

NSM NEWS

SUMMER 2023

Official Newsletter of the National Soaring Museum

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From the Director - Traff Doherty

Well, summer's over – as of yesterday—and as usual, it went by very quickly. It went well for us, too – with good attendance and excellent reviews in such things as *Google My Business* and *Trip Advisor*. Jean and I have been in the habit of spending a little time with our visitors, asking them where they're from, what brought them to Elmira, etc. And in doing so, we gain knowledge regarding their feelings about what we have to offer. Bear in mind that most of our visitors are not necessarily aviation buffs per se – more often than not, they're on vacation - simply looking around for interesting things to do. I am of the definite impression that we exceed their expectations on a regular basis – and that's a very good thing. The same phenomenon takes place regarding aviation buffs – we certainly have no problem holding their interest!

Changes do take place fairly often. In the last issue, we described the *Sailplane Transport Exhibit* – which has been well received by the visiting public. Now we can report that Cam Martin's beautiful LP-49 has left our exhibit floor and been replaced by our excellent Bowlus *Super Albatross*. As near as I can tell, it has been over 25 years since this ship last saw daylight. It's a lovely sailplane, and quite unique. The Super has a pod & boom setup like the Baby Albatross - but with a shoulder-mounted – and tapered - cantilever wing. Designed in 1938, two were built; one by Bowlus in that year and the second one (ours) in 1942 by Frank Kelsey. Interestingly, Kelsey added flaps - to assist the spoilers!?! Bowlus used control wheels in his designs; the Senior, Baby, and two-seat Baby, all have wheels. This ship has the control wheel column, but with a military-style stick grip mounted on the top – hinged at the base of the grip to provide lateral control movement (sort of like a Spitfire). It's really cool! We took a photo that shows the beautiful plywood and fabric interface on the wing surfaces. I've never seen anything like it! Our plan is to have the Super on exhibit for two years – like the LP-49 had been.

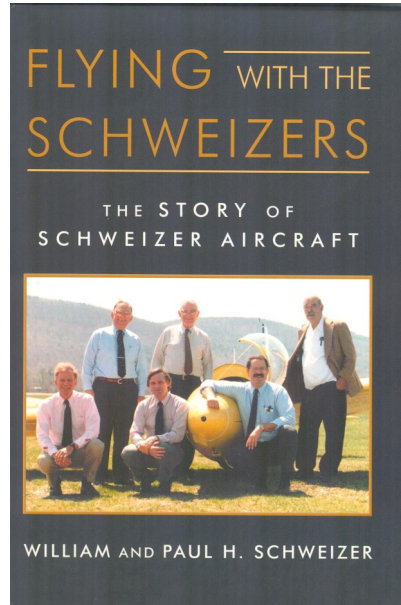
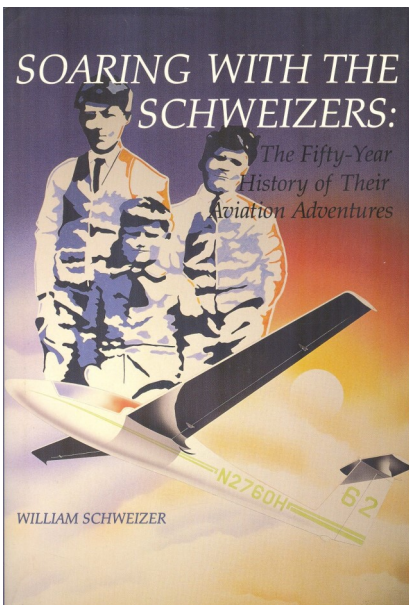
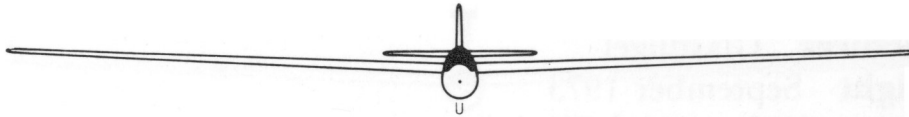


— continued —

For many years, the Women's Soaring Pilots Association (WSPA) awarded the *Anne Morrow Lindbergh Trophy* for the longest (handicapped) cross-country flight of the year. From 1987 to 2020, this trophy "traveled" to the homes of a number of women. Recently, the decision was made to retire the trophy after 33 years. Thanks to the efforts of Kristin Farry and Mary Rust, the Anne Morrow Lindbergh Trophy now resides at the National Soaring Museum and will be placed on exhibit this winter.

The AML Trophy has recognized a WSPA member with the longest handicapped cross-country flight of the year. Past winners are:

1987 - Mary Hunt Rust	1988 - Julie Schneider	1989 - Ducky McEwen
1990 - Eulalia Nichols	1991 - Julie Schneider	1994 - Pat N. Spears
1995 - Pat N. Spears	2002 - Dale Pizzo	2004 - Kathy Fosha
2005 - Sarah Kelly	2006 - Kathy Taylor	2007 - Kathleen Winter
2008 - AnnaLaura Geusen	2010 - Carol Mulder	2013 - Elke Petersen
2020 - CarolAnn Garratt	2022 - Kathy Fosha	2023 - Cathy Keller



Soaring With the Schweizers: The Fifty-Year History of Their Aviation Adventures by William "Bill" Schweizer

Three boys named Schweizer launched a glider in New York State in 1930-and with it a revolution in American aviation that continues today.

William "Bill" Schweizer tells the story of this remarkable partnership of brothers and the company it made: the Schweizer Aircraft Corp. (SAC), the only family-owned aviation company to survive more than a half century intact.

Flying With the Schweizers: The Story of Schweizer Aircraft by William & Paul H. Schweizer

From the greatest of American sailplanes-the silent high riders of the wind-to crop dusters, helicopters, and secret surveillance aircraft, the history of SAC is unique in scope, ingenuity, and independence.

In this book, Paul H. Schweizer continues his father's book with the story of Schweizer Aircraft through 2004 when the company was sold to Sikorsky, and through 2012, when it closed for good. For those of us who appreciate the huge contribution to the sport of soaring made by the Schweizer family, This book is a must-read!

Soaring with the Schweizers: The Fifty-Year History of Their Aviation Adventures is available in the National Soaring Museum gift shop for \$19.99.

Flying with the Schweizers: The Story of Schweizer Aircraft is available in the NSM Gift Shop for \$20.99 softbound and \$31.99 hardbound.

IVSM 2024

It's not too early to begin making plans to attend IVSM next year. In addition to the usual IVSM activities, the Vintage Sailplane Association will be celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Jerry Wenger's beautiful Minimoa was the basis for our poster, created by world-famous aviation artist, Ted Williams. Examples of Ted's precision aviation art is currently on display in the National Soaring Museum.

Online registration on the NSM website for IVSM 2024 will open November 1.

↓ Minimoa on tow at IVSM 2021.



Old Harris Hill swimming pool, before the paved runway and flight center



Down Memory's Runway - Gala Contributors

Stu & Lucy Schweizer

John Schweizer

Les & Bonnie Schweizer

Guerry & Alberta Howard

Mark Margeson

Lillian Elwood

Guy Bennett

Moe & Sophie Acee

Mariah Ossit

Joe & Nancy May

Rex Wells

Bruce Bottoms

Leslie Baldwin

Dick & Susan Rogers

Wick Wilkinson

Greg Lincoln

Lindsey & Kay Chew

Stephen & Connie Bowen

Jeff Streater & Barb Yunis

Carl & Sharon Osojnak

Tom King

Mary Flaspaler

Paul Esser

Don & Vanessa Rumsey

Jean & Traff Doherty

Linda & Andrew Evenski

Rob Buck

Local School District Students Visit Museum

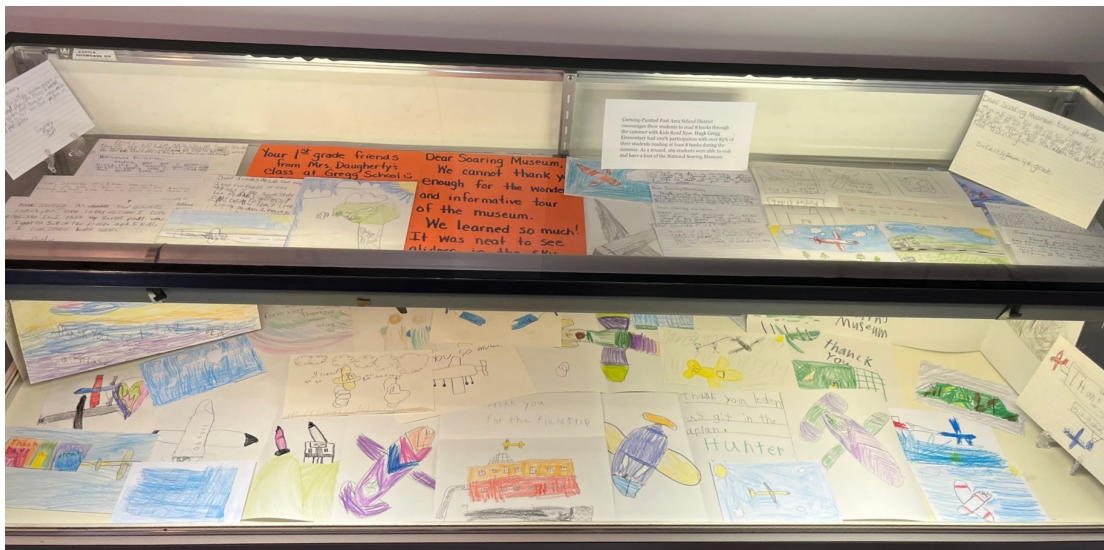
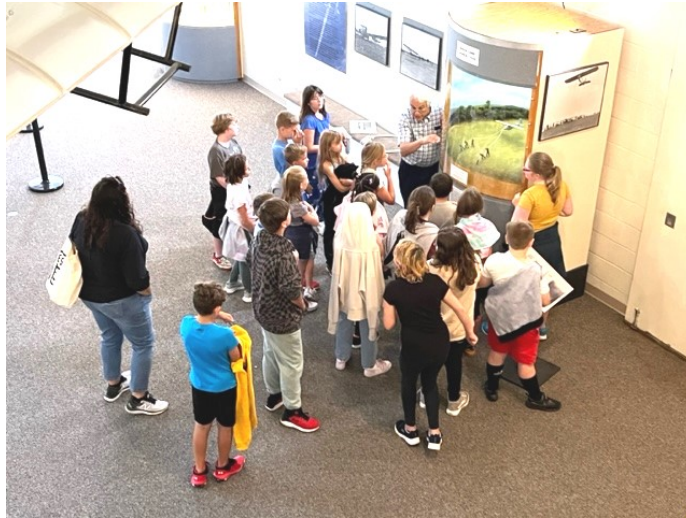
169 students and 25 adults from the Hugh Gregg Elementary School visited the museum recently. The students had participated in a summer reading program, "Kids Read Now". Gregg Elementary School had 100% participation in this program, with 85% of the students having read at least 8 books during the summer. The students were divided into 8 groups and spent 10 minutes at each of 4 stations, manned by Traff Doherty, Rob Whitcomb, Don Rumsey and Susan Miller.

We especially appreciated the exceptional organization and preparation done by the teachers and staff.

After the tour, we received a packet of beautiful Thank-You notes from the students and Susan Miller arranged them in one of our display cases. (see below)

Traff Doherty explains the shock cord launch →

Letters and drawings from the students ↓



Turquoise and Sterling Cuff Bracelet Sold !

We were hoping to receive one or two of Gleb Derujinsky's handmade turquoise bracelets to auction at our September 9 Gala. Gleb's daughter, Andrea, sent us three! One of these beauties was sold at the Gala and we plan to bring them out again for our IVSM silent auction next year.

What a rare opportunity to actually own something created by Gleb Derujinsky - a skilled photographer, artist, and soaring icon, who had a longtime association with competitions on Harris Hill ! Gleb came in first at the Snowbird Meet in 1959.



MUSEUM OFFICERS

William Batesole
President

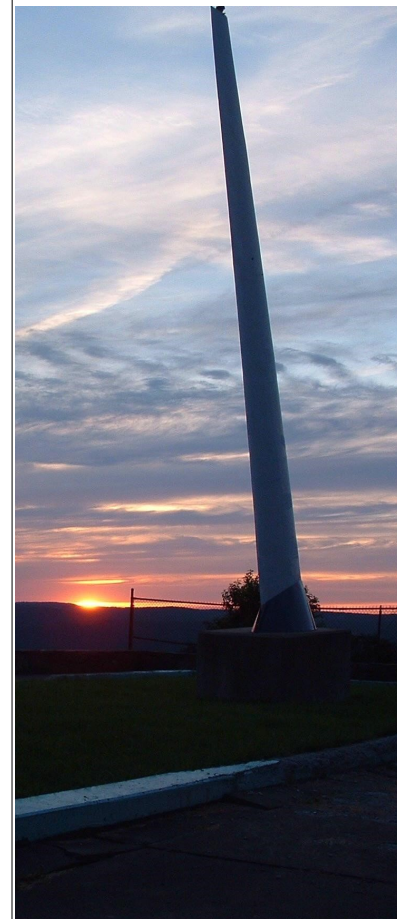
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Jan van den Blink
Dr. Richard Welles
Phil Westcott



In Memoriam

Suzanne Bundy Moffat

1940 - 2023

Suzanne Moffat died on May 16, 2023 at age 83

From the official obituary;

“Suzy’s life, as a Force of Nature, brightened the life of innumerable people, as she made her way adventurously and lovingly from education at Rochester University and the Sorbonne, to teaching, sailing, and sailplaning around the world. She leaves behind an uncountable number of people whose lives were enriched by her presence, now left bereft by her absence”.

From Frauke Elber:

“Suzanne, still Suzanne Bundy, became an outstanding glider pilot in her own right, having earned Gold C #255 completed in 1965. But to the international community she became well known as the dedicated, faithful crew for ex-husband George Moffat, for whom she put her own soaring career on hold.

We met first at the 1974 World Championships in Waikerie, Australia, and again at the Worlds in 1983 in Hobbs, NM and over the years at US contests mainly at the Seniors in Florida.”



In Memoriam

Kevin Jon Christner Trustee - National Soaring Museum

February 1, 1986 ~ September 14, 2023



Kevin Jon Christner, age 37, died unexpectedly on September 14th, 2023 in Buffalo, NY. Born February 1, 1986 to Donald and Susan (Stutzman) Christner in Warren, PA., he spent his early years in Jamestown, NY.

Kevin graduated from Jamestown High School where he was a member of the indoor/outdoor track and cross-country teams. Graduating near the top of his class, Kevin went on to Denison University, Granville, Ohio, where he graduated Cum Laude in Economics and History. He continued his education at Golden Gate University with masters degree courses in Partnerships, Corporations, Tax Timing and Planning, Tax Research, Trusts & Estates. He turned his education and interest in economics into a career in entrepreneurial finance which has positively impacted the greater Buffalo area over the past decade. He was most recently president of Richmond Capital Partners, and previously served as CFO for Circuit Clinical and Clean Fiber, Lead Director for Hebelier LLC and Managing Partner for the Buffalo Foundry & Machine Co. Park Redevelopment.

Flying sailplanes before he could drive a car, he went on to earn a single engine power rating before graduating from high school and was a member of the Civil

Air Patrol throughout high school. Kevin served for more than 8 years on the Board of Trustees for the National Soaring Museum as chair of the finance committee.

Kevin is survived by his parents, his former wife, Kyle and son, Orson.

In Memoriam

Randon T. McMaster

1974 - 2023

Staff Sergeant Randon T. McMaster, age 49, passed away peacefully, with his wife at his side, at Strong Memorial Hospital on Monday, May 29, 2023, after a long battle with cancer. Randy was a decorated veteran who served in the United States Army for 26 years.



Randy was born on January 26, 1974, in Elmira, NY to his parents, Roy McMaster and Ellen McMaster Davis. At age 18, he joined the US Army and was stationed at Arlington Cemetery as a member of the Old Guard. During his career, he was deployed several times, including tours of duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan. During those deployments, he created close relationships with some of his fellow military brothers and sisters, many of whom he remained in contact with for the rest of his life.

After his last tour of duty to Afghanistan, Randy was stationed in Germany. Upon his return from Germany, He became reacquainted with his high school friend, Jessica. The two were married in their hometown of Canandaigua in 2014.

Randy retired in 2018 from the Army at Ft. Drum, NY, and began working on his aeronautical degree at Vermont Tech. After earning his private pilot rating in his second year of college, he was diagnosed with stage IV colorectal cancer in 2020, and had to discontinue his pursuit of a second career in aviation.



Randy led an active life, and had a passion for swimming, volleyball, and soaring. He participated in all those activities throughout his lifetime. In high school, Randy was a competitive swimmer and lifeguard at Canandaigua Academy. Later in life, those experiences in swimming and lifeguarding provided him with the experience necessary to train wounded soldiers for the Paralympics at the Warrior Transition Unit. Randy's high school volleyball experience led to a lifelong love of the sport, and he eventually played in beach volleyball tournaments and supported local volleyball programs in NYS.

Randy was a long-time member of the Harris Hill Soaring Corporation. His first solo flight was in 1988 at the age of 14. He continued to soar after he retired from the Army, and he supported the HHSC junior soaring program up until his death.

Randy is survived by his wife, Jessica (Ashley) McMaster, their eight children: Andre, Christopher, Allison, Zachary, Brianna, Mitchell, Sarah, and Deirdre and grandson, Jeremiah. He is also survived by his parents, Roy McMaster, and Ellen (Norman) Davis; siblings: Wayne McMaster, Justin (Sandra) McMaster, Gambriellen Davis, Leigh Davis, Wayne (Amanda) Davis, as well as beloved nieces and nephews.

IN MEMORIAM

Helga Gertsen
Jake Dvornicky

MEMOIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of

Nelson van den Blink
by
Meg Warburg

In Memory of

Bill Schweizer
by
Frederick Genung

NEW MEMBERS

Individual

Jane Snowdon
Marcel Burlet
Michael O'Donnell
Kristin Farry
Judith & Doug Galbraith
George Abrantes
Sanjay Subramanian
Linda Koabel
Matthias Schleinzer
Marvin Huss
Jennifer Bauman
Amy Spowart

Family

Bryan Semski
Yoli & Zoltan Leskowsky
Jason & Stacey Frackenpohl
Ace & Irene Gulling

Bronze

Ellie Gross Pendleton

HHSC Senior

Brynnley Brodeur
Charles Wolfe
Howard Blair
Tyler Comstock
Frederick Deuel
Brian Doane
Kelley McChesney
Cory Bulger
Jonathan Spaugh
Linwood Hough
James Gray
Shion Enomoto
Michelle Conklin

HHSC Junior

Ryan Washburn
Nixon Byzitter
Nathaniel Woodard
Katie Woodard
Ryder Dacheux
Emma Spaugh

In Memoriam

Dr. William P. Clarke

1930 - 2022



Dr. William P. Clarke died on January 31, 2022. He was one of the National Soaring Museum's longest members, having joined in 1967.

Dr. Clarke's life was active and by some accounts, adventuresome! As a youth he was fascinated with aviation, and started flying in 1964. He had his first solo flight on August 16, 1964, soon earning his Private Pilot's License. In 1967 he went on to achieve his license in gliders as well as earning his instrument rating and Commercial power plane license. With those accomplishments, he was able to share travel experiences with his family to many parts of the U.S., Mexico and to what then was British Honduras, where he assisted for several years in a medical clinic (Flying Physicians). He a good deal of aviation experience, having flown at least 35 different types of power planes and gliders. However, his true aviation love and activity was flying high-performance sailplanes. Owning several

different types over the years, he became a skilled competitor in more than fifty glider contests all over the U.S. He and his wife, Bobbie, became a well-known team at these contests where he would be flying while Bobbie followed his progress driving the tow vehicle with the large glider trailer behind. As part of his love of aviation he was a booster of anyone else interested in flying, and, with friends, founded the North Florida Soaring Society (NFSS), an active club based out of Jacksonville's Herlong Recreational Airport. At the NFSS his affectionate nickname was "Uncle Billy," a recognition of his always encouraging those around him to be the best they could be.

Dr. Clarke was born in February, 1930. In 1948 he graduated from high school and went on to a pre-med study program at the University of Florida. Literally working his way through college, he was a success in pre-med studies while participating in campus theatrical productions. He graduated from the University of Florida in 1952 and went on to medical school at the University of Tennessee in Memphis, TN. In the summers he held interesting jobs, such as meeting inbound tanker ships to test for volatile vapors. He spent one summer working in construction, building an addition to what then was known as the Boys' Home in Arlington.

One of the most important things in his life while in medical school, was meeting and marrying his wife, Bobbie Mae Hubbart - no easy thing while struggling through the demanding medical school curriculum. In 1956 he graduated from UT Medical College and took his family back to Jacksonville where he started his medical career as an intern at the Duval County Medical Center. In 1958, he was ready to strike out on his own, so he set up a practice as a General Practitioner in Arlington, FL, a practice that he continued with success for himself and his many patients until he retired in 2008. Dr. Clarke was very involved in his profession as a member of the Duval County Medical Society, the Florida Medical Association, the Florida Academy of Family Practice (Secretary-Treasurer and Vice-President), and the Duval County Academy of Family Practice (President). Though retired, he remained active professionally, advising on medical matters and continuing medical study programs right up until the time of his death.

Dr. Clarke led an active life originating in hard work. He was a skilled and caring doctor for his patients, a loyal friend, an athlete, and a person involved in continual, personal improvement. He has left his mark, a good one, on his family, his colleagues, his friends, and on the Jacksonville community.

ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Bruce Bottoms

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Steve & Nancy Sliwa
Robert Hurni
Stu & Lucy Schweizer
Roger Hess

MEMBERSHIP UPGRADE

Family

Al & Rhonda Tyler
Richard & Debra Swan
Victor Nippert

Bronze

Shaun & Cathy Keller
Chris & Lianne Groshel
Robert Wister
Charlie & Nancy Bauder

Silver

Elizabeth Pataki
Egbert Woelk
Very Rev. John DeSocio

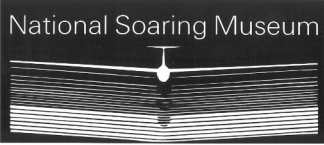
Diamond

Ken & Michelle Sorenson
Elise Eaton

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607-734-3128

SUMMER 2023



MUSEUM HOURS

May 1 - Oct. 31

Open daily 10-5

Nov. 1 - Apr. 30

Open daily 10-4

Museum closed on the
following holidays:

New Year's Day

Easter Sunday

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

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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.

My additional donation _____

Membership Benefits: Unlimited free admission • Invitations to exhibit openings and receptions
Guest passes • Subscription to the museum newsletter & journal • Volunteer opportunities
Discounts on museum programs and events • Discounts in the museum shop