

Community Soaring Luncheon honors three

Festive Christmas decorations decked the halls of the Museum for the annual Community Soaring Luncheon held here December 6, 1996. Over 100 people attended including Chemung County Executive Thomas J. Tranter, Jr.; New York State Senator John "Randy" Kuhl; former Senator William Smith, and National Warplane Museum representative James Grimm.

Held to honor the most active volunteers of the year, the 1996 luncheon highlighted Erwin Jones, Ralph Miller and Clara Schaeffler.

Jones volunteers in restoration projects, events such as the airshow and KiteCitement and on youth encampment weekends. NSM Restorationist Dick Kurzenberger introduced him as a sailplane pilot and builder. Currently working on the Wolf sailplane restoration, Jones' workmanship is meticulous and he'll be the one to make the ship airworthy, Kurzenberger said.

NSM News Editor Carla Page presented Miller with his certificate for his unending hours of computer work. Besides being on call to attend to any computer glitches in the NSM offices, in 1996 Miller spent hours creating the Museum's new Web page format and dealing with Internet servers.

Volunteer Coordinator Tom Welles introduced Schaeffler as one volunteer on whom he can call for any event or project. However, as she volunteers in so many different realms it is hard to find her with free time. She has worked in the NSM archives, prepared meals for events, assisted with mailings, and



Top, NSM Director of Museum Services Mary Flaspahler stands with 1996 honorees Ralph Miller, Clara Schaeffler, and Erwin Jones. Bottom, the crowd of over 100 museum volunteers and community members enjoyed the usual luncheon ritual of chili, sandwiches and cookies.

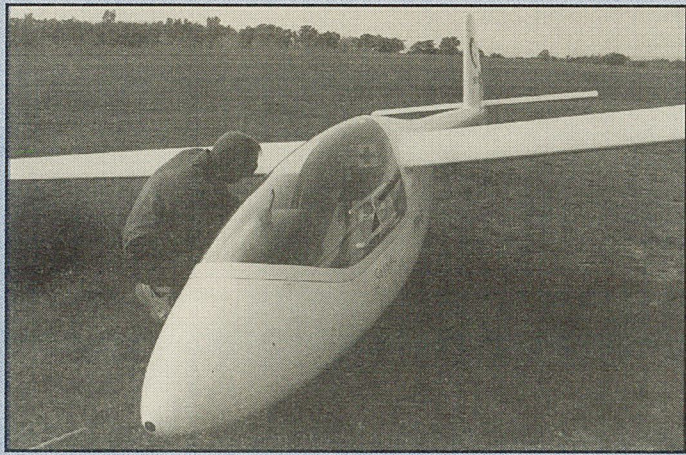
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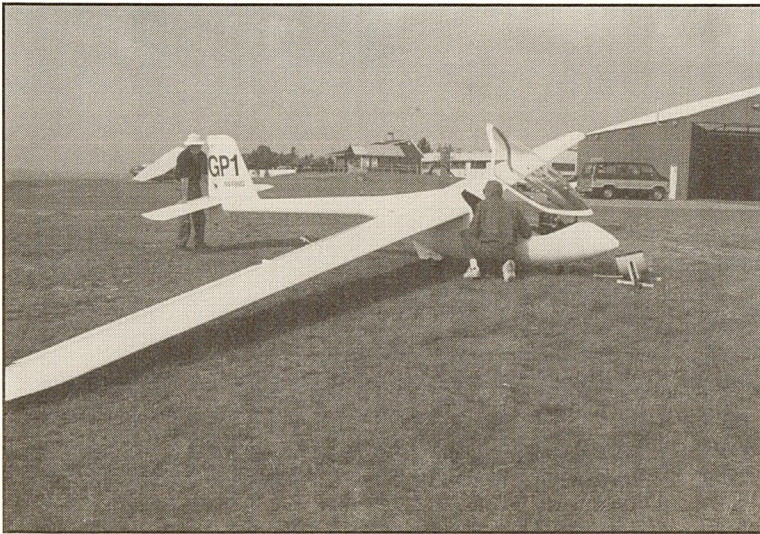
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Beautiful weather for KiteCitement

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World Class aims at 'growing soaring'



Gary Peterson assembles his PW-5 for a test flight on Harris Hill.

The World Class Soaring Association (WCSA) wants to show the world that ordinary people can enjoy soaring, too. That was the main purpose of organizing the group a couple years ago and planning production of a typical glider - the PW-5, a low-cost, one-design glider that pilots could compete in without ship advantages. WCSA President David Habercom said, "We're trying to grow soaring."

The group is already making great strides in accomplishing that goal. Meeting at the NSM October 18-19, the four members who at that time owned the only PW-5's in the U.S. were all in attendance. Three of them brought their ships for test flights. A dozen more PW-5's were expected in the country in November and six planned for early 1997.

Habercom expects 30 or more PW-5's to be ready to enter the first contest, World Glide '97, next summer. The winner of that contest will go on to compete in the World Air Games in Turkey in September 1997. That will be the first World Class Competition.

"The World Class will be the largest class in the history of soaring," Habercom said. Six months ago people on the Internet said the PW-5 had a funny square tail and would never work. Now everyone who owns one of the sailplanes says it's a great glider. Habercom said that within four years there will be 230 of these gliders around the world.

The PW-5 is currently produced in Poland. There were 85 manufactured by the end of 1996 and 160 planned for 1997. The gliders are being sent to the U.S., New Zealand, Brazil, Europe, and Indonesia. Habercom announced that Apecks in Atlanta, GA, will begin production of the PW-5 in the second half of 1997. There are three other manufacturers on three continents who are also very interested in making the ship.

One of the challenges of the PW-5 is

finding a trailer for it. Apecks President Ed Neffinger is building a prototype trailer design and plans to offer the sailplane/trailer package.

The WCSA has grown to about

130 members from 12 different countries. At the October meeting 14 members gathered from the U.S. and Canada. Three other countries joined in over the Internet (*see accompanying article on page 3*). They discussed several money-making ideas. Habercom announced that they already have one corporate sponsor, the Scandinavia Airlines System. He said they need to collect demographics at contests so they can market that audience to companies.

Other ideas included sponsoring a video, conducting a silent airshow, and tying in with the Internet. Russ McNerny of Phoenix, AZ, said, "We're going to become the Olympic glider of the future - that will increase the salability of a market for corporate sponsors."

Education was another aspect the WCSA considered. "We need to get the concept of gliders in front of kids," Habercom said. Word problems in K-12 math and science programs could use gliders as examples instead of the usual cars, trains and airplanes. That way children would

begin to think of gliders as something that ordinary people use. Other thoughts included model construction in elementary school, building full-sized gliders in senior high and sending speakers into the classroom to discuss soaring and meteorology.

Habercom suggested the idea of a U.S. National Training Center with a three-season program to bring pilots through their licenses to aerobatics. "The World Class Soaring Association is dedicated to changing things - to grow soaring," he said.

NSM Trustee and WCSA member Paul A. Schweizer stressed how an affordable class of widely available sailplanes can bring many more people into soaring. He believes it's a great time "...to duplicate what happened in the 50's and 60's when we had growth (in soaring)."

The gathering broke into teams to cover marketing, publicity, liaison (which will build international connections, membership and growth) and the "Hub" (which will coordinate the five teams). Habercom said the first step is to attract people from other branches of aviation - but later plans are to reach those who aren't in aviation at all.

An added attraction of the two-day meeting was the assembly of two of the PW-5's on the Harris Hill glider field. Habercom owns the first PW-5 shipped to the U.S. has had it since March 1996 and Harris Hill Soaring Corporation members lined up to take a turn at flying it over Elmira. NSM Volunteer Dale Gustin took the first flight. When he landed, he marveled at how well it had handled.

WCSA member Gary Peterson, of Chester, NJ, received the second PW-5 in the country. His ship also made several test flights over the Museum during the workshop.



Dale Gustin was all smiles after his flight in David Habercom's PW-5. He took the first test flight off Harris Hill.

WCSA takes its meeting long distance

Thanks to the efforts of World Class Soaring Association (WCSA) member John Wren of Chelmsford, MA, the October meeting at the Museum was linked to three other countries via the Internet. A computer set up in the meeting provided a chat room between the NSM, Norway, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and Charlotte, NC.

The international meeting included the members gathered at the NSM; Tore Skarr from Norway; Roy Edwards, Ian Mugan and Ross Sutherland from New Zealand; Derek Piggot from the UK; and Charlie Spratt from North Carolina.

Piggot said, "The PW-5 seemed to be a very good club glider and...has had an excellent reception in Australia and New Zealand. I am hoping that the World Championships in Turkey next year will inspire a few of the best pilots to have a go."

"I think everyone seems happy here with the performance (of the PW-5)," said Sutherland. "Even the top guns recognize that the PW-5 is often at the top of the thermals."

Mugan added, "PW-5's are flying lots. No accidents, and most of the flying is low-hour pilots. Lots of smiles."

Wren and his wife, Maria Pirone, WCSA President David Habercom, and member Margaret Rappaport all took turns typing messages to the Internet

participants. The conversations covered a lot of ground - including how soaring can appeal to more women, whether the WCSA newsletter should be sent out in just English or include other languages, and assigning persons to the group's management teams (*see accompanying article on page 2*). They also had a lot of fun exchanging weather information and glider operation procedures between the different countries.

Sutherland joked, "Here in New Zealand we talk Aussie;" so Spratt teased back, "OK, I will attempt to talk Aussie. I know how from

getting the information out and drawing members. "I agree. A web site is most necessary," Spratt said.

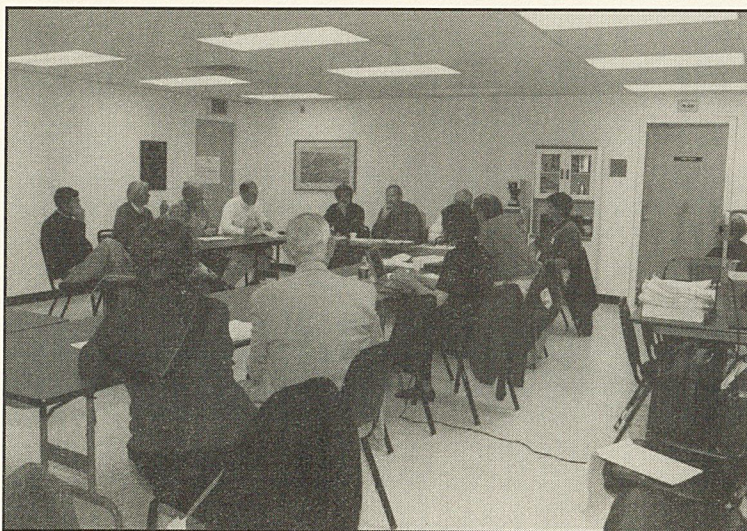
Spratt suggested a couple other good ideas. He felt airshows are a source of new members. "Another project we may think about is a badge and record camp for the PW-5 held at a site like Uvalde or Hobbs."

Spratt further offered his 10-minute video on the basic explanation of soaring as a model for a video that could be made for the WCSA. That idea fostered offers from the other countries to contribute clips to the video.

Last, the WCSA considered the competition rules for the PW-5. The Elmira contingent said the goal is to have a document ready by SSA Convention time in late January for SSA approval. It was agreed to incorporate input from Canada, New Zealand, Norway, and Italy. Spratt felt the SSA would be very supportive.

The international meeting was a ground-breaking event. Habercom said, "Tore and Ross, I am becoming convinced that your idea of a meeting on the Internet is more practical than I thought. I am open to that now."

As Spratt signed off, he said, "I think this group has made some real advances for the World Class, and I am looking forward to the convention and being able to speak to all of you face to face. This class will become the strongest in U.S. soaring in the next few years, and it's great to see some real ground work being laid."

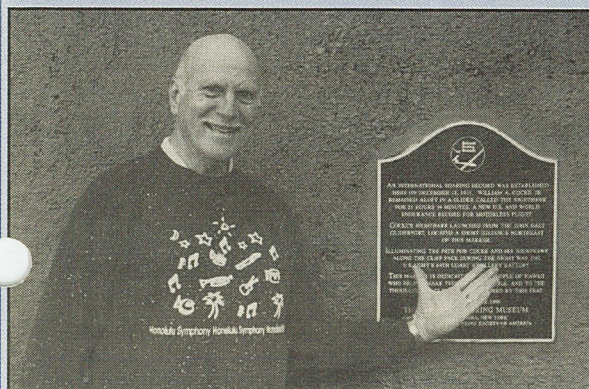


The WCSA gathered in the Gross Sky Ghost Classroom at the NSM.

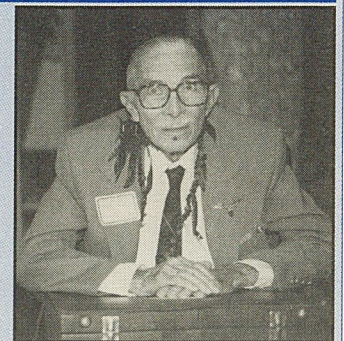
watching Croc Dundee."

The group discussed how to attract new members to the WCSA. Several agreed that as the PW-5 showed up at more contests, more pilots would start joining. "Exposure seems to grow the interest," Sutherland said. A web site would be another important means of

NSM marks history of soaring in Hawaii



The 9th National Landmark of Soaring and 24th Annual Ralph S. Barnaby Lecture were both tremendous successes in Hawaii in December! Thanks to Dave Luehring (*left*) and landmark chair Simine Short, the windy dedication ceremonies recognized early soaring in Hawaii as embodied in the 21-hour flight in the glider *Nighthawk*. Right is pictured Alfred Smith, who was the official observer for that 1931 event. Herman Stiglmeier and Ted Bellak thoroughly entertained the audience by discussing their significant contributions to soaring from the earliest 1930's through the present. Watch for upcoming issues of the *NSM Historical Journal* and *NSM News* for further coverage.





Top, Walter Sprouse tries to get his shark kite aloft. Sprouse says he also owns an eagle kite. Sometimes he places a styrofoam glider part way down the string from the kite and once it is in the air, it looks real. Center, contestants swarm around the registration table as the doors open at 9:00 a.m. Bottom, Don Soper, Regina Davis and Davis' niece and nephew work together to roll back in the string to their kite.



Right, Bill Connors demonstrates the art of constructing a kite at the kitemaking workshop in the Edward A. Mooers Community Room.

Top, the Weissenbuehler family makes KiteCitement a family event each year. Caroline successfully reeled her kite out to the end of her string and keeps watch on it high in the sky. Her sister, Hannah, gave up on the kite and tossed her Tim Bird toy. Center, Don Walters runs hard to get his kite going. He set up his camper near the glider field and decorated the area with colorful windsocks. Walters is a member of a kite club near Buffalo, NY. Bottom, Kiteflying is hard work! Thank goodness for the museum bench! Sometimes, it was more fun just to relax and watch the participants display the colorful array of kites in the sky.

Sunny skies, beautiful kites... everything but wind!

The NSM's annual KiteCitement contest has experienced rain, gnats, wind and cold, but last September 21st the day dawned sunny and bright. It was mild enough to forget the coats as kite-lovers from near and far swarmed around the museum to try their hand at the sport.

One small problem. No wind! Walter Sprouse, who took first place in the adult category, drove up from Flushing with his supply of kites. He brought kites measuring 15 feet across, other costing \$100 each and 500 feet of string. "I've been waiting all summer for this...but there's no wind," he said.

Sprouse can really demonstrate his talent when he's on the beach. In a strong wind he has even flown a folding lawn chair behind his kite. On other occasions he has gotten 20 different kites rolled out to the end of their string where they can barely be seen against the sky. He stakes them into the sand, turns on some music and sits down to enjoy his performance. Sprouse and his son own 40 kites.

A couple that shared second place in the adult category brought a home built orange and brown box kite. Regina Davis and Don Soper, both of Elmira, brought Davis' niece and nephew to the event where all shared in the flying.

Harris Hill Soaring Corporation (HHSC) member Heinz Weissenbuehler Jr. brought his family to the event where daughter, Caroline, 9, took third place in the younger category. For the second year she put her kite far up into the sky and just bided her time holding the end of the string.

Weissenbuehler's other daughter, Hannah, 4, decided to skip the kiteflying and flew her wind-up Tim Bird toy instead. Weissenbuehler described the weather as "not for kite flying, but kite gliding!"

Kite expert Bill Connors, Horseheads, again led a kitebuilding workshop in the Edward A. Mooers Community Room prior to KiteCitement. The Museum gave out free plastic kites (made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of the Elmira-Corning Area) to children.



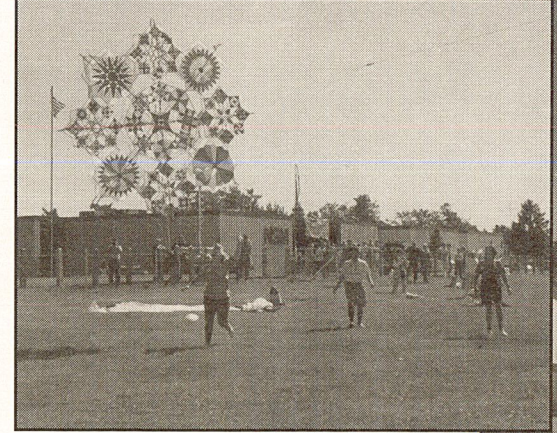
Winners of the NSM's KiteCitement contest above are: 1st row (5-10 year old class) left to right: Rachel Kelly, Elmira, 1st place; Ashlee Sands, Horseheads, 2nd place; (11-18 year old class) Mandi Hyde, 6, standing in for sister Megan, Horseheads, 2nd place. 2nd row (19-adult class) left to right: Don Walters, Angola, 1st place; Regina Davis, Elmira, 2nd place (tie); Don Soper, Elmira, 2nd place (tie) and Walter Sprouse, Flushing, 3rd place. 3rd row, Judges, left to right: Kris Reuland, Milt Adams, Clara Schaeffler, Brian Harrison, Bill Gallagher, and Jack Peterson. 4th row: NSM Executive Director James Swinnich. Not pictured: (5-10 year old class): Caroline Weissenbuehler, Elmira, 3rd place; (11-18 year old class) Dougie Grow, Elmira, 1st place; Justin Ross, Elmira, 3rd place.

After constructing them and adding a cloth tail, they could either enter the contest or just fly for free on the glider field across from the Museum.

Connors, with the help of numerous curious bystanders, assembled his "Piecemaker's Kite" - made from "a piece of this and a piece of that - like a quilt," he said. He designed the kite a couple years ago, but this event marked its maiden voyage. The magnificent creation flew over the glider field to the admiration of all the other

contest participants and onlookers.

The Museum's 5th Annual Community Soaring Day also included \$1.00 admission to the NSM all day and HHSC offered discount sailplane rides plus rides for the physically challenged. The HHSC Junior Organization sponsored a chicken barbecue. The winner of the box kite door prize at the Museum was Ashley Stevenson of Ithaca.



Bill Connors and crew put the "Piecemaker" in the air.



Recognition of Friends of the Museum

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Donations

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Additional Site honoring NSM's Premium Pass for Major Donors

In addition to the list published in the Fall 1996 *NSM News*, Harris Hill Soaring Corporation of Elmira, NY has joined over 60 sites nationwide participating in the new Premium Pass program. For more details see page 3 of that issue.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

"Come Out on Top"

By Jaye Fish, NSM Development Director

The market goes up and up—and down—and up and . . .

If you've owned stocks, mutual funds, or other securities that have increased in value during this long, bullish stock market trend, you may be wondering how you'll ever be able to sell without incurring substantial capital gains taxes on your good fortune.

Securities you've held longer than a year and a day can be given directly to the National Soaring Museum. By donating the stock rather than selling it first, you are generally able to claim its fair market value on the date of transfer as a charitable deduction AND avoid capital gains taxes on the increased value—a double

tax advantage. You might especially consider using this strategy with securities that are yielding you little current income. Check with your financial advisors first, though, since each person's tax situation is different. For instance, stock that has declined in value should usually be sold while you still own it.

Even if the capital gains tax rate is eventually reduced, using appreciated securities to make your gift to NSM will still give you the greatest tax advantage. It, in effect, makes it possible for you to be more generous in your support of the Museum; your potential tax savings makes the net cost of your gift less.

If you'd like to give a gift of stock to NSM, please call our Director of Museum Operations at (607)734-3128. She'll be able to assist you or your broker in making the transfer so that your tax advantages are preserved.



The public enjoys a Primary ride

The NSM took their Primary Glider on its first outing in September - to the New York State International Airshow at the Elmira/Corning Regional Airport. NSM Restorationist Dick Kurzenberger and crew rigged the glider to float on a tripod to give would-be pilots the real feel of being at the controls. At left, one girl learns how to control the up and down movement.

Below, NSM Trustee John (Corky) Gill enjoys the Airshow reception September 27, 1996 at the NSM. A former USAF Thunderbird maintenance man, Corky visits with Thunderbird commander Ron Mumm, right, and opposing solo Matt Modleski, left.



Luncheon honors three - continued from page 1

acted as a judge for the KiteCitement contest, among other tasks.

NSM Development Director Jaye Fish recognized Welles as the cog that always keeps our volunteer efforts in motion.

NSM Trustee Robert Wright spoke on behalf of Chemung County. He encouraged everyone to savor the warmth of the room, because the county recently installed a new heating system for the museum building.

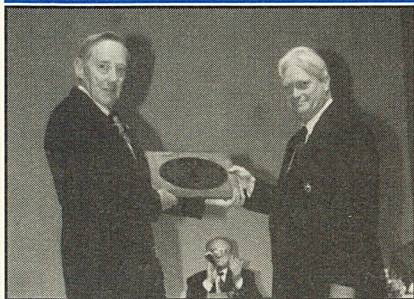
Harris Hill Soaring Corporation (HHSC) President John Trimber painted a busy schedule for the end of the century. 1997 will bring a model contest in June and a Region III contest in August. HHSC will host the 1-26 National Contest and the 1st World Class Sailplane Contest in the U.S. in 1998. They are bidding on a national contest for 1999 and planning for the 2nd U.S. International Vintage Sailplane Meet in 2000. Trimber announced that the emergency landing field

down on the plains below the overlook had finally been named. It will be called "Smith Field" in honor of the land's owner, William Smith, who has been so gracious to allow numerous landings.

NSM Trustee Nelson Mooers van den Blink highlighted a busy year for the Museum in 1996 with the hiring of Fish as development director, receiving the IMS grant and numerous events - three landmark dedications, encampments, Hall of Fame, Sailplane Homebuilders Association, World Class Association, Arts in the Park, the Airshow, Chamber Business after Business, and the 5th Annual Community Soaring Day - all accomplished with a very small staff.

Grimm, a National Warplane Museum Board of Directors member, expressed his appreciation to the community for all its support in successfully landing the Museum in this area. He said they plan to join in to make Elmira the aviation capital of the country.

NSM becomes FAI recognized



The Federation Aeronautique Internationale has accepted the NSM as an FAI Recommended Museum by the Aerospace Education Commission of the FAI. The Museum was nominated by the National Air Sport Control organization NAA because 1) it has programs for children, 2) the exhibits are mostly museum pieces rather than replicas, 3) collections are arranged by historical context and systematically catalogued, 4) the staff includes a person trained as a researcher, curator or conservator, and 5) the museum performs research work pertaining to the collection.

Above, Gene Hammond, Chairman of the Board of SSA and NSM Trustee, accepts the FAI recommended museum plaque from Eliff Ness, President of FAI.

Left, NSM Trustee Bernald Smith and wife, Marilyn, enjoy a humorous moment during the FAI awards program held in Bled, Slovenia, on October 15, 1996.



Local business members end day at NSM



The NSM, in conjunction with the Harris Hill Soaring Corporation, sponsored a Chamber of Commerce Business After Business meeting at the Museum on September 26, 1996.

The monthly meeting is held at different member locations and designed to promote interaction between members.

The Museum offered t-shirts and mugs as door prizes and HHSC gave away sailplane rides.

CALENDAR

January 30, 1997

NSM Board Meeting
Arlington, TX

January 30 - February 1, 1997

Soaring Society of America Convention
Arlington, TX

May 3, 1997

**U.S. Soaring Hall of Fame Ceremony/
Banquet and NSM Annual Board Meeting**
NSM

July 18-20, 1997

**Eastern Sailplane Homebuilders
Association Workshop**
NSM

September 20, 1997

**6th Annual
Community Soaring Day/Kite Citement**
NSM/Harris Hill

October 17-18, 1997 (Tentative)

Aero Historian Meeting
NSM

December 5, 1997

Annual 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: **National Soaring Museum**, Harris Hill, 51 Soaring Hill Drive, Elmira, NY 14903 607/734-3128 FAX: 607/732-6745 EMAIL: nsm@soaringmuseum.org. Check out our web site at <http://www.soaringmuseum.org>.

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