



Hangar Soaring

May 2019

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WOMEN SOARING
PILOTS ASSOC.

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In Memory of Charlie
Spratt

Thanks for supporting the United States - Women Glider Pilots Team!

Sarah Arnold, Sylvia Grandstaff and Kathy Fosha

*Women's World Gliding Championships
Australia, January 2020*

Donations via the "WSPA - Competition Scholarship Fund"
www.womenssoaring.org

Dear Soaring Friends,

In preparation for the next Women's World Soaring Championships (WWGC), which will be held in January of 2020, at "Lake Keepit," in New South Wales, Australia, **Sarah Arnold, Kathy Fosha, and Sylvia Grandstaff** (all WSPA members) journeyed to Australia for the Pre-WWGC practice session this past January 2019.

This is the first time that the US is fielding a team of three women to compete in a World Championship. Sarah, Kathy and Sylvia have competed at numerous contests, and they are now slated to represent the United States at the WWGC! We are so proud of them!

In the past several years, WSPA has helped raise money to send Sarah to the championships alone. However, now we are challenged to help send three WSPA members! WSPA would like to raise enough money to help all three of them get back to Australia for the actual WWGC World Championships in January 2020. So we will need three times as much as we raised last time!

We would appreciate everyone's help! What can you do to help WSPA achieve this goal? **Ideas:** 1) Be the first to donate from your club. 2) Bring it up at your glider club's monthly meeting. 3) Have a BBQ where people donate to the fund as payment for their lunch. 4) Hold an opportunity drawing where people might be able to win a free glider ride. 5) Or come up with your own ideas on how you would like to help us send all three girls the the WWGC. Remind everyone that the **Women's Soaring Pilots**

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THE WOMEN SOARING
PILOTS ASSOCIATION (WSPA)
WAS FOUNDED IN 1986 AND
IS AFFILIATED WITH THE
SOARING SOCIETY OF
AMERICA

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Badges (recorded through May 2019)

C Badge
Mary Capps, MA

B Badge
Marcy Capps, MA

A Badge
Mary Capps, MA
Rebecca L. Kinder, CO

President's Note



Greetings to all WSPA members, associate members and interested visitors. Spring has arrived at my home field (Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association or M-ASA at Fairfield, PA). The mud is finally gone from the grass runways and the annual safety meeting is completed. Hope your club and personal flying have been as active as ours. We have so many new and continuing students (3 female) working with dedicated instructors, spring check outs under way, ground school classes being offered, flight tests scheduled, badge flights and club task competitions planned, competition pilots readying for their upcoming contests, and evening dinners when we all relive the fun. Of course, that is in addition to the great local thermal, wave, ridge or sled ride (they can be educational and fun too) flights regularly enjoyed by our members. I always feel so lucky to be part of this great soaring community! WSPA offers all of us additional soaring support, contacts and activities to enjoy. I encourage everyone to look over the many opportunities to participate and contribute. Soaring only gets better as you progress!

Start by reading all that Frauke has gathered and published for us in Hangar Soaring. Always outstanding, you might also want to explore the fascinating previous issues archived on the web site. Then take time to explore our new web site that should be up and running before you read this. Thanks to Melanie Nichols and Colleen Koenig for getting that done!

The web site makes it easy to read all about the July, 2019 seminar at the St Louis Soaring Club, the WSPA scholarships available (applications due May 1st), and how to support Sarah, Kathy and Sylvia who will be representing us at the Women's World Gliding Championships (WWGC) in Australia this winter. Registration form, applications and pay links are all there.

If you fly cross country, please apply for the Anne Morrow Lindbergh (AML) trophy. It is WSPA's only trophy and has had no applicants in several years. Our web site has a photo, description, rules and application. I hope you will compete with me in 2019 to win this award and get your name engraved on this beautiful trophy. Take note, the handicapped system in the rules makes new cross country pilots very competitive, so plan to submit every distance flight you make!

The board voted during the March meeting to raise WSPA dues starting July 1, 2019. This has not been done in many years and remains extremely reasonable. Regular membership will be \$25/year, Life Membership \$350, and youth membership will remain the same at \$10/year.

OLC

As of April 30, **Eileen Youngblood** (our newest WSPA member) is on top of the list for US women posting their flights on OLC. She accumulated 2258.44 pts and 1625.6 km in 42 flights. What is so unusual, Eileen flew all but 3 flights in a Ka6 and her longest flight was 103.14 km.



From the Editor

I want to thank everyone who donated to the WWGC fund in memory of my husband, Wolf. He would be smiling, since he was a big supporter and cheerleader of women soaring.

On a different note:

On April 10, it had been ten years, since Charlie Spratt, an icon in competition soaring passed away. Charlie never was a pilot himself, but he influenced a whole generation of youngsters, including my own son. Every summer while driving across the country from contest to contest, he took a youngster along. He was like a drill sergeant and he turned quite a few unruly teenagers in responsible adults. There is a whole generation out there, now in their 50s, that considered themselves "Charlie's brats". I wish they would write their memories down. I had known Charlie for more than 30 years, we worked several contests together, including a World Championship (Hobbs 1983) and we became good friends. Before his passing he wrote a book "See ya' at the Airport" the colorful Stories of a Soaring Contest Vagabond a.k.a "The Gate". When you need a good laugh or want to learn more about Charlie's life in soaring get this book. It is available at the National Soaring Museum, 51 Soaring Hill Drive, Elmira, NY 14903-9204. More on Charlie somewhere else in this issue.

Frauke

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Association is a Non-Profit 501(3)c Corporation, which was filed in the State of Texas, May 11, 1987; (EIN # 75-2152454); and all donations to WSPA are completely tax-deductible.

It is because of the generosity of WSPA's soaring friends that WSPA is able to do so much to support women in soaring. Our various Scholarship Funds help support many young girls and women who are aspiring to solo, earn SSA badges and advanced glider ratings, and enter glider competitions at every level. **Over the past 30 years, WSPA has given out more than \$80,000 in scholarships!** We are very proud of the work we do, but we could not do it without your support.

Please support these three women by donating to the WSPA - WWGC Fund. We have \$6,000 in the WWGC fund so far and we would like to raise at least \$20,000.

As a thank-you to the larger donors, WSPA will be sending you a beautiful WSPA Light-up Pen, if you donate \$100 or more. If you donate \$500 you will receive a 18" X 24" poster and a WSPA Light-up Pen. If you donate \$1000, you will receive a poster, a WSPA pen, and a WWGC Team T-shirt!

Donations can be made by writing a **check** to "**WSPA**" and sending it to:
Mary Rust, WSPA Treasurer, 26630 Garrett Ryan Court, Hemet, CA 92544

Or use **PayPal**: Go on-line to your PayPal Account. Send your donation to our PayPal Account at:
treasurer@womensoaring.org.

(If you have already donated to the fund, and would like to add enough money to that donation to complete one of the above gift levels, please write Mary Rust a note when you make the additional donation. Those of you who have already achieved one of the gift levels will be receiving your gift in the US Mail, as soon as they are ready to mail out.)

Any amount is appreciated and will be acknowledged in writing.

Thank you very much for your support!

Irena Raymond, Director of Scholarships
 irena@womensoaring.org

(President's Note from page 2)

Checklists are required in my club. Here is a spring checklist I recommend to you:

- 1) **fly as much as you can- it makes life better and you a safer pilot**
- 2) **pay your WSPA dues before July 1 and save some money- they are due in June at the old rates.**
- 3) **donate to the three US women representing us at the WWGC – we are so proud of them and this is a very expensive undertaking. All donations are tax deductible. A lovely poster and T shirt are being designed for presentation to big donors. Alert your club to the need, perhaps sponsor a fund raising event.**
- 4) **register for the St Louis Seminar- You will have a ton of fun and greatly accelerate your learning; bring a glider if you can, and we will go cross country together.**
- 5) **check out the AML trophy and submit a flight- maybe we will do so at the seminar.**
- 6) **read over all the WSPA scholarships available and make plans to apply for one next year. It promises to be a great year. Hope to share a thermal with you soon!**

Cathy

Hi WSPA,



Planning is going along for this, and we look forward to seeing everyone this summer. If you haven't signed up yet, we do have a few spaces still open, see the web page for details and registration.

Seminar t-shirt development is coming along, and we think you will like this year's design. The St. Louis Soaring club airplane and glider fleet is currently being checked over and prepped, and our club guys have even fixed the potholes in the entrance road, upgraded electrical outlets, and replaced burned out light bulbs because "the ladies are coming". [Guys 100% welcome too, of course; contact Mary Rust if you might want a t-shirt but can't make it to the Seminar.]

We recently added a new site to this year's Seminar also: the Silvercreek Glider Club is 10 miles north with an ample grass strip (3IL1), and they will coordinate to have ground crew and a tow plane available on a couple afternoons to receive and re-launch folks who fly from St. Louis Soaring (H07) to their field. Silvercreek has also kindly agreed to lower their tow fees for WSPA, so this will be \$29 at both sites -- a pretty good deal.

And, we are very pleased to have Scott Manley joining us for the week to contribute his expertise, for general glider training and on the use of simulators by pilots at all levels. You'll know him from his column in Soaring, and from his presentation at Reno recently and possibly from Oshkosh as well. We will have a set of Condor simulators, and he will give training on using them, on glider flying, and for glider instructors for incorporating this in training.

Charlotte & Anne



In the News

Summer Benjamin soloed in September 2018 after having attended the WSPA seminar two months earlier. Summer worked for two seasons in the Truckee Youth Line Crew program and her goal is to get her PPLG on her 16th birthday in 2019. Summer plans a career in aviation.

Laura Radigan earned her Commercial glider rating at Seminole Gliderport, FL on January 5, 2019. (also at Seminole Gliderport Laura performed her aerobatic routine at the Senior Championships in March) (from Milestones in SOARING March 2019).



Call for support for US teams at R5N contest

Jason Arnold beats Sarah, his wife!

Don't worry just in the Region 5 North Soaring contest. Jason finished 1st in the Sports Class.

Sarah Arnold, flying with Karl Striedieck in Duo Discus (and probably getting some pointers for the upcoming WWGC), finished 3rd in the Open Class.

Congratulations Jason and Sarah

First Flight



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Judith Galbraith flew her first flight in her own 1-26. She reports: "Finally, ready to launch for the first flight in my "new" Schweizer 1-26A (#157). Although many people helped getting me to this moment, including WSPA president Cathy Williams (who has literally taken me under her wing), all my fellow pilots at Pittsburgh Soaring Association, and many others who so generously share their time and expertise. It was now all up to me. And it all came together in a brief but successful flight from Bandel Field in Glyde, PA. The thermals were working, and I managed to get a few hundred feet above release from a high tow. Forty minutes later I was dancing on the runway after my best landing ever. I think this is the start of a beautiful friendship."

Congratulations to WSPA Life Associate Member **Mark Montague**! He has received the FAA's Gold Seal Flight Instructor Certificate—how the FAA recognizes exceptional instructors. The Gold Seal reflects success in preparing candidates for checkrides and in administering checkrides. As an instructor and a glider DPE, Mark does both. (Gold Seal certificates for *glider* instructors are exceedingly rare. It's hard for glider instructors to hit the required numbers.) Mark is glad to work with women pilots at any level: from students just starting out to Commercial and CFIG candidates and those who want to gain cross-country soaring skills. WSPA members receive a 25% discount on instructor and sail-plane time, too! For more information go to www.soarthesierra.com

It's official:

TSS officially named its main hangar after **Wolf and Frauke Elber**



Frauke and TSS club members after the sign went up



Mark teaching wave flying

Top Instructor for 2018

Cathy Williams, Region 2

WSPA has presently 41 Life members

Thank you for your support


2018 SSA Certificate of Appreciation

Sue Martin for her excellent work at the Senior Contest and many years of support at various SSA contests



New Members

- Lindsay Gordon, MI
- Fiona Harnischfeger, NY
- Lara Ojha, MD
- Rachel Rosenzweig, MD
- Eileen Youngblood, FL



WSPA fiscal year ends June 30

**Please pay your dues on time.
Send check to**

**Mary Rust
Treasurer
26630 Garrett Ryan Court
Hemet, CA 92544**

Charlie—A Celebration of Life (reprint from Hangar Soaring May 2009)

By Frauke Elber

On April 10, 2009 Charlie Spratt passed away at home with his family at his side. For more than 15 years, Charlie battled failing kidneys and an array of other health problems. He had put his hope on a second kidney transplant earlier in the year. When that kidney did not start to function properly, Charlie decided, enough was enough and true to his life philosophy requested to go home without connection to any life support.

Charlie never was a pilot himself, but his involvement in soaring began more than 40 years ago, with a ride in a 2-22 in Chester, SC. After that he started to show up at glider contests. It was at the 1970 New Castle contest, that I met him for the first time. He was a young man then with a wild mop of red hair and a scrappy red beard living in an old battered van. His keen observation sense made him quickly realize that racing pilots needed something that gave them a common start and finish line that would give all contestants an equal altitude window where to start from. And so, he invented the "start and finish gate" as we knew it before the advent of GPS recorded remote starts and finishes. It was at these old-fashioned start gates that the Charlie lore really began. I worked several contests, including a World Championships with him at these gates. Being usually far from the airport's hustle and bustle, the gate crew had to come up with its own entertainment during the hours the pilots were on course. Charlie also pressed hordes of youngsters into gate duty, relying on their young and keen eyes to spot the planes crossing the start and finish line. My own son, Dirk, started his career as a spotter at age 11 and continued as a "Spratt Brat" until he became a competition pilot himself.

At age 16 Dirk paid tribute to Charlie with the following poem

CHARLIE

Charlie-

Who is this man with the common name?
To the soaring community there is only one:

THE Charlie.

What is he?

The best competition pilot?

Hardly.

The top meteorologist?

No- but he knows about the weather

No...this red-head Carolinian

is known near and far

as one of the best in his job.

He controls the doors to the

contest path.

Diligence, patience and an iron rule,
that's how he deals with the contest world.

Warm hearted and a quick joke

that's how he deals

with the rest of the world

But his work aside

It's his cohorts,

that bring him the respect

of the many airport parents.

He finds the airport brats,

spoiled kids of pilots.

In an hour he has trained them

to use their youth

for the good of the sport.

Good eyes-

the Gate is full of kids

with their coke-bottled binocs

scanning the skies.

Fast legs-
 Charlie always has errands for us.
 This is Charlie's way
 of running
 the best organized gate in the world.

For his work,
 a full-time volunteer job,
 the homes of the soaring community
 welcome this man.

From the heart
 of one of his brats
 I say thanks for the experiences.
 For they are ones
 I'll soon not forget.

So, to the end this I say:
 "Charlie Spratt- Good Finish

Deep inside, many of "Charlie's Kids" probably pay this kind of tribute to him, especially the ones he took on his yearly trips across the country, going from soaring contest to soaring contest turning them from spoiled, troubled, brooding teenagers into fine, responsible young adults. Many of them are now parents themselves and probably tell their children about the adventures with Charlie.

Charlie also was a great friend of the women in soaring. And nowhere can that be expressed better than in his 1993 induction into the Soaring Hall of Fame speech:

"The women, oh the women, women windblown, women without make-up and without fashion. True women, intelligent women who have shown me all facets of the opposite sex. Women who have been real friends and have shared their feelings with me. I have seen them enjoy the fact that their mates' joy is soaring and have supported that endeavor without understanding the joy themselves. I have spent time with many and touched a precious few. I have flirted and romanced with soaring as the wine. Holding hands on long walks down darkened runways or embracing under a wing, the passion all the stronger because of soaring. Although none of these encounters have led to a permanent bond, I continue to seek that one that will love me and give me the freedom to chase my dreams in soaring."



Charlie at the "Gate" in New Castle, VA

Left to right:
 Frauke Elber, Glen Maxwell and
 CHARLIE



3 Years Ago

See Your Memories >



Federation of gliding sport of Russia

March 8, 2016 · Moscow, Russia · 🌐

Dear women! Flying, as well as those who provide our flights, that are waiting for us at an airfield or the flight home - we congratulate you all on the Women's Day!

A woman is beautiful, and the woman in glider cockpit - a perfect double! Fly, impresses us your achievements.



Ф Е Д Е Р А Ц И Я П Л А Н Е Р Н О Г О С П О Р Т А Р О С С И И

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