



2015-2016 WSPA Candidates

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Leah Condon - Central Region



My name is Leah Condon and I am currently based in Wichita, KS. I have served on the WSPA board for the past 2-years as WSPA secretary. While other obligations do not always allow me to fly as much as I would like, I am still willing to serve the WSPA board to provide some continuity. My husband Tony is a competition glider pilot and I am often his trusty crew and thus get to be involved in soaring events even if I personally tend not to leave the glide distance from my home airport. I have now had my rating for a little over 3 years and successfully completed my first BFR this August. I also am currently assisting in the restoration of an SGS 2-22 and am active in the Vintage Sailplane Association. When not flying I coach rowing, like to row myself, canoe, work as an engineer, read, and ride horses.



Valerie Deschamps – Western Region



I would appreciate your voting consideration for one of the ‘Member At Large’ positions on the Board of Directors.

The province of Alberta in Canada has been home for most of my life. I lived on a dairy/grain farm until I was 12 years old then moved to a very small oilfield community. Although I have always had an interest in flying, neither of these places offered much in the way of aviation. When “life got in the way” my priorities changed, I married then raising my son and daughter was first and foremost. For a brief period of time I lived on the Mediterranean Island of Malta. After moving back to Alberta circumstances changed, we divorced, I became a single parent for ten plus years. In 1989 I married a man who had taken glider training while a Cadet. He completed getting his Glider Pilot License in 2004. While he was out enjoying himself I occasionally came to the airfield to spend time with him and slowly came to realize that I genuinely enjoyed flying in sailplanes. In the fall of 2007 I experienced the flight that would make me see the world of soaring with a whole new point of view. Literally! That memorable flight was spectacular, lasted over three hours, reached an altitude of 18,500ft and flew a distance over 250 kilometers. Darting between the clouds while watching them form in front of us, seeing the shadow of the sailplane on a cloud below us, the halos, the vista of the Rocky Mountains from that altitude – absolutely outstanding! So in 2008 I started my training under the guidance of Instructor Carol Mulder, learned about WSPA and joined. In 2010, a couple of weeks before we attended the Air Sailing Seminar, I wrote the Transport Canada exam and received my Glider Pilot License. Since then I have remained a WSPA member and have attended two Seminars, the latest being this year’s at York Soaring where I was selected as the recipient of the Flying Montagues Scholarship. I have also been: a member of the Soaring Association of Canada, Secretary of the Central Alberta Gliding Club (CAGC), President of CAGC for two years, am currently a Director for CAGC, a member of Women in Aviation International, helped organize Alberta’s ‘Chics Take Flight’ event for 2012 and later hosted it in 2013. Our motto is “Release your inner pilot!” Now I take every opportunity that arises not only to pro-mote soaring to everyone but especially to encourage ladies, young or mature, to release their inner pilot.



Maja Djuriscic – Western Region



My name is Maja Djuriscic, and I am running for a third term on the Board of WSPA, for the years 2015-2016. For the past couple of tenures I have volunteered on the WSPA Board as the Vice-President and the Seminar Coordinator. During that time I helped organize four Annual Seminars, in Tucson Soaring Club in 2011, in Chilhowee, TN 2012, Moriarty, NM in 2013 and York Soaring near Toronto in 2014. All of these seminars were exceptional and resulted in many happy women glider pilots, new members and numerous volunteers for the WSPA Board and different committees. Currently, preparations are under way for 2015 and 2016 Seminars, which we hope will bring some surprises and even more enthusiasm for soaring among our women pilots.

Some of the objectives I have set for myself during the past two years have been accomplished, e.g. streamlining the process for Seminar Host bidding, making Seminar registration and membership applications mostly an electronic process, facilitating communication among the members via [womensoaring] group and the new WSPA Facebook page. My hope is that some of these changes will further enhance the support that WSPA offers to women's glider pilot community.

My soaring "career" started about five years ago when I joined Northern California Soaring Association (NCSA). Since then, I obtained my private rating, all the SSA badges, the silver FAI badge, and the gold duration leg. I am also working towards the commercial glider rating. Currently, I am also serving as an officer on the NCSA Board, where I am very much involved in glider maintenance within club environment. I hope that I will continue to work with the new team of WSPA Board officers for the next two years, as we strive to make our growing organization even more a part of modern and competitive soaring community.



Christina Peddle – Eastern Region



Hello, my name is Christina Peddle. I am a 20-year-old glider pilot and private pilot from Brampton, Ontario, Canada. I got my glider pilot license through the Royal Canadian Air Cadet program when I was 16, and my private power license when I was 17. I am currently a Civilian Instructor for the Air Cadet program, and hope to bring WSPA to the young male and female graduates of the gliding program. I am also one of your current WSPA facebook administrators. I've worked in a post office since the day I turned 16, so I know how to work efficiently while under pressure and time restraints. I always try to make myself available and respond as quickly as I possibly can. I'm a creative person who loves to come up with ideas and listen to any that anyone would like to share. I want to be able to help the amazing men and women at WSPA in anyway I can, and if elected, I would love to bring a new perspective on matters to the organization and be able to be a representative that any member could approach with any idea on how we can keep WSPA one of the best, most well-known, gliding organizations out there.



Mary Rust - Western Region
(Current Treasurer -3 years)



Mary began flying gliders on April 5, 1981, in Los Alamitos, CA, where she earned her Private and Commercial Glider License in the early 1980's and a Private Pilot's License in Single Engine Land at Long Beach Airport, CA in the mid 1980's. She was trained equally on winch and aero-tow, and has now logged over 4300 flights. She became a Flight Instructor in 1994 and has trained glider pilots for the Private, Commercial, and Flight Instructor levels, working for Sailplane Enterprises (an FBO) for 18 years in Hemet, CA, and volunteering as CFI for Orange County Soaring Association for 17 years. Later, she worked at Lake Elsinore Soaring Association for 3 years, before retiring from flight instructing. She continues flying from time to time at various glider events. Mary also served as the SSA's California State Record keeper for 6 years, and has been the current WSPA Treasurer for 3 years.

Besides being a pilot, Mary was a public school teacher and administrator from 1975 to 2005. She has earned several awards in both teaching and in gliders. Her most coveted awards were her Symons Wave Memorial Plaque and Pin for a flight of over 25,000' absolute altitude in her SGS 1-26D flying out of California City Airport on April 17, 1988; and winning the Anne Morrow Lindbergh Challenge Trophy in 1986 for a 6.25 hr. flight of 193 miles in that same SGS 1-26D from Cal City to Nichols, Nevada.

Mary also raised three children and now spends as much time as she can with her three grandkids. She loves traveling with her husband (all over the world) and they both enjoy fishing in their little 16' duck boat with their dog, Dakota.

Mary joined our Women's Soaring Group by invitation from Bertha Ryan and Nancy Evans, before we became incorporated as the "Women's Soaring Pilots Association" in 1986, and she is an original member. She has attended many WSPA Seminars over the past 28 years. She has co-directed two WSPA Seminars (1989 - Tehachapi, CA and 1996 - Hemet, CA). Mary loves serving as the WSPA Treasurer and would like to serve another 2 year term.



Anne Wright – Central Region



I have been a powered-airplane pilot since 1997, and fly a Supercub. In 2009 I added a Seaplane rating in a J3 Cub at Jack Brown Seaplane Base in Florida. The seaplane instruction taught me about reading the winds on the lakes, which I compare to the forecast.

Currently I am working on adding a glider rating. By learning to fly gliders my piloting skills have vastly improved, which was my original goal. Now I'm discovering the joy and challenge of soaring for its own sake.

I attended my first WSPA seminar at Chilhowee Gliderport in June, 2012, and my second WSPA seminar at York Soaring in July 2014. This is starting to get addictive! I'm already looking forward to a week of soaring out west in 2015.

I soloed a Blanik L23 at Chilhowee, and soloed an ASK-13 with a local club. The challenge for me right now is finding thermals and staying in them.

I am honored to be nominated for the board, and appreciate the opportunity to serve the wonderful women of WSPA!



Elke Fuglsang-Petersen - International



When I started soaring in 1990 - out of the blue - in my hometown, I had no idea what was waiting for me out and up there. Thermals, ridges, wave, new friends, silver badge, gold badge, instructor license, records... Now, half a life later I am happy that despite having to raise three kids, fulfilling a job, keeping a home + garden I am still able to enjoy my quality time up in the sky, whenever weather and schedule allow me to fly out. My home country is the very North of Germany, flat and green between two seas North and Baltic Sea). But during my three years in Boulder, Colorado I learned, that big brownish-grayish mountains are much better for soaring. The Rockies inspired me to fly a little higher, farther and faster than before. Two WSPA seminars and several other trips offered me a good insight into the American soaring community. Now, back between my two seas I do of course miss those big skies, at least we do have plenty of landable fields here... I still like to keep in touch with the World when reporting for different magazines, online or on paper. Working with WSPA sounds like a great opportunity to keep friendships alive, meet new people and to share experiences here and on the other side of the globe."