitement
21st Ralph S. Barnaby
Lecture & Banquet
Harris Hill/NSM

October - November

Every Friday night - Saturday morning
Youth encampment at NSM
NSM

December 2

Community Soaring Luncheon
NSM

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:
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