

KiteCitement brings out the fun in family

It was the best KiteCitement contest the Museum has ever had! As part of the 4th Annual Community Soaring Day on September 16, 1995, the NSM conducted its popular kite contest with over 100 kites taking to the sky.

The weather was better than the previous two years - it didn't rain and there was a brisk breeze. But the big draw this year was the Museum's offer of free kites and string to community children. The kite donation, made possible by a gift from the Elmira-Corning Community Foundation, was first used for Summer Cohesion groups that came to visit the museum.

Several community groups took advantage of the day's kite offer and filled kite-specialist Bill Connors' workshop at 9:00 a.m. at the Museum. Staff, volunteers and KiteCitement judges were all needed in the Edward A. Mooers Community Room to handle the great turnout. First the kids were instructed to place the wooden dowels crosswise on the back of the kite, then tie the string and finally, make colorful and creative tails from cloth



Below, Alexandra and Jacquelyn Longacre of Ithaca treat their parents, Jacob and Elizabeth, to a fun family event.



Above left, Matthew Forrest, 2, of Elmira is thrilled at how high his kite can go.

Left, Frank Giragosian of Elmira takes a break now that his replica of a World War I bomb kite is floating high over Harris Hill.

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pieces.

Connors, who has exhibited kites around the world and won numerous prizes in competition, led the construction process. "They're not a kite until they fly," he said as the kids held up their completed kites. "The flying is the most important thing."

So the next step was heading out to the glider field across from the NSM and putting those kites to the test. Soon the sky was scattered with kites of all sizes and colors, and string crisscross the field.

Families found the sport a great way to get out of doors together. Debbie and Dennis Kelly of Elmira brought their daughters, Rachel, 5, and Megan, 3. As the parents struggled to repair Rachel's kite, Megan took off with hers. Debbie said, "She's having great luck."

Mike Turkasz of Corning spent quite a bit of time un-

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tangling the string for his son, Neal, 6. Leslie White of Horseheads brought her daughter, Michele, 9, and a blue angel kite.

David and Lucy Forrest of Elmira flew kites right along with their four children, Sarah, 14, Peter, 10, Michael, 8 and Matthew, 2.

Bruce and Luann Judd of Vernon take this kite hobby quite seriously. Both of them took prizes in the contest, which is not surprising considering that their family brought a total of 30 kites to the event.

Bruce owns nearly 100 kites. His best friend once gave him a \$10 mylar kite for his birthday. He was excited just that it flew. Since he couldn't afford to keep buying kites, he learned how to make them. He sends out of state for materials and often takes weeks to construct one kite. "He's learning other skills, too, like sewing," Luann says.

The Judds attended a stunt kite



Left, Caroline Weissenbuehler, 8, of Elmira holds tightly onto the string leading to her delta. Caroline took first place in her age category for keeping the kite high above the others despite the strong pull from the wind. Her father, Heinz, said the kite didn't fly well until he attached a small rock to the end of the long, long tail.

Below, left, Bill Gallagher, NSM Curator of Education, holds the kite string while one youngster ties it securely to the kite. Below, right, Bill Connors shows another contestant how to construct the kite. The Edward A Mooers Community Room was filled with children making kites prior to the beginning of judging on the glider field.



competition in Cazenovia, NY where the kite flying was choreographed to music. It was like a ballet, they said. And as far as the kites there - "They are works of art," Bruce says. They are so exquisite that they look like stained glass.

Bruce and Luann's sons, Seth, 5, and Ben, 9, also got pretty serious about the hobby. Luann said Seth's kite was his favorite kite. He flew it in Rochester last spring and got his picture in the newspaper. "It seems to fly good for him," she said.

As the morning drew on, the wind picked up - so much so that the Harris

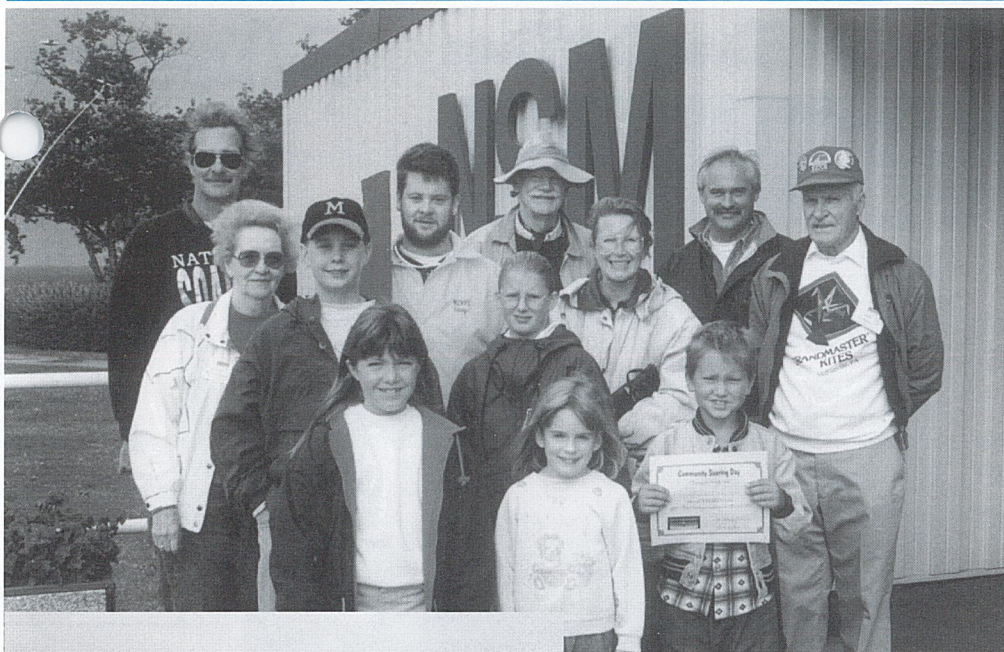
Hill Soaring Corporation couldn't fly their sailplanes, so the relentless kite enthusiasts stayed on the glider field practicing their skills for a couple extra hours.

The Museum raffled off a huge six-train stunt kite (a \$90 value) during the day. The winner, Heather Nowlan of Horseheads, was thrilled. "I'm totally into kites now," she says.

She's been back to the Museum to buy a couple more kites and has her collection up to 15 in number now. It takes two people to get the 12-

stringer kite up. She is planning to get a group of people together to get several of her kites up in the air on the next nice weekend.

Heather even logged onto the World Wide Web one day only to find that the theme was kites. She discovered information on upcoming competitions and shows for kites. She's couldn't believe that her prize has opened her eyes to kite stuff all around her!



Left, the 1995 KiteCitement contest winners were: First row, left to right: (5-10 Year Old Category) Caroline Weissenbuehler, 8, Elmira - 1st place; Rachel Kelly, 5, Elmira - 2nd place; and Jared Berry, 7, Elmira - 3rd place. Second row, left to right: (11-18 Year Old Category) Tim Coon, 13, Elmira - 1st place; and Jessica Ruland, 12, Corning - 2nd place. Third row, left to right: Clara Schaeffler, NSM Judge; Greg Dean, Norwich, 2nd place in the 19-Adult Category; Luann Judd, Vernon, 3rd place in the 19-Adult Category; and Bill Connors, NSM Kite Workshop Leader. Back row, left to right: Bruce Judd, Vernon, 1st place in the 19-Adult Category; Bill Gallagher, NSM Judge; and Bill Schultz, NSM Judge. Not pictured was Margie Hunter, 14, Corning - 3rd place in the 11-18 Year Old Category.



Right, adult category winner Bruce Judd makes his stunt kite sing in the wind as it loops and curls in response to Judd's hand controls.



Above, a man and his grandson brought two handpainted Campbell Soup label kites to Harris Hill but gave this one to the Hunter family. The Hunters, Katie, Jim, Pam and Margie, of Corning, had trouble getting it afloat in the strong wind. They said their benefactor told them the kites had been entered in a contest for the Campbell Soup Company.

Museum Tidbits

George Nuse joins Board

George Nuse of Norcross, GA jumps in with both feet when he finds a new interest! George has assumed Ted Sharp's position as NSM Trustee (see story below) and he hasn't been involved in soaring all that long.

During a meeting in Hawaii about ten years ago, George took a ride in a Schweizer 2-32. Then three years ago in Phoenix there was a lull in the annual meeting of the Sports Car Club of America, so he tried another ride. This time he was hooked. He grabbed a copy of SOARING, found a soaring club in his area and went right out and bought a glider. He admits that's probably a backward approach into the sport.

George co-founded Dynulin Corp., a franchise that reached great success through the 1980's. He has also been a

race car driver and driving instructor. He wants to channel some of his successful energy now to the National Soaring Museum. He has ideas of connecting the NSM more to the Soaring Society of America membership and applying for donations for specific goals.

George was a delight at last July's International Vintage Sailplane Meet as a participant in his Grunau Baby II and as the official gag award presenter. He and his wife, Joyce, have three children, Treacy, Laura and Andrew.

Board bids Ted Sharp farewell

The NSM Board would like to thank Theodore E. Sharp for all his years of service as a trustee. Ted's input will be missed and we wish him well in the future.

Hammond-SSA President

Congratulations to NSM Trustee

E. Gene Hammond who has been elected as President of SSA effective January 1, 1996. This will be Gene's second term as President (first serving 1992-1994). He aspires to renew a relationship with the Air Sports Council, to continue the Gross scholarship program, to work with the FAA involving air space, to work on the NSM/SSA connection and to increase the museum's membership.

NSM makes SOARING cover

A photo overlooking several foreign flags and vintage ships from the roof of the NSM during July's International Vintage Sailplane Meet was featured on the cover of the October issue of SOARING. An article and photos highlighting the IVSM were published inside the magazine. The article and photos were done by Bill & Peg Gallagher, Carla Page, and Jim Swinnich.

Museum Holiday Shop

Sailplane Models

Schweizer 2-32

43-inch wingspan
can be converted to RC

#135.....\$13.95

Diamant

74-inch wingspan 1 3/8 scale

#137.....\$23.99

Cirrus

87 5/16-inch wingspan 6-way

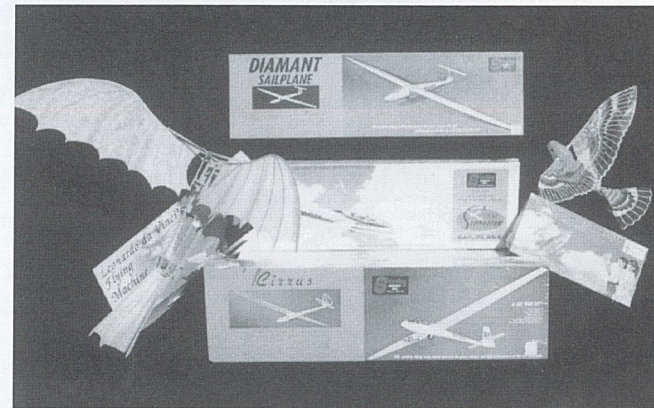
#136.....\$34.99

Flying Robin

#4021.....\$6.00

Leonardo de Vinci's Flying Machine

#1311.....\$14.99

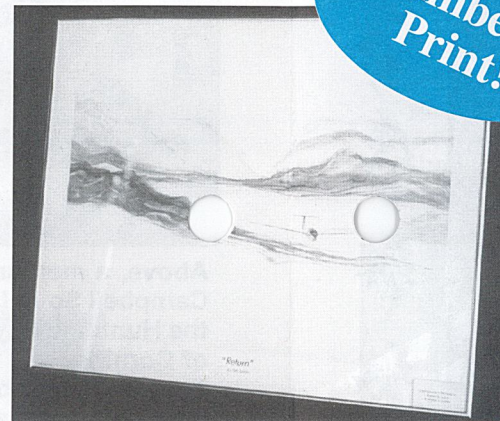


Order your soaring Christmas gifts by mail.

It's quick and easy and it's sure to please that flight enthusiast on your list.

(See order form pg. 6)

Numbered Print!



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#379.....\$35.00

Soaring Capital of America Shirts/Caps



Tees 50/50

Medium-Large-XLarge
Ash - White

#4332.....\$14.50

Tees - Stonewash

100% cotton
Putty tan - Cameo Pink
Large

#434.....\$15.00

Tees - Stonewash

Cameo pink - Putty tan
Heather gum - Terra Cotta
X Large

#434.....\$15.00

Baseball Caps

Cotton/Canvas One Size fits all
Natural - runs large
Gold -Teal - Baby Blue

#487.....\$7.99

Baseball shirts

Large logo on back,
small logo on front
Natural
Medium - Large

#4300.....\$29.00

Sweatshirts 50/50

Medium - Large - XLarge
White

#4291.....\$21.99

Children's Tees

Fuscia - Jade
Sizes 2-4 & 6-8

#488.....\$10.99

Soaring Gifts

Keeper of Flight

#443.....\$29.00

WWII Spotter Cards

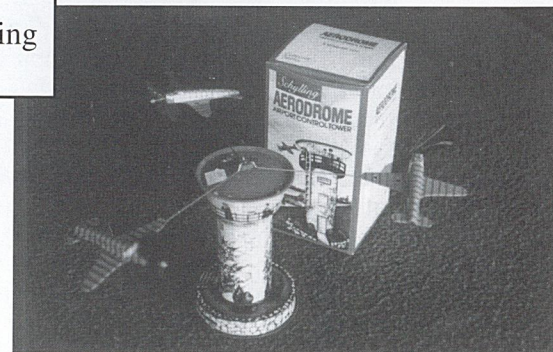
#489.....\$1.99

NSM Pin

#222.....\$4.95

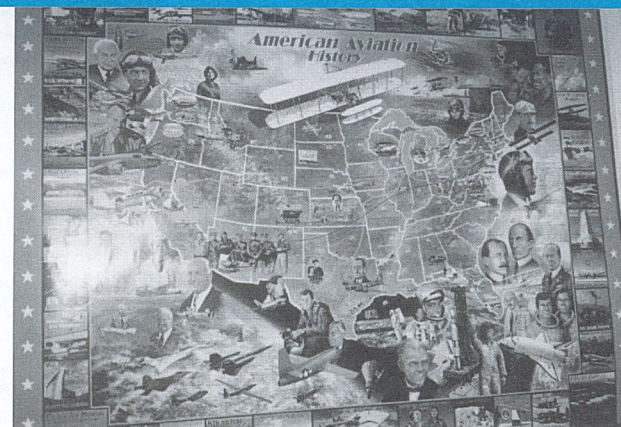
A Keeper of Flight

To join the wild ride
Roping the clouds
Like a cowboy does hide
Breaking the barriers
Reaching for more
Daring to risk
So his spirit can soar
Is it about conquering
The vast, wide sky?
No, it's about conquering
Yourself - Inside.



Aerodrome Windup toy
7-inches high
#4681.....\$15.99

Wall Gifts



Poster - American Aviation History
#309.....\$4.99

Limited quantities on certain items

Museum Holiday Shop Order Form

	Cost	Qty	Price	S/H	Total	Description
Sailplane Models						
Schweizer 2-32	#135 13.95	_____	_____	3.50	_____	
Diamant	#137 23.99	_____	_____	3.50	_____	
Cirrus	#136 34.99	_____	_____	3.50	_____	
Flying Robin	#4021 6.00	_____	_____	3.50	_____	
Leonardo de Vinci	#1311 14.99	_____	_____	3.50	_____	
Shirts/Caps						
Tees 50/50	#4332 14.50	_____	_____		_____	Ash _____ White _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____
Tees - Stonewash	#434 15.00	_____	_____	1-3	_____	Putty _____ Pink _____ (Large) Putty _____ Pink _____ (XL) Heather _____ Terra Cotta _____ (XL)
Baseball Shirts	#4300 29.00	_____	_____		_____	M _____ L _____
Sweatshirts 50/50	#4291 21.99	_____	_____	3.50	_____	M _____ L _____ XL _____
Children's Tees	#488 10.99	_____	_____		_____	Fuscia _____ Jade _____
Baseball Caps	#487 7.99	_____	_____	1-5	_____	2/4 _____ 6/8 _____ Nat'l _____ Gold _____ Teal _____ Blue _____
Gifts						
NSM Pin	#222 4.95	_____	_____	1.00	_____	
Keeper of Flight	#443 29.00	_____	_____	3.50	_____	
WWII Cards	#489 1.99	_____	_____	.50 +	_____	
"Return" PM Janco	#379 35.00	_____	_____	.25/set	_____	
Aviation Poster	#309 4.99	_____	_____	3.50	_____	
Aerodrome Toy	#4681 15.99	_____	_____	3.50	_____	
Books						
How We Invented the Airplane/Wright Brothers	_____	_____	8.25	3.50	_____	
Wings Like Eagles/Schweizer	_____	_____	29.99	5.00	_____	
Soaring With the Schweizers/Schweizer	_____	_____	19.95	3.50	_____	
As I Knew Him/Moore	_____	_____	9.99	3.50	_____	
Amelia Earhart - Lost Legend/Wilson	_____	_____	12.95	3.50	_____	paperback _____
			16.95	3.50	_____	hardcover _____
Joy of Soaring/Conway	_____	_____	18.99	3.50	_____	
Bishops Boys/Crouch	_____	_____	14.95	5.00	_____	
Soaring Pioneers - Barnaby & Klemperer/NSM	_____	_____	3.00	3.50	_____	



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City _____ **State** _____
Zip _____ **Phone** _____

Subtotal _____
Annual Membership _____
Members' 10% discount _____
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Method of Payment

Check _____

Charge:
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Mail this form to: National Soaring Museum, 51 Soaring Hill Dr. Elmira, NY 14903 or fax: 607/732-6745 or phone: 607/734-3128

NSM Gift Memberships
One full year of the Historical Journal, the NSM News, free admission to the Museum, and 10% off Gift Shop purchases. (Purchase a membership for yourself and save immediately on this order!)

_____ **Individual** \$25.00 _____ **Family** \$35.00
_____ **Sustaining** \$100.00 _____ **Sponsor** \$250.00
Other _____

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He's retired a couple times, but the Museum keeps luring him back! This man of wit and knowledge - Bill Gallagher - has returned for a second stint as Curator of Education.

This fascinating man can often be found with a red neckerchief tied inside his collar and five or six rubber bands lined up on his wrist as he pokes through the archives in search of pictorial gems for the Historical Journal (of which he has been editor for the past decade) or just some information on a significant flight that someone has requested by mail.

Bill grew up in south Buffalo amidst a very rich childhood. "We didn't have nickel one, but the toys we had were the things we built ourselves." He remembers scraping up ten cents to go see a matinee, and then he and his friends made cardboard helmets to play their own Crusades or the three musketeers or whatever was popular at the time. "We had this fantastic interplay," he says.

He attended a parochial school - kind of like the Marine Corps. "You learned or you died!" But in 8th grade came his life's turning point in Sister Mary Rosarie - "She didn't do anything unless it had vitality to it." He says she is the one that

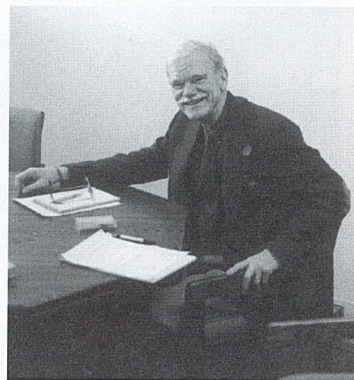
taught him a zest for learning. "I cannot think of a subject someone would bring up that I wouldn't be interested in."

World War II offered a backdrop for Bill's high school years. All the guys yearned to get into the air corps, but Bill couldn't pass the physical! So he earned letters in swimming and track and ushered at the local theater. He still recalls the dialogue from the movie, "Casablanca" and seeing great stars like Betty Grable and bands like Glenn Miller.

He finally wound up in the Navy in 1943. "I was very lucky," he says. "I never got shot at (by the enemy anyway!)"

He earned an advertising degree from Kent State and started a masters program in education from Elmira College.

After the war his father had moved to Elmira, so Bill settled down to work for the Gannett newspaper here and met Peg, his beautiful wife of 46 years. The two



Bill Gallagher

set off on a life-time adventure beginning with a converted lifeboat which they took down the Ohio River for four months. When Bill's mom became ill, they got serious and returned to the Star Gazette, Bill in the advertising department and

Peg in the editorial section.

Following Bill's retirement from the press in 1984 he dabbled in substitute teaching. He and Peg were also bitten by the soaring bug.

"I wanted to fly since I was in high school," Bill says. He and Peg both had their commercial licenses and took up soaring together. "I liked the people and the indescribable sensation of being in an environmentally clean sail-plane. Finding a thermal and going up is addictive," he says. "Why, I even liked dragging the things out on the flight line."

The Gallaghers spent most weekends on Harris Hill. Bill learned to fly from such masters as Dale Gustin, Heinz Weissenbuehler Sr., Roy McMaster, Floyd Ross and John (Corky) Gill. "We were never going to be competition pilots," Bill says of he and Peg. "We just did it for fun."

Then he met Shirley Sliwa. She was Director of the National Soaring Museum and looking for curatorial help. "Shirley was absolutely the best boss I'd ever worked for - she had great flair, sensitivity and great humor."

When Bill first came aboard the Museum was only half the size it is today. "I thought I had died and gone to heaven," he says. It was the best job he had ever had - like going to work and playing in an adult toybox with new toys coming in all the time."

He exuded excitement in every aspect of the job. One day as he worked at the lobby counter, a fellow in bib overalls came in

STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Recognition of Friends of the Museum

Annual Giving 8/1/95 - 10/20/95

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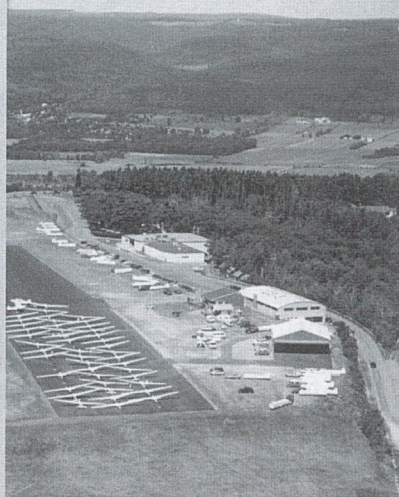
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clutching a cigar box - a donation of a logbook of two combat glider operations. The man had won two air medals and told amazing stories about the invasion of Southern France. The pilot covered much more detail than the records in the Museum. Bill also met a man who had flown on the China Clipper. He says "everybody has a story to tell, and some don't even realize it."

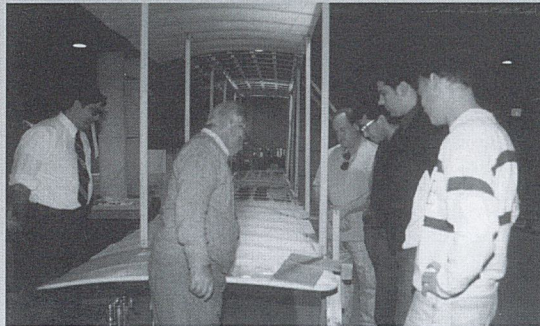
Bill retired from the NSM in 1990 so he and Peg could travel. They had already had some wild traveling adventures - like being hijacked to Cuba in 1969. Things weren't about to change, either. They were robbed on a Mexican vacation a couple years ago. They have visited other places like Holland, Italy and Portugal without event.

And now Bill is back - assisting with archival requests and encampment workshops. "It's worth working just to associate with and listen to some of the experiences of Paul (Schweizer) and Frank (Hurt) and Dick (Kurzenberger)." He sees an exciting future for the Museum. "We're on the verge of a groundswell of expanding public interest in motorless flight," he says. "In a search for our roots, the beginning of soaring is intermingled with Americana and the evolution of flight itself."

Yes, Bill has studied and listened to the soaring legends, but we all feel he's a legend in his own right. It's great to have him back!



Above, a view of the starting grid at the August Region III contest at Harris Hill. The Harris Hill Soaring Corporation set up operations for the meet in the Museum's Gross Sky Ghost classroom. Below, Kevin Kochersberger, professor from Rochester Institute of Technology, visits NSM with three of his students, Matthew Lyon, Peter Karpinski and Gerald Guadagno. They are going to build a full size replica of the Chanute 1896 glider this winter with plans to fly it in the spring and then give the object to the Museum to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the glider. Right, Charlie Spratt holds the Warren E. Eaton trophy awarded him earlier this year.

**CALENDAR****1995****December 1****Community Soaring Luncheon***Noon**NSM's Edward A. Mooers Community Room***February 29 - March 2, 1996****Soaring Society of America
Annual Convention***Huntsville, AL***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**, Harris Hill, 51 Soaring Hill Drive, Elmira, NY 14903 607/734-3128 FAX: 607/732-6745.

**NSM**

NATIONAL SOARING MUSEUM

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