

NEWS

Newsletter
of the
NATIONAL
SOARING
MUSEUM

National Soaring Museum



Winter 1996

Vol. 6 No. 1

Hands-on computers come to NSM

The NSM invites you to join our new interactive world. The first part of a three-phase computer exhibit is ready for visitors to use.

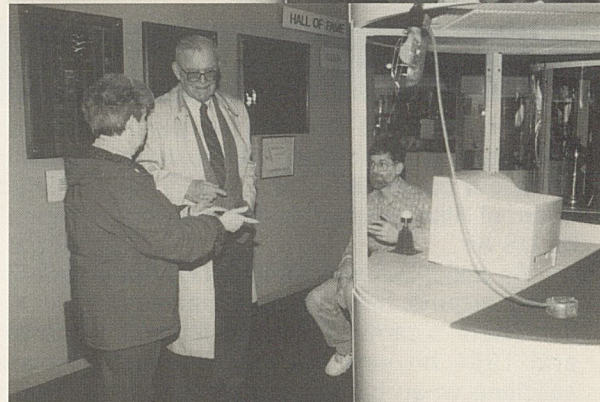
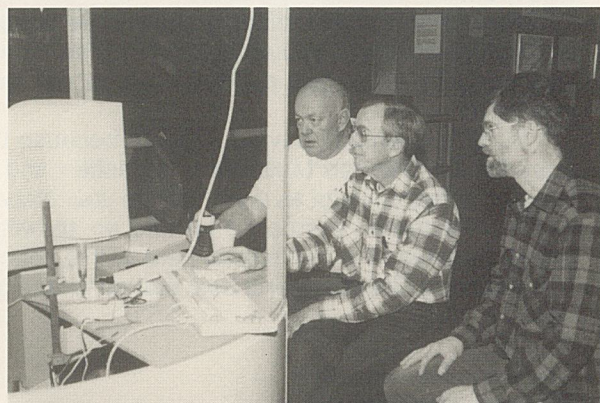
Now both children and those who yearn to soar can pilot a sailplane on a computer screen and try their luck at landing the ship. The visitor can enjoy the scenery just as if he were in an actual sailplane - but with his feet firmly planted on the museum floor. He has total control of the joystick and each

turn of the sailplane. Now, can he land this bird? Every five minutes another successful pilot emerges from the kiosk.

This new exhibit has been designed by Alan Jackson and his company, Lightform, of Melrose, NY. Funded by the Corning Foundation and former NSM President Lee Robbins, this exhibit is expected to launch the museum into the



Alan Jackson tests the steel constructed joystick on the new computer exhibit.



Top: Lobby staffperson Ted Burris, left, and volunteer Ralph Miller, center, are guided by Alan Jackson's instructions to set up the sailplane simulated landing. Bottom: Alan Jackson, right, discusses the new exhibit with Paul A. Schweizer, center, and Mary Flaspahler, Director of Museum Services, left.

21st century of exhibitry - displays that require

visitors to touch them.

Jackson worked on this project for several months. He never imagined it would be so complicated to bring five or six pieces of software together to produce this program. He is extremely pleased at its ability to realistically land a sailplane. He also spent hours developing an "unbreakable" steel

(Continued on Page 4)

Inside this issue:

Community Soaring Luncheon draws a crowd...pg 3

New trustees join the NSM.. pg 5

Museum celebrates 100 years of Lilienthal

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Otto Lilienthal and Octave Chanute, two early soaring pioneers, the National Soaring Museum is hosting an exciting exhibit this spring and summer from Germany.

Opening Friday, April 12, will be a collection of 15 impressive large-format photographs by Angelika von Stocki, a famous German art

photographer whose work has been shown in Munich, Budapest, Israel, Berlin, Spain and Austria. Entitled **Imaginations about Icarus: Homage to Otto Lilienthal**, the exhibit's first stop in the United States will be at the International Fotofest at the Goethe-Institute in Houston, Texas in March.

Von Stocki creates photographic visions in a fascinating series of images as a tribute to the aviation pioneer and

his spirit. The exhibit tells the story of flying, humanity's constantly recurring dream of freedom and the conquest of nature.

Lilienthal, an engineer and machine tool manufacturer from Berlin, has been regarded as the forefather of all hang-glider and soaring glider pilots. During the 19th Century he used the most scientific approach to man's effort to fly. When the pioneer's failed landing on (Continued on Page 4)

Letters...

The following is a letter written in December 1995 to Jan Scott, then President of the National Soaring Museum, regarding the International Vintage Soaring Meet held in Elmira last July. The writer, Klaus Heyn, is Germany's foremost sailplane historian, restorer and replica builder. He donated a rare very-early variometer to the NSM while he was in Elmira last summer.

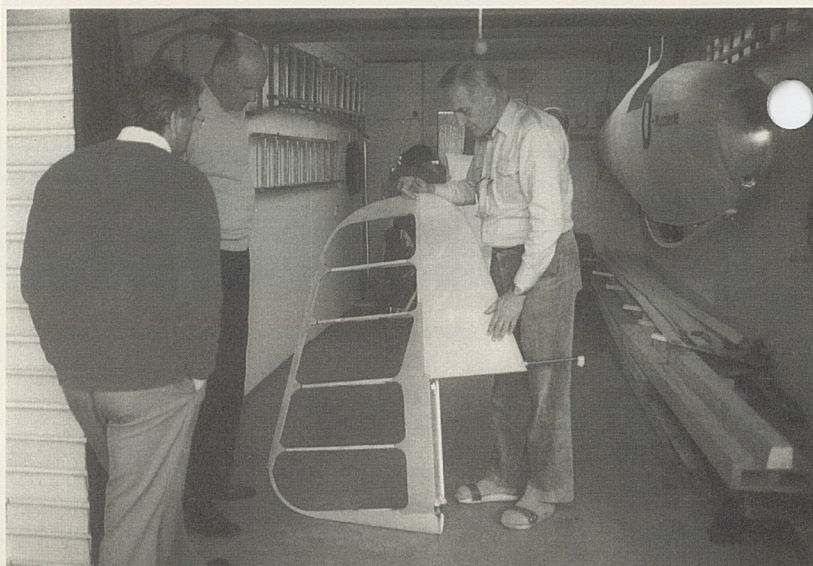
Dear Jan:

Very often we remember gratefully the beautiful and happy days with you on Harris Hill. The meeting was perfectly organized and we have to say thank you for all.

As time goes on I have a lot to do because I am busy for the German Museum in Munchen and the Wasserkuppemuseum as well. Visiting your National Soaring Museum I learned a lot and so something will be transfused to exhibitions here in this country.

Season's Greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

Klaus and Renate Heyn
Stuttgart, Germany



APRIL 1995, SCHLIERBACH, GERMANY: Klaus Heyn shows his "Musterle" replica to Jorg Ziller and Jan Scott. This replica is similar to the one in which Wolf Hirth made some impressive soaring flights in Elmira in 1930, and a sensational flight over New York City in 1931.

Meet the new NSM President

The National Soaring Museum welcomed a new Board of Trustees President on January 1st - Jeffery G. Byard of Atascadero, CA. Jeff is a pilot for US Air.

As a kid, Jeff was intrigued by the flying around him. He had already decided on a career at age ten. In 1958 and 1964 he saw his first Bowlus sailplane when his father took him to glider meets, and he knew then and there that was his future.

He began soaring at age 14 when a National Geographic special on Walt Disney announced that 14-year-olds could learn to fly gliders. This determined youngster went directly to the source and wrote a letter to Schweizer Aircraft Corporation.

"I grew up reading about those people, and now I work with them," he says. Today he marvels at knowing Paul A. Schweizer, Floyd Sweet and Vic Saudek, the latter who knew Orville Wright. Jeff says his love of flight has helped him to meet three of the men who walked on the moon and a man who learned to fly from Glenn Curtiss himself.

A child's dreams can come true with the kind of ambition Jeff displayed. He soloed in a power plane at age 16 and earned his license at the minimum age. He went on to work for a Piper Aircraft dealer all through high school and acquired an aeronautical engineering

degree from California Poly-Tech, while working as a mechanic and flight instructor. He became a co-pilot for Swift Airlines, then worked for several other airlines before landing his current job at US Air.

With his education behind him, Jeff started flying gliders again in 1977-78. He earned his Diamond C after 22 years. "That was pretty special," he says.

Jeff's first visit to the NSM was in search of information on the Schweizer TG-2 which he started restoring in 1982. The completed ship was a beauty and won the Frank Gross award. It was on display at the NSM for the year preceding last July's IVSM'95. Next he started work on a Bowlus Baby Albatross, remembering fondly the ship that had taken his eye as a child. He completed it in time for the IVSM'95, but a severe windstorm caused some damage during the cross country trip preventing its entry in the international event. He says his next restoration project will be a power plane.

Jeff now owns seven gliders and two power planes. He has a hangar in Tehachapi, CA at a private airport. It's a busy place with four or five clubs meeting there and is the home of the popular Dust Devil Dash," a one-day contest that Jeff enjoys flying in.

Besides flying and restoration Jeff has also gotten involved in soaring-



Jeffery G. Byard

related publications. He became editor of the Sailplane Homebuilders' newsletter, **Bungee Cord**, a couple years ago, and he particularly enjoys putting that together. He was President of the Sailplane Homebuilders Association in 1980-81, and the group still meets at his hangar.

As President of the NSM, Jeff is already planning for IVSM-2000. "Five years is a good time span," he says. "We'll do it bigger and better - and get a lot more people from Europe." He would also like the NSM to work closer with SSA and to see the Primary Glider mounted on a tripod for hands-on use by encampment groups.

Jeff is very interested in kids particularly kids who have a love for flying, as he did at their age. He's always willing to help them attain their soaring goals.

NSM thanks volunteers & community for a job well done

Over 100 people from the ranks of the NSM volunteers and the community attended the annual Community Soaring Luncheon on Dec. 1, 1995. Special honorees this year were Mary Lou Peterson and Dale Gustin.

Mary Lou's work in the office is invaluable as she updates the membership records on the computer database weekly. Dale is available for just about any job in restoration - from moving sailplanes to helping build ribs during encampments. "When you work with the staff here and people like (Dick) Kurzenberger, it's got to be fun," Dale said as he received his certificate.

Nick McKinney spoke for the Harris Hill Soaring Corporation in thanking Paul A. Schweizer and the people on the IVSM'95 committee for a great event last summer. He praised the support of the NSM and Chemung County in helping attract tourists to Harris Hill, in particular the newly paved runway and their



NSM Trustee Paul H. Schweizer, left, with NY State Assemblyman George Winner, center, and former NY State Senator William Smith, right.



Above, the 1995 volunteer honorees, seated, are Mary Lou Peterson and Dale Gustin. Standing behind them are, left to right, NSM Trustees Paul H. Schweizer, Nelson Mooers van den Blink, John Hintz, Linn Buell, and Paul A. Schweizer.

outstanding new maintenance building.

NSM Trustee Robert Wright spoke on behalf of Chemung County. He praised the support of the county legislature in preparing Harris Hill for IVSM'95. He said there have been a lot of compliments on the runway paving, and the new fence between the runway and the NSM. The fence had not been replaced since 1938. He said next summer they will be upgrading the heat and air conditioning system in the museum's building to a more efficient and reliable process.

NSM Executive Director James Swinnich next highlighted the milestones of the past year for the museum. These included Elmira Eileen Collins piloting the space shuttle, Bill Schweizer's publishing a new book, the 4th annual Community Soaring Day being a great success with 100 kites and 500 people, the donation of a two-place Baby Bowlus to NSM and, most of all, the spectacular IVSM'95 drawing 5,000 people from all parts of the world.

During 1995, additional new volunteers from the Corning Classic LPGA volunteer list, were crucial to accomplishing the ten-day IVSM'95 international event.

Guests at the luncheon were treated to the traditional NSM chili and holiday decor. This event provides the one opportunity for the NSM staff to thank its many volunteers for all the jobs they do at the museum during the year.



William Schweizer signs his new book, *The Ageless Ag-Cat*, in the lobby for customers before the luncheon began.



Gathering after the program were Larry Creighton, Paul A. Schweizer, and Vivian and Lee Robbins.

Lilienthal - continued from page 1

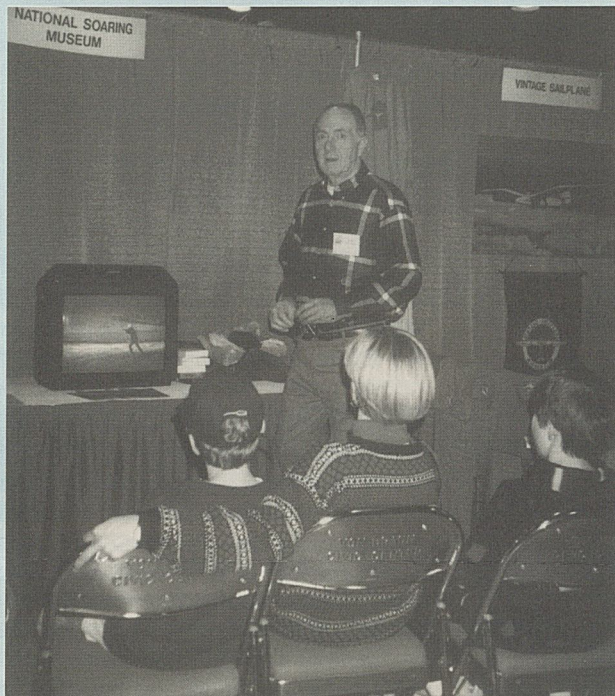
August 9, 1896 proved fatal, the Wright Brothers continued where he had left off.

Octave Chanute, the famous structural engineer who tried to design a flyable glider, also advised the Wright Brothers. He suggested the biplane design and proposed the best location for flying gliders as the coastal region of the

Carolinas. His earliest success was founded on the Sand Dune Hills in Indiana in 1896. (See story on page 8 regarding the NSM's recognition of the Chanute anniversary.)

Ms. von Stocki will be at the NSM on Friday, April 12 for a reception from 6:00-7:00 p.m. to launch the exhibit in Elmira. It will remain on display into September 1996.

The Museum educates outside its walls in March



Left, Gordon Flaspahler stands at the front of the National Soaring Museum video exhibit at the Soaring Society of America Convention held in Huntsville, AL on February 29- March 2, 1996.

Right, Volunteer Coordinator Tom Welles, right, and volunteer Tom Brownell, left, demonstrate the art of aerogami at the NSM booth March 2, 1996 at the Arnot Mall in conjunction with other area museums in a "Think With Arts" campaign.



Hands-on computers - continued from page 1

joystick to withstand the general public's use.

The young designer became interested in museum exhibits after seeing a laser show at the University of Rochester in the late 1970's. He then created a three dimensional model of an atom that was featured at the New York Hall of Science in Queens, the Expo '92 in Spain, and in Switzerland. Later, he developed a touch-screen computer program in South Carolina on the educational aspects of atoms and waves.

He thinks interactive exhibits are the way to lead children into learning. "I think that's what's missing in museums," he said. "We have to sell the idea of learning. This is a job of museums - to provide a conduit where children are led by their own desires."

The second phase of the NSM's exhibit will be a computer that allows visitors to design their own sailplane. They will choose parts from four different categories - fuselage, wing,

tail and weight. When they finish they will be able to test-fly it on the screen and to print it out.

The final segment of the exhibit will be a database of information on soaring personalities and sailplanes. Visitors will type in a name in order to learn what sailplanes that person has designed, his contributions to soaring, when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame, etc.

Jackson said he was terrible at landing the computer-simulated sailplane at first. "It took me hours to learn to land," Then he simplified the procedure for the average museum visitor. He says the program is flexible to add details such as age and skill levels in the future.

"I believe that when education is done right, it can be thrilling and fun and wonderful," Jackson says. And since education is what the NSM is all about, this 'video game' exhibit is a sign of the times - mixing kids with learning.

The Museum welcomes two new trustees to its board

The coming of 1996 brings several changes to the NSM Board of Trustees. Leaving the board are **John C. Lincoln II**, who served as President from 1989-1991 and **Fred Molter**, a county-appointed trustee since 1981. The NSM thanks both John and Fred for their many years of service as trustees.

Joining the board is **John (Corky) Gill**, an Elmira native who worked for Schweizer Aircraft Corporation during high school, and, after the service, until his retirement last year.

"Aviation has been my whole life," Corky says. He was only 13 years old when he got involved in soaring. He remembers doing a lot of work for the soaring club back when they didn't even own a sailplane.

Corky spent 21 years in the Air Force as a member of the Air Force Thunderbirds in the maintenance department. He traveled all over the world. He came back to Elmira and Schweizer Aircraft in the early 70's and started flying in national and regional sailplane contests. He won a regional 1976.

He originated the Harris Hill Cross Country contest ten years ago and has promoted various wave camps. He has worked in maintenance at Harris Hill Soaring Corporation for years, has been a member of their board and has held numerous ground schools.

Now that Corky is retired, he is traveling again - but it's soaring connected now. This year he competed in the seniors contest in Florida and plans to fly in the 15-meter Nationals in Pennsylvania and the Region III in Dansville, NY. He placed seventh in the Region III held at Harris Hill in August

1995 out of more than 40 contestants.

Corky's first sailplane was a K6-E which was a "joy to fly." He now owns an ASW-20 which he finds easy and enjoyable to fly.

As a trustee, Corky is enthusiastic with ideas. He would like to see the NSM have a flying sailplane - preferably a two-place. It could be used at vintage meets for demonstration flights and could promote the museum.

Corky says the competition soaring pilots are only a small group of the entire Soaring Society of America, but they're still the core. They have a big influence on all the members of SSA and are what really promotes soaring, he says.

Also joining the Board this year is **Richard A. Horstmann**, another name that is no stranger to the aviation field in this area. Richard is the manager of the Elmira-Corning Regional Airport.

He became hooked when his father took him on an airplane ride at eight years old. Today he is a pilot with over 350 hours, has coordinated \$26 million worth of funds to improve the local airport, helped produce the last three airshows and presided over 130 airports in New York as President of the NY Airport Managers Association.

Richard received his degree in air commerce/transportation technology in just three years at the Florida Institute of Technology. He worked as an airport lineman through school. He went on to coordinate airport operations at Teterboro, NJ and assist in the operation of the Adirondack Airport during the 1980 Winter Olympics.

During the early 1980's he represented over 700 airports on the

federal level at the Airport Council International of North America in Washington D.C. He worked in the areas of airport security and environmental affairs. He came to Elmira in 1984 where he feels his main accomplishment has been "building the airport as the gateway into the community."

Richard says it's fun working with the people of this community and having a wide variety of responsibilities. "Marketing and selling the airport" is a major goal. To do this he has brought in various events. The airport held a dynamic fireworks display in 1995 that drew thousands of spectators. That event will be repeated and a 5K Run across the airport will be implemented. He is also planning to hold "suitcase parties" and a travel trade show. The goal is to "bring to the attention of the local community what the airport has to offer." he says.

He plans to transplant this same philosophy to his new job as NSM trustee. "The main thing I find here is if you don't create an event, people won't come." He says the IVSM '95 was a terrific event last summer for the museum. "We need an annual event of some kind that brings people to the museum" - similar to the successful KiteCitement contest during the Annual Community Soaring Day in September.

Richard says he can also offer his marketing experience to the NSM. "If there's any possible funding available, I can find out where it would be and pursue it." He agrees with other board members that the main issue is to expand membership and the museum's visibility in the community and the country.

Soaring is a focal point for this community regarding aviation, Richard says. He has thoroughly enjoyed his own sailplane adventures over Harris Hill. "Flying a sailplane is definitely the true form of flying," he says. He enjoys putting his skills to the test and flying in a small area where he can view the sights on the ground.

Richard is married to Pamela and lives in Big Flats with his children Sarah and Catherine.

Welcome, both Corky and Richard to the NSM Board!

Hall of Fame induction set for May 4

The annual United States Soaring Hall of Fame will be holding its induction ceremony and banquet on Saturday, May 4, 1996 at the National Soaring Museum. Inducted will be Frank R. Gross and Edgar D. Seymour.

Frank Gross is well known at the museum for his efforts to create youth scholarships to promote soaring in the new generation. He is also currently the featured designer/builder in the museum's annual series of exhibits. His Gross Sky Ghost is hung from the ceiling and a restored Baker-McMillan

Cadet II is positioned nearby on the floor. A wall of photos highlights his contributions to soaring.

Edgar Seymour is a member of the Rochester (NY) Soaring Club and has led numerous pilot's ground schools at the National Soaring Museum.

The Soaring Hall of Fame will begin with a reception at 6:00 p.m. followed by the banquet at 7:00 p.m. and the program at 8:00 p.m. Cost for the event is \$28. Reservations can be made by calling the museum at 607-734-3128.

She's a dynamo all neatly packaged into one bright bubbly lady. This is the NSM's Gift Shop Manager, Dianne Storch, the smiling face that greets many of the museum's visitors as they step inside the lobby.

Dianne has quite a knack for arranging kites enticingly in the shop, for decorating tables for banquet events, and for whipping up something delicious in the kitchen, and, especially, for making out-of-town visitors feel welcome.

She will pull out brochures and direct visitors to other attractions after their NSM visit or set them up at a cozy bed and breakfast for the night. The NSM has received numerous telephone calls thanking "the lady in the lobby" for the "wonderful accommodations" she had recommended. Once Dianne even went so far as to locate a dentist for an ailing traveler. The guest returned the next day with a box of chocolates for her efforts.

"It's fun to make people happy and enjoy their experience here," Dianne says. Meeting visitors is her favorite part of the job. But during the long quiet weeks of winter, she's still thinking of the visitors as she pores through merchandise catalogs planning to order just the right gift items for the upcoming tourist season. She always seems to have a handle on what the customer will fancy.

Maybe one reason Dianne knows the trends so well is that she is an avid sale shopper. She'll watch a \$60 Christmas sweater work its way to \$30 and then snap it up in February when it's slashed to half price again. "I'm a die-hard junker, too," she admits. Springtime will find her combing the yard sales for treasures.

Fortunately, when Dianne gets all these odd items back home, she also has a talent for decorating them in creative ways. An oval glass dish with holes becomes a floating candle. A plain box gets sanded and stenciled or an ordinary glass jar gets filled with buttons and transformed into a lamp.

Dianne says both of her parents were artistic. They painted, and today

her father still does ceramic and woodworking as a trade. In high school, she was always the one in charge of decorating for proms. The committee would select the theme and Dianne would supply the ideas.

Dianne met her husband, Dale, when she was only 16, and the two still fit together like a hand and glove. The couple started out farming. Dianne helped him raise cows and horses. A few years later they had son, Drew, and daughter, Missy. As the children grew, Dianne took on waitressing jobs and worked in the school kitchen.

When Missy started working for the National Soaring Museum during high school greeting visitors in the lobby, Dianne began volunteering - mostly cooking for events. During the Building Expansion in the late 1980's, Missy had moved on to the NSM office, so her mom took over in the lobby.

Dianne attended a seminar to discover her aptitudes. The results indicated her work should be artistic, historical and deal with people, and this NSM job offers her all three.

She is a vibrant docent guide for groups visiting the museum. She particularly likes touring school children and seniors. And although she was nervous at first about leading a handicapped group, she really enjoyed talking to them because they were so excited about the museum and required a more relaxed, slow-moving tour.

When Dale became county caretaker for Harris Hill park, the family moved into the house right next door to the museum. During her 20 years on the hill, Dianne always stood guard to see that the NSM was secure.

From next door Dianne watched numerous changes to Harris Hill including a new swimming pool, the building of the Harris Hill flight center and two additions to the museum. "It's a popular place for families to come," she says.

Her favorite part of



Dianne Storch

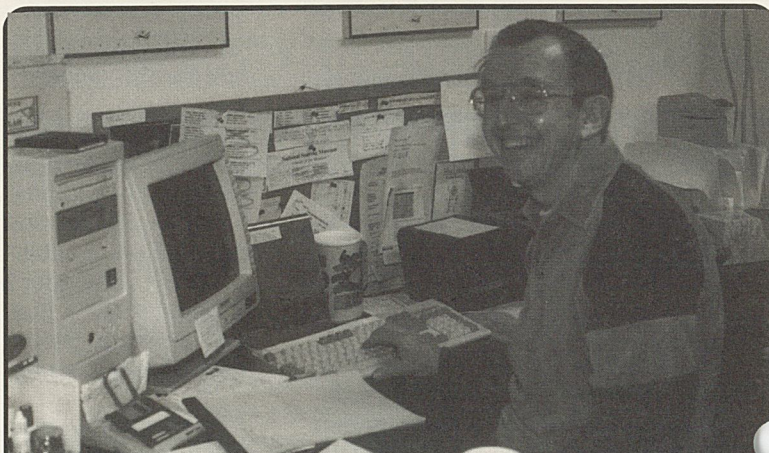
living on the hill were the sunsets because they lingered until 9:30-10:00 at night. "They've got to be one of the best sunsets in the world," she says.

Dianne has turned the NSM Gift Shop into a success story in a few short years. She says they didn't even carry 100 items when she started. In 1991 the gift counter was remodeled to take in a whole wall and portion of floor space for displays.

"We've increased tenfold in the merchandise we carry and the amount of display space we have." And sales rocketed. She says T-shirts, hats, kites and jewelry are the best sellers.

She would still like to see the gift shop in a room of its own, separate from the lobby. But the bottom line is how much more money the gift shop has taken in. Current figures are higher than both 1993 and 1994.

Dianne is a great cheerleader for the NSM - drop in and see her!



NSM volunteer Ralph Miller recently put the final touches on upgrading the office computer system for the NSM News editor. The new equipment is complete with CD-ROM and internal fax modem thanks to donations from trustees Jan Scott and Linn Buell.

Recognition of Friends of the Museum

Annual Giving 10/21/95 - 12/31/95

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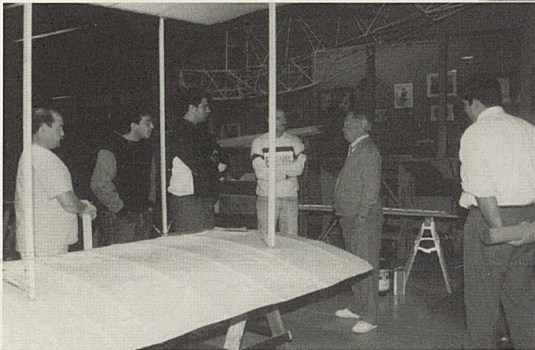
R.I.T. students build replica

A group of students at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Rochester, NY, are busy at work building a full-size replica of the 1896 Chanute bi-plane glider.

Under the direction of professor Kevin Kochersberger, the class is spending 10 weeks of their school year building this replica with the hopes that it can be flown as a kite this year. Plans are to take the glider to the Northern Indiana Dunes National Landmark Dedication on July 27, 1996. The students want to see how it flies along the southern shore of Lake Michigan, the same site



Above, John Lanzoni, left, and Matthew Lyon, right, work on the wings ribs for the Chanute glider in Rochester.



Left, Dick Kurzenberger and James Swinnich talk to RIT students Matthew Lyon, Peter Karpinski and Gerald Guadagno and professor Kevin Kochersberger.

Chanute's crew made their contributions 100 years ago to the Wright Brothers' realization of powered controlled flight. The glider will then be donated to the NSM for use in their Lilienthal-Chanute 100th Anniversary Exhibit.

The RIT group visited the NSM last fall and spoke with Paul A.

Schweizer and NSM Restorationist Richard Kurzenberger. Dick showed them how to stretch fabric over wing ribs on the 1902 Wright Glider replica being assembled in the museum's restoration shop. On a second visit in February the students received a tour of the Schweizer Aircraft Corporation plant.

CALENDAR

April 27, 1996

Point Loma National Landmark Dedication
Point Loma, CA

May 4, 1996

Annual U.S. Soaring Hall of Fame Induction/Banquet & Annual Trustee Meeting
NSM

July 27, 1996

N. Indiana Dunes National Landmark Dedication - Tom Crouch, speaker
N. Indiana

September 21, 1996

5th Annual Community Soaring Day
NSM/Harris Hill

September 28-29, 1996

New York State International Airshow
Elmira-Corning Regional Airport

December 6, 1996

Community Soaring Luncheon
NSM

December 8, 1996

24th Annual Ralph S. Barnaby Lecture/Banquet O'ahu, HI National Landmark Dedication
Hawaii

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