

Ken is a lifelong avid soaring pilot who has reached the highest levels of soaring achievement not only in the sky but in the promotion, enhancement and continuity of the sport in the United States through his work volunteering in the administration and management of the Soaring Society of America.

Ken soloed in 1970 in an ASK-13 on a winch in Germany at Segelflugschule Oerlinghausen. He received his private glider pilot certificate in 1972 after further training at the Adrian Soaring Club in Michigan. He later earned his Commercial Glider and Flight Instructor-Glider ratings.

Ken has been a member of the Soaring Society of America since 1972 and began flying gliders cross-country in 1974 in a Schweizer 1-34R, earning his Silver and Gold badges along with Diamond Goal and Distance by 1976. He has flown over 350,000 miles cross-country, and has competed as "KM" in over 130 US Regional or National Soaring Contests, with a first place showing at the Open Class Nationals in Uvalde, TX in 1988, which earned him a spot on the US Team at the World Gliding Championships in Borlange, Sweden in 1993. He later went on to become the US Sports Class Modern National Champion in 2014 and the US National 18-Meter Champion in the 2015. His enthusiasm and thirst for competition continues and he consistently participates in three to four regional and national competitions each year.

Ken not only participates in soaring competitions as a pilot but also as a Competition Director at the regional, national and international level. This work resulted in his becoming the Championship Director of the 32<sup>nd</sup> World Gliding Championship which was held in Uvalde, TX in 2012. Preparation involved almost 3 years of planning, including participating as an FAI Steward at the 2010 WGC in Szeged, Hungary, and resulting in what is considered to be one of the best WGC's ever. More recently Ken served as CD of the 3<sup>rd</sup> FAI Pan Am championships in Canada in 2019.

Ken began his service to soaring in the United States with his election to the SSA Contest Rules Committee in 1992, becoming the SSA's Contest Committee Chairman in 2002. He began his SSA Board-level participation as a Director-at-Large in 2005. Since then, he has also been the SSA Region 10 Director, and has served the SSA on the Executive Committee, US Team Committee, Contest Site Selection Committee, Contest Handicapping Committee, Clubs and Chapters Committee, Growth and Retention Committee, Administrative Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Editorial Advisory Committee, Volunteer Development Committee, Nominating Committee, and the SSA Digital Marketing Committee. For three years, 2016-2018, Ken served as Chairman of Board of Directors of the SSA. Most recently, he has been instrumental in developing the SSA's CFI-G Incentive Scholarship program which is dedicated to increasing the number of active instructors in order to better grow our great sport. He continues to serve on multiple committees today.

As a recognition of Ken's work, he was awarded the SSA Exceptional Service Award in 2007 and 2009, and was honored with the highest award offered by the Soaring Society of America in 2012, the "Warren E. Eaton Memorial Trophy". He received the FAA's Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award in 2021.

Beyond Ken's work at the national SSA level and competition management level he has devoted a great deal of his time and energy at the local level in his home club, the Soaring Club of Houston. An active member since 1979, he became a power pilot so he could help the club when it had a tow pilot shortage, became a glider instructor when it developed a shortage of instructors, and earned his A&P/IA license to contribute to the maintenance of club gliders and towplanes. He has been on the SCOH Board of Directors in many roles and presently serves as an advisor. He currently instructs, tows and assists with maintenance of club aircraft, but above all, if he can get a tow, he takes it!