

NSM NEWS

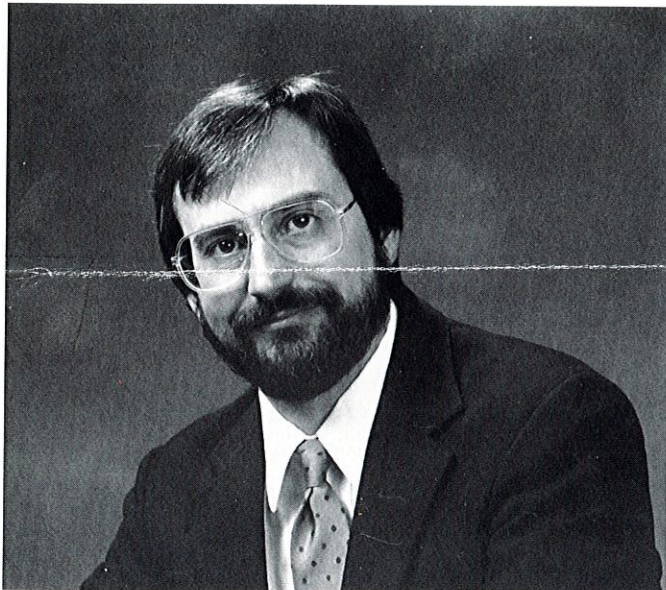
The National Soaring
Museum Newsletter

Spring 2000 Vol. 10 No. 1

"The National Soaring Museum preserves and presents the heritage of motorless flight, and promotes, through education, a greater knowledge of soaring, aeronautics, and related physical sciences for everyone."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Isacco A. Valli



I would like to introduce myself to all the members, volunteers, supporters, and friends of the National Soaring Museum. My name is Isacco A. Valli, and I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you since I joined the museum staff in January. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming months. The many wonderful people associated with the Museum have been very impressive.

I was born and raised in Corning, NY and am very pleased to return to my home area. My parents, Isacco and Bartolomea, still live in Corning where they raised six children. One of my brothers lives in Montour Falls and another in Ithaca. My youngest sister is attending medical school in Albany. Although my real name is the same as my father's, I go by the nickname of Isco (Es-ko). I'm sorry, but this is as easy as it gets!

I graduated from Corning Community College in 1971 and completed my undergraduate work in history at SUNY-Albany. In 1975, I departed New York to attend

graduate school in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. There I met my future wife, Jane Robinson, who was training in Museum Studies. She introduced me to the museum field and thus began my career. Our daughter, Annalisa, is eight years old.

Over the last twenty-two years, I worked at three museums in Wisconsin. Most of that time was spent in the "frozen tundra" of the Green Bay area in the northeastern part of the state. I returned to Corning, however, every Christmas to spend time with my family. To say that I missed the hill country during this time would be an understatement. Wisconsin is a beautiful state except it is flat compared to the Southern Tier of New York State.

The people of both areas are very similar though -- warm, friendly and down-to-earth. I enjoyed telling people in Wisconsin this. They were always befuddled at first because they assumed I meant New York City. I, of course, had to explain I was describing people in upstate New York before they could understand what I was talking about.

I am very excited about returning to the Southern Tier to join the staff of the National Soaring Museum. This year will be an exciting and challenging one for the Soaring Museum. Besides the busy schedule of yearly and special programming already in place, the Museum is in the middle of a major capital campaign to expand and improve the facility. Many of you have already supported this campaign and I thank you for your generosity. I also look forward to thanking future campaign supporters.

Trustees, staff, volunteers, members, supporters, and friends are all essential ingredients that work together to make a successful museum. I am a firm believer in the team approach to success. Teamwork established the National Soaring Museum and developed its traditions of achievement and success. Working together we will successfully meet the challenge to expand the Museum to ensure its future growth and continue its tradition for excellence.

RESTORATION

In late January, work was completed on the Waco CG-4A wing. The wing was then attached to the fuselage on display. The Waco CG-4A exhibit now has a new look thanks to the efforts of the National Soaring Museum's restoration volunteers -- Dale Gustin, Erwin Jones, and Richard Kurzenberger. The Museum thanks them for their hard work and dedication.

SOARING ENCAMPMENTS

Sixteen reservations have been made for Soaring Encampments through June 23. Approximately 300 young people will be participating in the encampment program during this time. This is double the number for all of 1999. Many more reservations are expected to be booked by the end of the year. Over 70% of participants are Girl Scouts.

The National Soaring Museum is very pleased that so many young people are interested in this special aviation program. The Soaring Museum thanks David Smith, SCT-BOCES, Charlie Santi, and Southern Tier Industries for making wing rib parts for the encampments. The Museum also thanks volunteers Josh Burczynski, Jim DuBois, John Fessenden, Corky Gill, Steve Garner, Dale Gustin, Erwin Jones, and Liz Schwenkler for assisting with encampments and making them a success.

If your group is interested in attending a Soaring Encampment or you know of a group that is interested in receiving information, please contact June Dove at 607-734-3128.

IVSM 2000

The 2nd International Vintage Soaring Meet (IVSM) 2000 to be held in the United States is scheduled for July 1 - 9. Rare vintage gliders will fill the skies over Harris Hill during this time. This is the largest assembly of historic gliders held in the country. The first time IVSM was held at Harris Hill and the United States was in 1995.

Over 40 gliders have registered for the event which includes sailplanes from: Australia, Germany, Sweden, and Switzerland. An Open House will be held on Saturday, July 8. On this day, most of the vintage gliders will remain on the ground to allow the public to see them up close and talk to the pilots and crews. A complete schedule of events will be published in the local media and NSM's website in the near future.

The Museum looks forward to welcoming the vintage sailplanes and their pilots this July. IVSM 2000 is hosted by Harris Hill Soaring Corporation, the National Soaring Museum, and the Vintage Sailplane Association.

EILEEN COLLINS AVIATION CAMP

Planning for the Eileen Collins Aviation Camp is completed. Named in honor of NASA astronaut and Elmira native Col. Eileen Collins, the Aviation Camp allows young people to spend five days flying, experimenting, and learning about aviation. It is one of the most popular summer camps in the Elmira-Corning area.

The dates for the camp are July 17 - 21 for girls and July 24 - 28 for boys. Attendance is limited to 25 participants each week. Information has been mailed to all those who expressed interest in the program during the past year. If you would like to receive this information, please contact June Dove at 607-734-3128.

GIFT SHOP

New merchandise is arriving in the Gift Shop daily. Space food and space candy has been a big seller with the school groups and encampments. New designs are in the works for shirts and will be in stock soon.

We have IVSM 2000 merchandise in stock, shirts in adult Medium, Large, and X-Large.

Golf Shirts	(white)	\$29.99
Tees	(white or cream)	14.99
Long Sleeve Tees	(white or cream)	20.00
Enamel Pins		5.00
Posters		5.00

(Shipping and Handling not included)

For pilots and World War II buffs, we have autographed copies of Joe Volmar's book, *I Learned to Fly For Hitler*. Joe lived in the United States until ninth grade when his family decided to move back to Germany. It was just before the start of WWII and Joe was caught up in the Youth for Hitler movement. At age 16, Joe ended up in the front line of battle. Wounded, beaten, and demoralized, the author experienced VE Day and was immediately employed by the U.S. forces because of his bilingual talents. Joe immigrated to the U.S. in 1951. Joe's book may be ordered from the gift shop for \$14.99 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling.

If you would like to order from our Gift Shop, you may do so by calling us at 607-734-3128 or send us a note via mail or e-mail. You may pay for your merchandise by personal check, Master Card, Visa, Discover, or American Express. Remember to give us your date of expiration if paying by credit card and don't forget your telephone number.

Steve Beck, one of our three part-time Lobby staff members has resigned to pursue other business interests. Steve is co-owner of a pet-sitting business, Critter Care, and plays in a band called Potbelly Kitten. Needless to say, Steve has a full plate. We all wish Steve good luck in his endeavors.

Sara Parsons has been hired to take Steve's place. Sara is a high school senior and will leave in August for college. Sara is pursuing a degree in teaching.

WISH LIST

Computer Equipment

Laser Printers
3-1/2" diskettes
Computer Paper

Camera Equipment and Supplies

Digital Camera
Polaroid Camera
35mm Color Film
Polaroid 600 Film

Office

Color Copy Paper
Copy Paper
Writing Pads
Liquid Paper
Manilla Folders
Manilla and Padded Envelopes
Pens and Pencils
Paper Tablets
Plastic or Rubber Storage Boxes

Maintenance

Dehumidifiers
Window Cleaner
Paper Towels
Masking Tape
3/4" Nails
Hammers
Needle Nose Pliers
Upright Vacuum Cleaner

If you are interested in making a Wish List donation to the Museum, please contact Mary Flaspahler at 607-734-3128.

WELCOME NEW TRUSTEE

The Chemung County Legislature recently appointed Donna L. Draxler from District 14 to the National Soaring Museum Board of Trustees for a two-year term. Donna replaces the late William J. Cumiskey. On behalf of the Board and staff we welcome Donna and look forward to working with her.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

The NSM hosted a volunteer recognition luncheon on April 12 where volunteers and staff enjoyed the comradery of friends working together to preserve our community and national soaring heritage.

Executive Director, Isco Valli, expressed thanks for past volunteer efforts and briefly reviewed upcoming plans for Elmira AeroTow 2000 in June and our International Vintage Sailplane Meet in July; plus our future NSM expansion plans.

Jim DuBois, former Chemung County Legislator and Chairman of the County Aviation Committee, attended the luncheon and spoke on his experience of being an NSM docent since 1998. Jim likes doing tours, aerogami, and kite sessions for overnight encampment and school groups. Jim enjoys meeting people and broadcasting the value of NSM so docent work seemed to be a natural for him. When asked if he would encourage others to join the NSM volunteer family, Jim stated, "If you take pride in our community and enjoy working with dedicated people in a field that is recognized throughout the world; then you will want to be a part of the NSM volunteer group."

Are you interested in volunteering? If so, please call NSM at 607-734-3128.

THINK WITH SCIENCE

Arnot Mall

On April 1, 2000, the National Soaring Museum participated in "Think With Science," at the Arnot Mall. Each child who participated was given a lesson in aerogami and a chance to win a free glider ride donated by the **Harris Hill Soaring Corporation**. This year's winner was Raymond Harndon. Congratulations, Raymond!

JIM SWINNICH RESIGNATION

Jim Swinnich stepped down as Executive Director of the National Soaring Museum in September 1999 due to health reasons. Jim was expected to rejoin the staff as Curator this spring. We regret that Jim had to resign the Curator position in March due to his health situation. As a result, the Soaring Museum has begun a nationwide search for a new Curator.

Jim has stopped by the Museum on many occasions to assist and consult with the new Director, Isco Valli, and the museum staff. The museum thanks Jim for his many years of dedicated service and hard work. We wish him and his family all the best.

UP TO THE CHALLENGE

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE
HUMANITIES



Jaye Fish
Director of Development

As part of our Heritage Campaign, the National Soaring Museum is applying for a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant. The grant application covers:

- construction of archives and collections storage
- construction of exhibit space for the history of soaring
- endowment for collections care and education staff, and
- operating endowment

NSM is asking for \$418,750.

If we receive the grant, we will have to match each NEH dollar 3:1, with new Heritage Campaign gifts or pledges. The total of the NEH grant and the matching funds the Museum must raise will bring us to the campaign goal of \$3.15 million. (We're more than halfway to the goal even without the Challenge Grant, thanks to folks like the ones listed on page 5).

Fortunately, we have several years to collect the matching funds and can begin to receive matching gifts now. Most new gifts or pledges made since 11/30/99 are eligible if not restricted to other uses. Once our application is approved, NSM will be able to receive an additional dollar for each three received from our donors, within certain guidelines.

If you've already made a gift or pledge since last December 1, we will be writing to you later in the year, asking you to verify that you understand about the NEH Challenge Grant and that it is agreeable with you to use your gift as matching funds. Responding to the letter will increase the value of your gift to the Museum by one-third!

And if you've been waiting to see how the Heritage Campaign was progressing before making a contribution, now is the time! Use the form on page 11 to send your pledge or gift. And please check the NEH box.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 7 - 10, 2000

2000 Elmira Aerotow Festival

Hosted by Harris Hill L/D R/C
NSM - Elmira, NY

July 1, 2000

National Landmark of Soaring #11

Harris Hill Flight Center
Elmira, NY

July 1 - 9, 2000

IVSM 2000

(International Vintage Sailplane Meet)

NSM - Elmira, NY

VSA (Vintage Sailplane Association)

Annual Meeting

NSM - Elmira, NY

(in conjunction with IVSM 2000)

July 7 - 9, 2000

SHA (Sailplane Homebuilders Association)

Eastern Workshop

NSM - Elmira, NY

(in conjunction with IVSM 2000)

Eileen Collins Aviation Camp

July 17 - 21, 2000 - Girls' Week

July 24 - 28, 2000 - Boys' Week

NSM - Elmira, NY

September 9, 2000

Community Soaring Day/Kitecitement

NSM - Elmira, NY

**Recognition of Friends of the Museum
Annual Giving December 1999 - February 2000**

HERITAGE CAMPAIGN

(Includes new gifts and payments made 12/1/1999 through 2/29/2000. Total gift levels will be calculated at the end of the Campaign.)

Moses and Sophie Acee
Mr and Mrs Steve Albertalli
in honor of David F Elliott
Robert A August
Al and Marion Backstrom
Rolf and Tita Bahrenburg
Robert and Marion Ball
Paul Behrens
David Beltz
Theodore A Bennett,
Chemung County Legislator
Dr and Mrs E Peter Benzing
Peter W Beresin
Bermuda High Soaring
William R Bigge
Oscar Boesch
Martin and Karen Breinlinger
Bradley and Betty Breyman
Donald L and Norma Brooks
Robert and Brenda Brown
William H and Florence Bruning
Gifford Bull
Howard and Helen Burr
Mr and Mrs Dale A Busque
Jeffery G Byard
Caesar Creek Soaring Club
in memory of Bruce Helvie
Dorothy Call-Lovell
Mr and Mrs Loris J Charchian
Dr and Mrs Roy D Clark Jr
County of Chemung
William and Diana Dade
Vera V Dauman
Linda DeMarco
John C Dellicker
Mr and Mrs Jerome Denton
Richard and Natalie Denton
Mr and Mrs Thomas F Dixon
Charles E Dobkins
David Dwyer
Elm Chevrolet Inc
Liam and Judith English
Evans Service Company
Theodore J Falk
Winfried M Feifel
Dr William C Feldbaumer
William M and Cecilia Foley
John S and Judith Forrest
Eberhard and Trudy Geyer
Mrs McVey Graham Sr
in memory of McVey Graham
Dr Edward and Irene Grandt
Ben W Greene
Eric Greenwell
Mr and Mrs Lyman Gridley
Walter J and Beverly Gurney
Stewart C and Alice Hansen
James E Hard and Kathleen C Winters
Robert N Hart III
Maj Robert L and Grace Henbest

Gene Herber
Henry A and Jean Herr
Thomas L and Helen Hine
Mr and Mrs Edward K Hoffman Jr
Harvey L Howell
David and Virginia Hudnut
Frederick P and Lucinda Hughes
Robert R Imsande
Mr and Mrs Clinton S Janes Jr
Ken and Cheryl Jobe
Albert L Jr and Virginia Jones
Warren and Alice Jones
Glennon C and Eileen Kidd
Kittyhawk Soaring Club
Mrs John Krajcovic
in memory of John Krajcovic
Lee Kuhlke
George and Sophia Kulesza
Richard and Ann Marie Lafford
David Laitinen
Wm Marshall and Lois Lee
Donald A Levinger Esq
John C Lincoln II and Valerie Lincoln
Stephen and Janie Lindenbaum
Patricia Lucas
Davidson and Lois Luehring
Mr and Mrs Kazuo Masutani
Dale S and Jeanne May
in memory of G Scott May
Leonard W and Eleanor McClain
in honor of all who've flown at Harris Hill and NSM staff
William L McDaniel Jr
William E and Peggy McFadden
John R and Esther McGonigle
P L McWhorter
Marilyn Meline
Robert M and Margaret Nady
Paul G Nagle
Paul and Sarah Nissen
in memory of Wally Setz and Ralph Barnaby
Mr and Mrs William A Ordway
J Randall Owings
Dr and Mrs Bernard Paiewonsky
Matthew C and Joy Perry
Richard and Olive Phelan
John F and Ella M Place
William and Caroline Prickett
in memory of Richard C. du Pont, Jr
John and Jane Prislopski
Michael and Susan Randolph
Frank and Jayne Reid
Jim and Shirley Reinsmith
in memory of Liz Reinsmith
E H and June Replogle
Dorianne and John Riggs
Lee and Vivian Robbins
Andrew Rothstein and Joyce Wasserman
Miss Bertha M Ryan
Mrs John D Ryan
in memory of John D Ryan
Arthur Scheurer
in memory of Gus Scheurer
Ron and Betty Schwartz
Ernest and Eileen Schweizer

Stuart and Lucia E Schweizer
William and Margaret Schweizer
Mr and Mrs T Curran Sekella
Edward and Michaela Skalniak
William T and Linda M Smith
Mr and Mrs Richard Swan
Charles Swartwood
in memory of John Seeley
Floyd and Isabel Sweet
Billy Taylor
Herb and Virginia Tenny
Douglas and Meredith Tift
Toledo Community Foundation
Lynn Van Campen
Han and Nelson van den Blink
Jan and Claire van den Blink
Allen and Ruth Van Name
Calvin W and Marilyn Weiss
Gareth O Wick
Harrison F Wood
Jack and Dody Wyman
Frank and Carmen Zeic

MEMBERSHIP**PATRON LEVEL**

Jopseh and Dorothy Monte
Paul A and Virginia Schweizer
Han and Nelson van den Blink

SPONSOR LEVEL

Robert C and Vera J Heideman
Henry S and Jean Herr
F M Howell Company
Mrs Victor M Saudek

SUSTAINING LEVEL

Anna and William Baker Memorial Fund
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Maj Robert L and Grace Henbest
James O and Dianne Howell
Marilyn Meline
Rudolf and Hanna Opitz
James E Orsillo
Anne Parker
Billy and Sylvia Singleton

FAMILY LEVEL

Richard A and Dianne Amberg
Alan Angell and Beth Dollinger
Rolf and Tita Bahrenburg
James and Janice Blum
Earle and Evelyn Catlin
Loris and Mardi Charchian
Charles and Lucile Easterbrook
Dr Edward J and Irene Grandt
David and Virginia Hudnut
Mrs William S Ivans
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K William and Nancy Kistler
Merrill and Lydia Lynn
Richard J and Mary Miller

Robert A Mitchell
Mary Welles Mooers Smith
Donald B and Elaine Moser
Mr and Mrs John Murray
Jim and Shirley Reinsmith
Jan and Mai Scott
Dr Timothy and Gretchen Sharlow
Myron A and Margaret Smith
Scot and Elizabeth Stricker
Paul and Louise Wolfe
Harrison F Wood

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

William R Batesole
Bruce G Bottoms
Mary Jane Brown
Gunars Bumburs
Cecil Craig
Robert M De Wald
Jo Ann Dittert
Joseph Elgin
Thomas Finelli
William H Jenkins
Jack W Laister
Charles R Lohre
Leonard W McClain
Henry Meyerrose
David W Ochsner
Christopher Olszewski
Bertha M Ryan
Harris M Schurmeier
William C Sproull
Billy Taylor
Nicholas H Warner
John M Weir

IN-KIND GIFTS

International Business Machines

MEMORIALS

Bernard and Gloria Gross
in memory of Dr. Frank Gross for the Gross Sky Ghost Scholarship

Darrel E Watson
in memory of Ned Wilson

NATIONAL LANDMARKS OF SOARING

Paul A and Virginia Schweizer

IVSM-2000 SPONSORS

Gaines Composite Solutions
DG Airparts
Eagle Brand Products
Mountain Valley Airport
Poly-Fiber
Precision Air Inc
Wings & Wheels

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION HELD IN ALBUQUERQUE

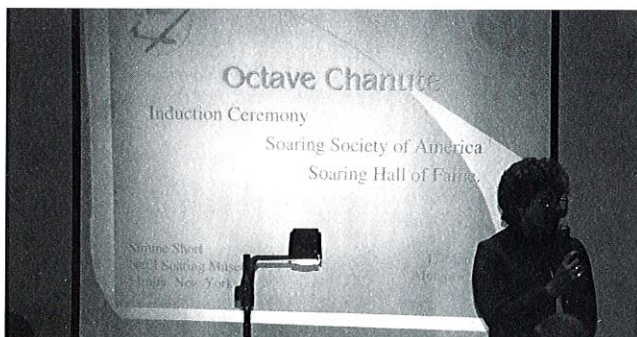
For the second year, the National Soaring Museum conducted the Induction Ceremonies for the United States Soaring Hall of Fame at the SSA Convention. More than 175 looked on as the 1999 inductees -- George Applebay of Moriarty, New Mexico, and soaring pioneer Octave Chanute -- were honored.

Octave Chanute's great-great-grandson, Joseph C. Hodges, Jr., spoke of his growing appreciation of soaring



Stephen Hill presented the tribute to Applebay, whom he has known and worked with for more than thirty years. Hill emphasized the ability to inspire and mentor others. Applebay runs the successful George Applebay and Associates at Moriarty Airport, specializing in sailplane and motorglider maintenance. He also is a sailplane designer, including the Open Class Mescalero and the 15-meter Zuni and Chiricahua.

Simine Short, who chairs NSM's National Landmarks of Soaring Sub-Committee, presented a biographical sketch of Chanute (1832-1910), the civil engineer turned aeronaut who financed extensive gliding experiments in the late 19th century, summarized the experiments of others in his landmark book *Progress in Flying Machines*, and carried on an extensive correspondence with the Wright brothers. Chanute was a railway bridge builder and used trusses in his bi-plane designs. The Wrights adapted Chanute's truss work for their gliders and the Wright Flyer. Chanute's great-great-grandson Joseph G. Hodges, Jr., of Denver, was on hand for the ceremonies and read several prophetic passages from Chanute's book.



Simine Short used overhead graphics to illustrate her bio sketch of Chanute



SSA President Larry Sanderson (left) hands Hall of Fame plaque to George Applebay

After the induction, NSM held a gala reception to honor all Hall of Fame members and their families, with more than 275 in attendance. A special highlight was a presentation by National Aeronautic Association president Don Koranda. He presented the Harmon Trophy to Brian Jones, who headed the first team to balloon nonstop around the world.

For NSM, the Hall of Fame ceremonies go beyond the chance to honor outstanding soaring personalities. As the official archive of SSA, the Museum uses the Hall of Fame as an opportunity to capture the special, human stories that make up soaring history. The event itself is also part of the Museum's educational programs. That is the main reason the induction ceremonies are now held at the SSA Convention. Far more people are able to attend during the Convention than could come each year to Harris Hill; so now far more learn about the Hall of Fame. Next year's ceremonies will be in Indianapolis.



The traditional group shot of Hall of Fame members in attendance for the class of 1999 induction: Seated, left to right: Alcide Santilli, Hannes Linke, Paul MacCready, Joseph Hodges (for his great-great-grandfather, 1999 inductee Octave Chanute), 1999 inductee George Applebay, Virginia Schweizer, Bertha Ryan, Richard Johnson, Floyd Sweet. Standing, left to right: Charles Spratt, Edgar Seymour, Ed Byars, Paul Schweizer, William Sproull, Hal Lattimore, Sterling Starr, Howard Burr, Henry Combs, and Carl Herold.

Arvin Comes Alive -- Sixty Years later!!

by Simine Short, Chair National Landmark of Soaring

Saturday, 29 April 2000 - - - National Landmark of Soaring No. 10, Arvin, California.

The Tejon Ranch opened their corrals for the latest addition in the NSM's outreach program, a soaring event, just as the owners did some sixty years ago. The text of the Landmark plaque dedicated as the Arvin-Sierra Soaring Site on the Tejon Ranch summarizes what happened there about sixty years earlier.

Arvin-Sierra Glider Port, 1937-1941. Located on the hills in front of you, on the historic Tejon Ranch, the Arvin-Sierra Soaring Port was the site for the West Coast Soaring Championships. Many of America's famous glider pilots made record flights from here, soaring over the mountains and into the desert. The contests were popular events to pilots and public alike and the site became the most important glider port in California, legendary in the history of soaring in America. When World War II shut down activity here, those star pilots became key to the war effort, as pilots, scientists, engineers, and builders of advanced aircraft, leaving an aerospace legacy that exists today.

While several model gliders made lazy circles in the morning sky, the historic Arvin site was readied for the remembrance ceremony. The "runway" to be used for the glider flight demonstration was roped off to contain the crowd. However, five cows, wondering what was going on in their land and refusing to be contained, slowly walked across the pasture and began grazing on the "runway." Tom Fane, the Tejon Ranch cowboy and manager of the White Wolf Farm section of the Ranch, was quick to realize that this might create a problem. He demonstrated -- and this was not part of the program -- how well his dogs were trained. He whistled and two of the dogs jumped from the pick-up truck; he whistled again and the dogs ran over to the cattle, herded the big animals and drove them down the hill, away from the soon-to-be active "runway." Now the scheduled ceremony could begin.

About 300 spectators were driven to the site in volunteer-driven vans. With the U.S. flag flying high, the Arvin Remembrance Ceremony with its Landmark Dedication began with the salute to the flag and the "Star Spangled Banner." Next followed welcoming statements from Janice Armstrong, Chair of the Arvin 2000 committee, Lawrence Wernli representing the Arvin Historical Society, and Tom Fane on behalf of the Tejon Ranch.

To reenact the soaring events of sixty years ago, three restored vintage sailplanes landed on the historic Arvin-Sierra soaring site. The first sailplane, a TG-2 flown by Jeff Byard and Jim Short, was circling above and waiting for clearance from Dan Armstrong to land. With most of the rocks removed from the "runway" the day before, the landing in the tall grass amidst the wildflowers was smooth. A second TG-2, piloted by Doug Fronius and father Bob, landed a few minutes later, also rolling up the hill in front of the spectators. Souvenir mail carried in these two sailplanes was handed to the United States Postal Service official and was available for sale after the dedication.

A short time later, a third sailplane, a Bowlus Baby Albatross, flown by Wayne Spani, appeared in the sky, thermalling and determining how to best bring the ship down on this strange and historic ground. Landing of the Baby Bowlus was significant as this type was typical of the ships flown in Arvin in the late 1930's. Emotions of the pilots and the spectators were high.

The site on which the sailplanes landed had not changed much during the past sixty years. It almost seemed as if time had stood still on this mountainous site. One could still see the huge oak tree under which the contestants' tents of the 1930s were erected. One could still see the area where the winch stood, and where the launching cable ran through the grass to the gliders awaiting launch many years ago.

The ceremony continued with the release of two racing pigeons in memory of two pilots who died in a midair crash in 1940. Remarks were delivered by Stan Hall. Phil Krauter reminisced about his participation as a line boy for Lucretia Buxton sixty years ago. Woody Brown remembered the West-Coast Glider Championships and Hawley Bowlus. Jack Bowlus spoke about his father and the Bowlus family. It was very apparent that Hawley Bowlus and Lucretia Buxton were on many people's mind because both pilots, in their own way, were contributors to the growth of soaring in California in the 1930s.

The highlight of the event was the National Landmark of Soaring Dedication, with Linn Buell representing NSM. The bronze plaque was unveiled with Jeff Byard's help and glistened in the sunshine.

It was interesting to watch the faces of some of the old-time Arvin alumni who had participated in these events sixty years ago; their facial expressions looked as if they were reliving the past. Some also looked with a certain amazement at the three sailplanes which had just landed so many years later.

The ceremony concluded as Katie McCown sang "America the Beautiful," clearly and beautifully. It was an emotional way of ending a memorable event.

This tenth National Landmark of Soaring dedication marks twenty years of NSM efforts honoring significant people, events and sites which contributed to the growth of soaring in the United States. This event was special to some of the NSM volunteers who had been with this program for many years and had participated at past Landmark dedications. The Arvin 2000 committee with the assistance of the Sailplane Homebuilders Association, the Vintage Sailplane Association and the National Soaring Museum, all affiliates of the Soaring Society of America, did a wonderful job honoring the Arvin-Sierra Soaring site and the community with all the people who were active then and now.

Fig. 1 -- Double aero-tow to the Arvin-Sierra Soaring Port

Fig. 2 -- Coming in to land

Fig. 3 -- NLS No. 10 Plaque (photo by Ray Williams)

Fig. 4 -- The Arvin-Sierra Soaring Port and its crowd during the Remembrance Ceremony

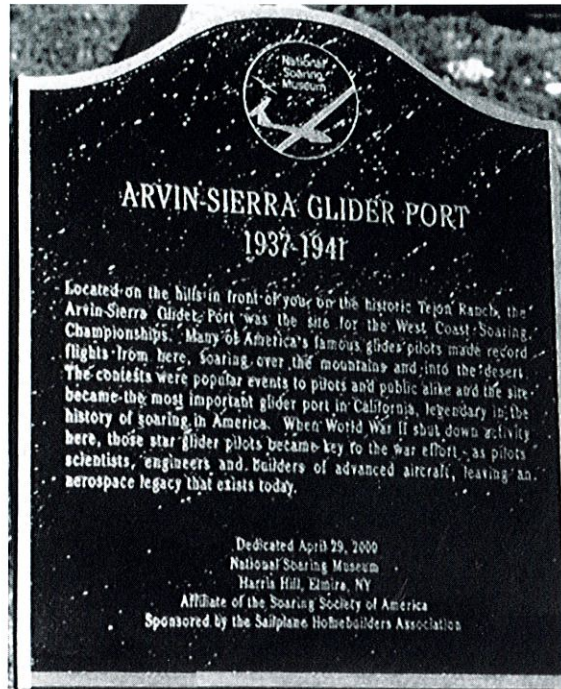


Figure 1

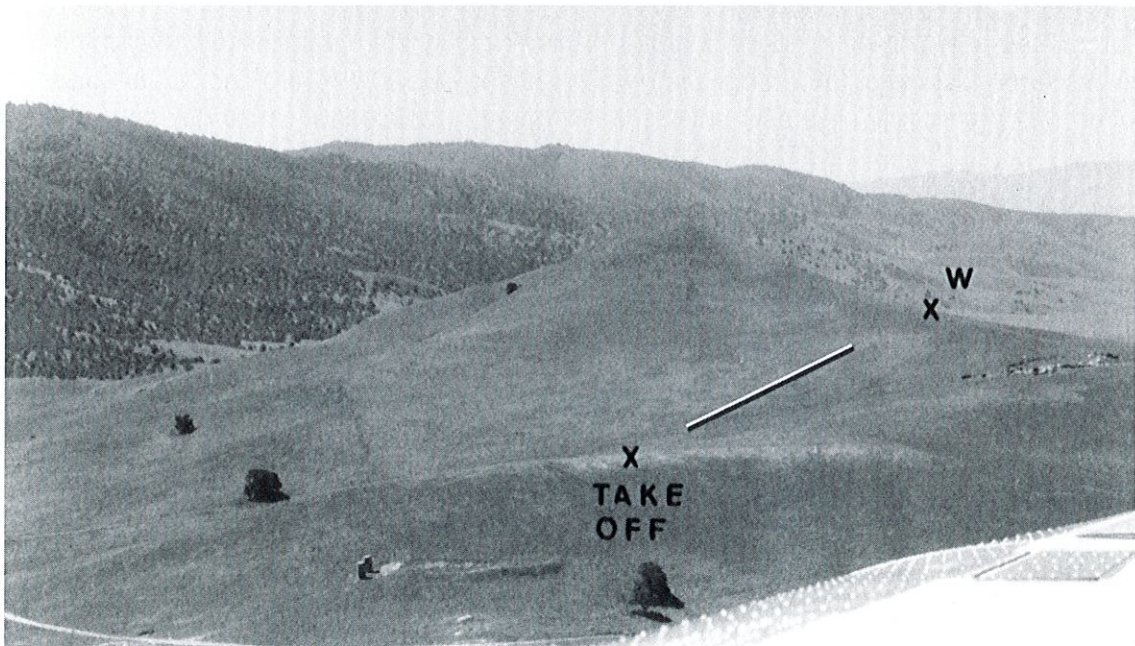


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



NEH-2

This is how your name will appear on the Honor Wall. Please make any name/address corrections below. Thank you.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/ST/Zip _____

Yes! I/we want to be part of NSM's Heritage Campaign and respond to the NEH Challenge with a . . .

- gift of \$300 \$900 pledge (see other column) Receive "Soaring Heritage" print
- \$2400 \$6000 Receive framed print
- \$24,000 \$60,000 Receive walnut framed print
- Other \$ _____

YES! Count my gift/pledge toward the NEH match!

This gift will be matched by _____
A matching gift form is enclosed.

This gift will be fulfilled with securities or tangible personal property. Please call (____) _____ - _____.

This gift is in memory of _____
or in honor of _____

Please return this form with your check payable to **National Soaring Museum**. Thank you!

- This *pledge* will be paid in yearly quarterly monthly
- other _____ installments and fulfilled by 12/31/2001.
- Please send reminders.
- Please charge all scheduled payments to the account below.
- First payment is enclosed. Payments to begin _____.
- Please *charge* this gift to: VISA MasterCard
 AmEx Discover
- Card Number _____
- Exp. Date _____ Day Phone (____) _____ - _____
- Signature _____ Date _____

**GET YOUR FREE, LIMITED EDITION
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Be among the first to give at least \$300 to the Heritage Campaign and receive our handsome 18x24, full-color poster, suitable for framing. Or contribute \$2,400 or more and the poster comes framed and ready to hang. Only 300 were printed, so send your gift or pledge today!

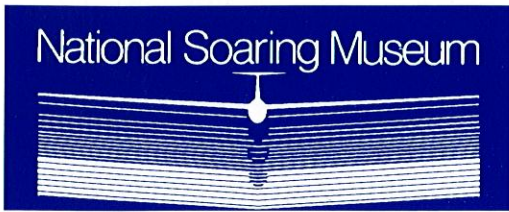
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Hours: 10:00am to 5:00pm
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ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS VISIT NSM

On April 15, 2000, some 45 members of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets from Stratford, Ontario, Canada visited the National Soaring Museum. They were very appreciative of the information provided by NSM and are convinced this information will broaden the cadet's horizons and create a greater sense of awareness of aviation, both present and past.

(Left: the bus driver telling his harrowing story of the journey up Harris Hill!)

