

# NSM NEWS

FALL  
2016

Official Newsletter of the National Soaring Museum

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## MUSEUM STAFF

**Trafford L-M. Doherty**  
Executive Director / Curator

**Mary Flaspahler**  
Bookkeeper / Museum  
Services

**Lisa Bartlett**  
Gift Shop Manager / Visitor  
Services

**Tom Tunicliff**  
**Shabnam Allwood**  
Weekend Staff

**Jean Doherty**  
Administrative Assistant  
Newsletter Editor  
Membership Coordinator

## NSM WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR, TRAFFORD DOHERTY

Following a tenure of 13½ years as Executive Director of the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport, NY, Traff Doherty began his new position as Executive Director of the National Soaring Museum on August 1.

Traff comes to us with a significant background in soaring as well as in museum management. In 1959, he moved to Horseheads, NY, when his father, William E. "Tony" Doherty, became Sales Manager at Schweizer Aircraft. Within 2 years, Traff was working for flying time at the Schweizer Soaring located on what was then the Chemung County Airport. He soloed in a 2-22 on his 14<sup>th</sup> birthday and went on, over the next 15 years, to serve extensively as an instructor and a tow pilot. In 1980, Traff and his family moved to Lancaster, PA, leaving soaring behind. So now, in 2016, he has come full circle, returning to sailplanes and enjoying it immensely.

Traff brought his wife, Jean, along with him to NSM – she serves as his (much-needed) Administrative Assistant, Newsletter Editor and Membership Coordinator. This is nothing new to Jean, since she served in the same areas at the Curtiss Museum.

Traff and Jean have three grown children and 5 grandchildren who live fairly close by. Their home is above Keuka Lake, just north of Hammondsport (also on the top of a hill) where they greatly enjoy the company of their 3 beagles and 3 cats.

Now 3 months into his new position, Traff finds himself increasingly appreciative of the opportunity to serve as Director for what he considers to be a wonderful museum. He feels that there is a compelling story to be told here about early soaring and Elmira's significant contribution to the sport. The National Soaring Museum is definitely the place to do that.



Retired director, Peter Smith, and new NSM director, Trafford Doherty, at the museum in July.



# From the Director - Trafford Doherty

Since assuming the position of Director in August, I have had no shortage of projects around the museum. My very first effort has been improving the museum display signs. I found the hanging display plaques and information panels to be difficult to read and **they tended to obscure the view of the artifacts, and the museum in general.** They were also a **safety hazard – people ran into them constantly,** and a few of them were in very poor condition. To correct these problems, I started with having the signs removed at the end of September. Most of the signs will be reused, either on new stands or mounted on walls. We will also make new signs as required. This project will be completed over the winter months.



*Display signs now mounted on stands, giving a more unobstructed view of the artifacts*

I am working with the County on a proposal to substantially upgrade the museum lighting. They have in turn hired *Labella Associates*, a local engineering firm, to create a formal design. Our lighting “opportunities” are two-fold, consisting of corrosion/contact-related failures, and a wide range of lighting quality issues – we have areas that have never been adequately illuminated. This is going to be a big effort that will require County *and* State funding. For this reason, we are looking at fiscal year 2018 for this project. In the meantime, the County has been here regularly, catching up on burned-out bulbs. I am extremely appreciative for the excellent response that I have been receiving to my requests on a number of maintenance-related issues.

I recently asked Bob Dieterle, (Chemung Co.) Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, to come up and perform a general inspection of our plumbing infrastructure. We have leakage issues and our bathroom fixtures are starting to show their age. This is one area where we need to make a really good impression on our visitors. An upgrade here could be done piecemeal – as opposed to all at once.

It is important to protect the collection by separating the visitor from the artifact with a suitable barrier. This will also create an atmosphere of professionalism. We have purchased stanchions and plastic link chain to protect our sailplanes, and are currently assembling and placing these throughout the museum.

The museum’s original architect (and Paul A. Schweizer) always felt that the lobby area was meant to provide a suitable location for visitors to congregate before, or after, their visit. The background view of the *Bowlus Senior Albatross* and other sailplanes was intended to impress visitors initially, thereby building interest in what was to come. We need to move back to that – the *Rigid Midget* is going back into storage for now. In its place should be a few chairs, maybe a sofa and table (for magazines) – and in the middle of it all, should be the very nice Harris Hill diorama that’s currently over in the Schweizer Gallery. This will also provide a pleasant area to relax and watch sailplanes take off and land.

*Traff Doherty and Dave Welles , removing Rigid Midget from lobby →*

## **NATIONAL SOARING MUSEUM OFFICERS**

**Dr. Walter B. Cannon**  
President

**C. Dianne Black-Nixon**  
Vice-President

**Steven Leonard**  
Secretary

**Dr. William G. Howard**  
Treasurer

**Trafford L-M. Doherty**  
Director

## **TRUSTEES**

Gary Adams  
William Batesole  
Kevin Christner  
Warren Cramer  
Ann B. Crook  
Donna L. Draxler  
Robert Jackson  
Michael Koerner  
David Manchester  
James McDaniel  
David Pixton  
W. Stuart Schweizer  
David Welles  
Dody Wyman





We also need to use the restoration shop space far more effectively. With a lot of help from my friends, I intend to create a presentation that would show a glider restoration in progress. We have a number of sailplanes in storage that would fit the bill for this exhibit – Board President, Walter Cannon, suggested the BG-6. It would be perfect – it's small and cute! It also has a damaged trailing edge that would make it very appropriate to set up as a display. The first step in the shop is to clean the place up and then remove a number of in-the-way items (the TG3 fuselage frame hanging in the window is the first thing on the list – it blocks the view). The cleanup phase has already begun. If we can pull this off, it will be something compelling for visitors to see and it's quite possible that, if we have a viable project set up in there, we might actually get some folks interested in working on it – stranger things have happened!

Getting more visitors through the door each year is another challenge that we need to address. One way to attract more visitors is to offer additional special exhibits - photography, artwork, crafts, miniatures, etc. These are interest areas that appeal to a broad cross section of the public and we would advertise accordingly. I have moved the *Condor Program* flight simulators up into the former Curator's office (it's plenty big enough) to free up the downstairs room for rotating special exhibits. It is prime "exhibit real estate" that we have not been using to its potential.

Our next special exhibit will be our first Dollhouse and Miniature Exhibit, which begins on November 19 - just in time for the holidays. The display will involve the lobby and downstairs areas and should be an enjoyable event for the whole family. Exhibitors are hobbyists from all over the area who have spent hundreds of hours perfecting their displays.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 19 - April 1

### Dollhouse & Miniatures Exhibit

#### NEW MEMBERS

##### Silver

Thomas Johnson

##### Bronze

Guy & Anita Bennett  
Anne M. Purcell  
Alberto Negro

##### Family

Larry & Mary Huntley  
Norm & Angie Brush  
Charles & Margaret Streefer  
Ray & Wilma Poehlein  
Janet Hallahan  
Art & Kay Wilder  
Paul Campobasso  
Jean Whitney  
George & Tokye Skillman  
Geoffrey & Theresa Pollack  
Roger & Elfriede Tompkins

##### Individual

Joseph DuPont  
Ruth Bruning  
John Fessenden  
Samuel Larter  
Andrew Larter  
Megan Walters

#### MATCHING GIFT

Dr. William W. Doerr  
Steven Leonard



Joyce Merletti's Victorian House



The Georgian House



Pam Burton's famous Haunted House!



Victorian Townhouse



# COMMUNITY SOARING DAY 2016 - Lisa Bartlett

Saturday September 10, 2016, the 24th Annual Community Soaring Day was held at the National Soaring Museum. Joining us were beautiful falcons, hawks and an owl from Baywings Falconry, presenting two shows which were filled each time. Between shows, people got up close to these magnificent birds.



Owl spreads its wings!

The N-Trak Train Club once again set up a large model train exhibit that they continue to expend each year. Other vendors for the day were: The Big Flats Fire Department with Sparky the fire dog, visiting from West Elmira Fire Department, the Economic Opportunity Program adult literacy folks enjoying their first time here, and the Family Reading Partnership of Chemung County (they are the little red bookshelf people), handing out books to the kids. Harris Hill Juniors showed off one of the gliders, and the Twin Tiers Honor Flight signed up a few veterans for a trip to Washington D.C.



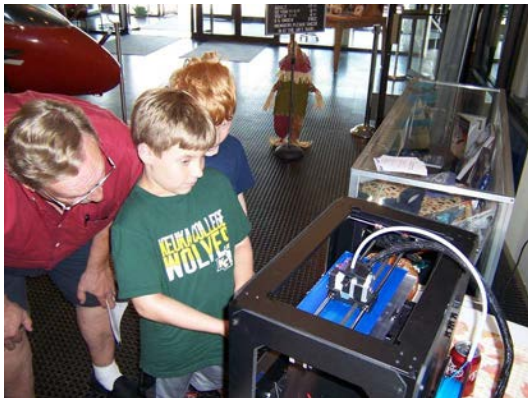
N-scale layout segments

Janet and Carolyn from Steele Memorial Library had fun crafts for the kids. Our neighbors from the SPCA, just down the hill, were on hand with a special puppy, which was up for adoption and Tom Gorman from the Cottage Gift Shop had great seasonal gifts for sale.

Balloon sculptor, Tim Cleary, did a fabulous job making balloon characters for long lines of enthusiastic kids. Jason K. Entertainment kept things lively with music and some trivia questions. Our strolling special guests, Mickey Mouse, Minion, and Sparky (brought to life by HHSC Juniors, Jacob Barnes, David McMaster, Ronnie Harshbarger) put smiles on kid's faces, and adults, too. The weather was just right for an early September day. Sailplane rides were offered and C-Tran gave rides over to Harris Hill Amusement Park.



Balloon characters by Tim Cleary



Watching the 3-D printer at work

Education Director, Kaye Norton, showed off the museum's 3-D printer. It's so amazing what it can do! Museum staff members, Lisa Bartlett and Mary Flaspahler offered up hamburgers and hot dogs. It's always nice to have food on hand, and visitor's really appreciated being able to get a little lunch while they were here. It's a difficult challenge to "count" visitors on a day like this, but we figure about 400 for this year.

Of course none of this would be possible without support from the local community. A very special **thank you** to the following: Mengle, Metzger & Barr LLC, Harris Hill Soaring Corporation and Juniors, Hilliard Corporation, Sam's Club, Candlewood Suites, Fidelis Insurance, Big Flats Community Day Committee, Magic 92.7 and WENY TV and NSM volunteers and staff. Stay tuned - for ideas are already in the works for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Soaring Day in 2017!

The National Soaring Museum is pleased to give special recognition  
to our current premium-level members:

Like us on Facebook!

### **CAYLEY SOCIETY**

Jeffery Byard  
Chemung Canal Trust Company  
Joyce & Peter Daniel  
William & Mary Ellen Feldbaumer  
E. Gene & Mary Lou Hammond  
Hilliard Corporation  
John & Mary Esther Hintz  
Archer & Ellen Martin  
Paul Nagle  
Mary Paiewonsky  
Vivian Robbins  
Paul & Lauren Schweizer  
Jan & Astri May Scott  
Bernald S. Smith  
Han & Nelson van den Blink  
Jan & Claire van den Blink  
Heinz & Elsbeth Weissenbuehler  
Tim Welles  
Paddy Welles  
Jerry & Sophia Wenger

### **DIAMOND**

Walter & Irene Cannon  
Steven & Connie Bowen  
Elmira Savings Bank  
Dean & Marilyn Gradwell  
Alice Johnson  
Dianne Black-Nixon & Hank Nixon  
Steven Parker  
Peter & Lynn Smith

### **GOLD**

William Batesole & Anne Nordstrom  
Preston Burch  
Hardinge, Inc.  
W. Guerry & Alberta Howard  
Steven Leonard  
David Robertson  
Jefferson Shingleton

### **SILVER**

Virginia Jones  
John & Mary Esther Hintz  
Peter Schweizer  
Jacquie Doherty  
Calvin Weiss  
Les & Bonnie Schweizer  
Thomas Johnson  
Mary Paiewonsky

### **SILVER** - continued -

Robert McKinnon  
Gil Scott  
Andrew Fretchling  
William & Mary Ellen Feldbaumer  
Steve Sliwa

### **BRONZE**

Janine Acee • Kittie & Raymond Alexander  
Dr. Alan Angell & Dr. Beth Dollinger  
Phillip Baugh • Guy & Anita Bennett  
Ira & Sue Blieden • Bruce Bottoms  
Rob & Holly Buck • Dale Busque  
George & Lorrell Byard  
James & Barbara Cantrill • Andrea Cellura  
William P. Clarke • Sergio Colacevich  
Burt Compton • Pat Costello  
Trafford & Jean Doherty  
Philip Gaisford & Patricia Lawton  
Helga Gertsen • Gerald Giddens  
Dr. Michael Green • Roger Hess  
David Hudnut • Robert Hurni  
Robert & Joan Jackson • Glen Kelley  
Timothy & Jackie King • Thomas King  
Kenneth Kladiva • Robert Knauff  
Mike & Fran Koerner • Dr. Robert Lambert  
Barry Leslie • Tyler & Teri Eichorn  
Juan Mandelbaum & Clara Sandler  
James "Jay" & Robin McDaniel  
Christian McIntyre • George Moffat, Jr.  
Michael Moore • Barry Muhlenberg  
Arthur Muka • Dave Nadler • Alberto Negro  
Donald & Barbara O'Connell  
Frank Peale, Jr. • Anne M. Purcell  
John & Kathy Reynolds • Jerry Robertson  
Mary Rust • Bertha Ryan • Edwin Salkeld  
Norman & Denise Schenck  
Ron & Betty Schwartz • William Strand  
T. Curran & Barbara Sekella  
Robert & Jessie Siegfried  
Edward & Michaela Skalniak  
John Slack • Dr. Gerald Smith  
Kenneth Sorenson • Karl Striedieck  
Jeff Streeter & Barbara Yunis  
George & Kathleen Taylor • William Thar  
Raymond Thweatt • Douglas & Meredith Tifft  
Philip Umphres • Bill Vickland  
Darrell Watson • Bruce Weber  
Fred & Alice Weeman • Rob Whitcomb  
Dody & Jack Wyman



### **MEMBERSHIP UPGRADES**

#### Silver

Virginia Jones  
John & Mary Esther Hintz  
Peter Schweizer  
Jacquie Doherty  
Calvin Weiss  
Les & Bonnie Schweizer

#### Bronze

Bertha Ryan

#### Family

Dan Rihn  
Robinson Lapp  
George Davies  
Paul Campobasso

### **MEMORIALS**

#### **In Memory of Bernie Paiewonsky**

Bob & Barbara Mello  
Sandra Maliszewski  
Kathleen Maliszewski  
Deborah Talbot  
Donna & Laura Edelbau  
Robert & Carol Swistak  
Heidi and David Moskowitz





Within the last year we have lost three Soaring Museum members who have, over their lifetimes, contributed significantly to the heritage of motorless flight:

## In Memoriam

### **BILL SCHWEIZER**

Founding member of the National Soaring Museum, Bill Schweizer, age 98, passed away peacefully at his home in Elmira, NY, on January 8, 2016 .

Bill's business career always focused on aviation, his true passion. Bill and his two brothers, Paul and Ernie, owned and operated Schweizer Aircraft Co., one of the foremost manufacturers of sailplanes and agricultural spray aircraft. During its many years of operation, Schweizer Aircraft produced over 2100 sailplanes and 2600 Ag-Cat agricultural aircraft. Bill's primary focus was production management. He also was responsible for the company's subcontract business, through which Schweizer produced components for nearly every major aerospace company.



### **LEE ROBBINS**

Former NSM Board President and Trustee, Lee Robbins, age 84, died on Dec. 25, 2015. Lee loved flying and soloed at 17, flew many, many different kinds of planes, gave rides, instructed, built, and rebuilt many planes and wanted nothing more than to fly his whole life. In 1954 he was hired as a pilot by Corning, Inc. and later served as their Director of Aviation for 36 years.



Lee also flew and towed gliders for the Harris Hill Flying Club. He was honored to be elected a member of, and then chairman of, the National Business Aircraft Assoc. representing Corning, Inc. He served as board member and president of the Experimental Aircraft Assoc., the Red Cross, Southern Tier Economic Growth, was a past board member and Vice Chairman of the Board of Elmira Savings Bank, served on the Horseheads School Board for nine years, was past president of Community Foundation of Steuben and Chemung County, and vice president of Corning Enterprises. The three Robbins brothers, Bill, Clyde and Lee received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the FAA in 2002.

### **BERNARD PAIEWONSKY**

Longtime Soaring Museum member and NSM Trustee, Dr. Bernard Paiewonsky, died on Aug. 17, 2016. Dr. Paiewonsky had a long and distinguished career as an Aeronautical Engineer, Mathematician, Scientist, and Researcher. He was the Deputy for Advanced Technology for the Secretary of the Air Force following his many years at the Institute for Defense Analysis and his work at the White House Office of Technology.



Dr. Paiewonsky was an avid glider pilot and contributed his time and energy over many years to the Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association, and was a co-founder and editor of the journal, *Technical Soaring*. He was an active member of the MIT Club of DC. He was a Trustee of The University of the Virgin Islands. He served on the board of Congregation Bet Chesed, and was the first instructor of his Yiddish Language Group. Dr. Paiewonsky will be greatly missed by his family and the many friends he made through his recreational and professional activities.

## **MEMORIALS**

### **In Memory of Bill Schweizer**

Fred & Alice Weeman  
Katherine Roehlke  
Dean Butts  
Fred Lawrence  
Les & Bonnie Schweizer  
Jon Homuth  
Elmira Savings Bank  
Cindy Hutchinson  
John Cadwallader  
Betty Loomis  
John Brand  
Susan Tryon Rogers  
William Tryon  
John Potter  
Barb McDowell  
George Lessard  
Blair Jennings  
Reginald Gehret  
Rex Wells  
Nancy Barringer  
Mary Smith  
John Hintz  
Scott Kroczyński  
Sandra Bowers  
Mary Jo Yunis  
AirFlite  
Emma Novotny  
Heinz Weissenbuehler  
Brent & Martha Olmstead  
Carl & Donna Hammond  
Tim Welles  
Hilliard Corporation  
Mary Flaspaler  
Natalie Denton  
Alan & Maria Winston  
Thomas Wirth  
Jean Derefinko  
Ed Funk  
Alan Parsons  
Nancy Balenske  
Susan Rouselle  
Laura Lee Liberatore  
Tom Walton  
Elton Cramer  
Jenna Keser  
Elwin Cramer  
Chemung Canal Trust Co.  
Edward Nast Family

## NEW VIEW AT THE SOARING MUSEUM

Here is one of the views that you would not have been able to see last year. Hanging signs that obliterated this view have been removed and will be displayed elsewhere in the museum. This is now the view from the top of the stairway. The previously hanging signs are currently being painted white on the reverse side so that lettering is easier to read. The re-purposed signs will then be mounted on stands or hung on walls for easier reading.



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## YEAR-END ADDITIONAL DONATION

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Looking forward to a new fiscal year, filled with improvements, new projects and new possibilities, we welcome any additional funds you might like to donate to the National Soaring Museum for 2016.

Please use the attached form to make an additional year-end donation to the National Soaring Museum.

This donation should be funds of any amount given in addition to your regular membership renewal.

Members who donate to this year-end solicitation will have their names recognized in the winter 2017 edition of the NSM News

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Donation amount: \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed

Please bill my Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

(MasterCard-Visa-Discover-American Express)

V-code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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51 Soaring Hill Drive  
Elmira, NY 14903

info@soaringmuseum.org

www.soaringmuseum.org

607-734-3128

**FALL 2016**



**MUSEUM HOURS**

**WINTER**

**Nov.1 - Dec. 30**

Open every day 10-5 except  
holidays as noted below

**Jan. 2 - Feb. 28**

Closed Monday and Tuesday  
All other days 10-4

**Mar. 1 - Apr. 30**

Open every day 10-4

**SUMMER**

**May 1 - Oct.31**

Open every day 10-5

**Museum closed on the  
following holidays:**

New Year's Day

Easter Sunday

Thanksgiving Day & the  
following Friday

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

Elmira, NY  
Permit No. 226

## NSM Membership Form

Please check the membership category of your choice and return to:

The National Soaring Museum, 51 Soaring Hill Dr., Elmira, NY 14903

Basic \$35     Family \$50     Bronze \$100     Silver \$250

Gold \$500     Diamond \$1000     Cayley Society \$2500

My name(s)  
as it is to appear in printed matter : \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed

Please bill my Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

(MasterCard-Visa-Discover-American Express)    V-code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional tax-deductible donations will be used for museum improvements Including  
upgrading facilities, restoration shop and new exhibits.**