



# Candidate Biographies

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*For the 2017/2018 Women Soaring Pilots Association Board of Directors*

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## Mary Rust

(Current WSPA Treasurer - 5 yrs)



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 5 years.

Besides being a pilot, Mary was a public school teacher and administrator from 1975 to 2005. She has earned several awards in 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 (and a half) 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 30 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.



## Laura Radigan



Hi: My name is Laura Radigan and I am honored to be asked to run for a director position with the Women's Soaring Pilots Association. It has been only three wonderful years since I first began my aviation training. Since that time, I have achieved my private license for single engine land, seaplanes and gliders. I am qualified to fly conventional gear (tail wheel) and also have a self-launch sailplane endorsement. I have given talks at the International Association of Women Pilots

S.E. sectional meeting on soaring, given talks to Civil Air patrol cadets, and have been the official SSA photographer at the 2016 SSA convention. I have flown as a guest pilot in the 2015 and 2016 Seniors Soaring Championship and have been asked to be the operations officer for the 2017 Sailplane Grand Prix U.S. qualifier races. I have attended to 2015 WSPA seminar in Minden NV and will be bringing my SZD 59 Acro sailplane to Chilhowee, TN for the 2017 seminar. I am currently dividing my time between studying for my commercial sailplane rating and flying sailplane aerobatics training. My goal is to be prepared to participate in the 2018 U.S. National Aerobatic Championship in Oshkosh WI. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the WSPA membership and the soaring community. Chicks Fly!



## Margarett Roy



Dear fellow WSPA members,

I am submitting to you my request to contribute to the continuous work of WSPA by enlisting as a board member.

I have been a member of WSPA since its inception and even before. My first memory of our flying camps goes back to the summer of 1984 at TSA (Texas Soaring Association) when I almost did my 5 hours in the 2-33 except for that annoying thunderstorm. I have attended many WSPA seminars since then and organized our seminar at Sugarbush twice. With Phyllis, we started the scholarship committee which continues to provide a reliable structure to which our members can turn to for support in pursuit of their flying goals.

My first experience in flying was in a glider. After that first ride, my next flight was my first lesson.

I developed an interest in meteorology as a result of my involvement in soaring activities and remained intrigued by the wave phenomena. Today my most enjoyable moments are when I feel that recognizable transition to that stable air and the quiet and steady rise to higher altitudes.

I obtained my Private Pilot license in gliders, then later added a single engine certificate. I practice at Sugarbush Soaring in Vermont even though I live near New York City.

I hope to meet you again at the next WSPA seminar.

MARGARETT ROY  
ISLIP, NY



## Lora Lewis



Lora began flying in 1983 during her senior year of high school, funded by her part-time after school job, and earned her Private Pilot Airplane rating at age 17 right after graduation. She was introduced to glider flying at the US Air Force Academy in the summer right after her freshman year there, and it was then that her love for flying literally began to soar! She earned her private pilot glider rating, and was the only female in her class selected to upgrade to become a glider IP. It was there on the flight line that she met her future husband, and later made a difficult decision to leave the Academy, support him in his Air Force career (24 years as a pilot), and raise their 7 children, homeschooling all of them including 3 adopted with special needs. Lora began flying again in January 2016 with Civil Air Patrol in a C172 and got her flight review done so she is now a current pilot, working on instrument and multi-engine ratings. In April, she started flying gliders again and earned her Commercial. With the aid of a WSPA scholarship, she obtained her CFI in Gliders in July, and now gives CAP cadets orientation flights and flight instruction as a volunteer. She is also the newly appointed Glider Program Coordinator for the Florida Wing of Civil Air Patrol. Besides her involvement with CAP, Lora coaches a high school cross country and track team, substitute teaches in high school, and coaches adults in the sports of triathlon and running. Lora has a lot of contact with young women, and uses that to influence and encourage them to pursue flying for both pleasure and a profession. Lora would like to serve a term on the WSPA board as a director.



## Christine Patton



I'm an emergency physician living just outside of Pittsburgh PA, with my husband, and 2 cats. In my spare time I like to run, CrossFit, fly gliders, read, and drink wine. I learned to fly at Ridge Soaring, where my brother taught me, and hope to start flying at his new soaring operation in Petersburg WV. I haven't had much opportunity to fly this year, and want to become more involved in the soaring community, so being elected to the Board would be a great way to contribute and meet other pilots. I plan to go to the annual seminar in Chilhowie regardless, so I look forward to meeting many of you there.



## Alexis Glynn Latner



Alexis Glynn Latner has been a member of the Soaring Club of Houston and the Soaring Society of America since 1998. She earned her glider rating in 2000 (at Miami Gliders.) Since then, she has attended several SSA conventions starting with the one in Dayton, Ohio, where she was a key player in WSPA's Paper Glider Project. She has attended WSPA Seminars in Dayton, Chilhowee, Moriarty, and Minden. Currently she serves WSPA—which is incorporated in Texas—as WSPA's registered agent, i.e. official mailing address, in that state.

In the other facets of her life, she is a writer, editor, and teacher of creative writing. Her speculative fiction stories have appeared in magazines and anthologies and she has three published science fiction novels. Articles written by her have appeared in aviation magazines, including a number of articles in *Soaring* and a brief piece in *Air and Space*. She teaches creative writing through the Glasscock School of Continuing Studies at Rice University and has a day job in Rice's Fondren Library.

As a volunteer in nonprofit organizations, Alexis has been Secretary and Maintenance Chief for the Soaring Club of Houston; publicist for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Houston; and South-Central Regional Director of SFWA, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. SFWA is somewhat comparable to WSPA, so Alexis understands how officers can run a far-flung organization with frequent communication by e-mail plus meeting in person at major annual events. She knows how important it is for such organizations to have good, up to date bylaws—which WSPA now does—and conscientious officers responsive to the membership. She is also well aware that the workload can range from light to crisis management.

Alexis values the uniqueness of WSPA as one of the only international soaring organizations. She wants WSPA to continue to support women in soaring. She hopes that WSPA in the 21st Century may even find new ways to make a definite and positive difference for soaring pilots, female and male, old and young.



## Charlotte Taylor



Charlotte Taylor grew up sailing on the Great Lakes, then moved to the mid-Midwest and switched to soaring. She got her airplane rating in St. Louis in 1995, and her private glider rating in 1997 at St. Louis Soaring Association. She flies gliders and also tows, and got her own glider in 2001. She joined WSPA in the late 1990's after a WSPA member contacted her about the group. She has gained loads of her soaring skills and knowledge at WSPA seminars, and would like to see other women continue to these opportunities.



## Joan Burn



I am Joan Burn and I live in northern Delaware. I have been flying gliders for 6 years and a private pilot for 35 years. I learned to fly as a teenager - working odd jobs to scrape together enough to pay for each lesson. Once I graduated high school and moved on to college, my flying endeavors were grounded due to finances. Decades later with a lot of life in between-- including 6 years in the Air Force (sadly, I was too short to fly!), 4 children, and a law degree-- I rediscovered my love for flying. Some ladies from the office and I decided to explore the local glider club and from the moment the instructor said "your plane", I knew I had come home. I joined Brandywine Soaring Association and got a family membership, so my husband Tim and our youngest son could try it. My husband went on to earn his commercial glider rating and our son earned his private glider rating. Now, my husband and son share my passion for flying and we often choose our vacation destinations based on availability of glider operations (Estrella and Air Sailing are a couple favorites). Currently, I am trying out retirement and we are planning for when we are both retired and have more time to pursue our interests (besides flying, I enjoy rowing, biking, hiking, photography and writing



## Elke fuglsang-Petersen



...started soaring after I had finished my school and college education and found myself locked into a small office for the next 45 years. In German soaring clubs I met a lot of new friends, and enjoyed a great way to get out, I could see the things from a different angle, and gained a better overview.

While my three kids grew up on the airfield, I managed to keep soaring, just not too far out. I decided to become an instructor and enjoyed working with students. In 2010 we moved to the Western

US... and stayed for three years.

Meanwhile having travelled a bit, flown a lot and lived in two countries, I know glider pilots here and there are as amiable as everywhere on the world. We were extremely fortunate to find a temporary soaring home in Boulder, Colorado, sure one of the best and most scenic places to fly on Earth! After 20 years in the flat I finally learned about wave flying, dust devils and real high cloud bases.

My husband and our eldest son love the sport of soaring as well. Thanks to some sniffing in the Alps around Varese and continuing his "pre-education" in the back seat at home in Aukrug, our youngest child now wants to become a glider pilot as soon as possible (next year he turns 14).

I really love staying in touch with the World even though job, Kids, home and garden in Germany keep me busy. My glider and the WSPA membership help me get out!