



Hangar Soaring

February 2020

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WOMEN SOARING PILOTS
ASSOCIATION.

<https://womensoaring.org/>

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

Badges
President's note
From the Editor

PAGE 3

Scholarship updates
In memoriam: Betsy Wood-
ward

PAGE 4

Welcome new members,
Life member

PAGE 5

Growing up with gliders
Women's meetings overseas

PAGE 6

Tale of Two Countries

PAGE 9

A thank you note from Sarah
(copied from FB)

PAGE 10

List of donors to the WGGC
She will fly today

PAGE 11

Women in the Hall of Fame



Gold for Sarah

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

BOARD

Cathy Williams
President
PO Box 336
Laporte, PA 18626

Elizabeth Tattersall
Vice President
PO Box 3388
Stateline, NV 89449

Val Paget
Secretary
1108 Fugate St
Houston, TX 77009

Mary Rust
Treasurer
26630 Garrett Ryan Court
Hemet, CA 92544

Irena Raymond
Scholarship Director

Ute Kaden
Membership Director
2174 Penrose Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Irit Abramovich
International Director
Hasoleim 17905
Israel

Scholarship Chair
Alice Palmer
scholar-
ships@womensoaring.org

HANGAR SOARING IS PUBLISHED
FEB, MAY, AUG, NOV.
editor@womensoaring.org
OR

FRAUKE ELBER, EDITOR,
1002 Old Denbigh Blvd #206
NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23602

Colleen Koenig, Webmaster
webmaster@womensoaring.org

Badges Recorded through Feb.2020

B Badge
Stephanie M. Bradicich, NY
Elizabeth Suda, OH

A Badge
Alyssa Farley, CO
Stephanie M. Bradicich, NY

STATE RECORDS APPROVED

OHIO State Record
Free distance 27.05 sm
Kimberly Kramer, Crew Robert Curry



From the Editor

The 10th Women's World Championships have come to an end. And what an end it has been with Sarah becoming Standard Class World Champion, the first US World Champion since 1985 (Doug Jacobs), Kathy and Sylvia flying in Club Class finishing 14 and 16

Congratulations Team USA and also congratulations to WSPA member Margot Aquaderni, Italy, who finished 10th in the 18m Class and to her teammate Elena Ferngani who in her first World Championship won the Club Class.

Now, I can go to bed early again. Unfortunately, because of the time difference I was able to watch the live tracking only in the early phase of the flights (and thus eliminated the nail biting). On one hand, I would have loved to be there on the other hand I could not have handled the heat and the dust. But watching the contest remotely brought back memories:

The first World Championships Wolf and I attended were in Australia in 1974, in Waikerie, South Australia. We arrived there after crossing a third of this big country as tourists in an old battered car. But spending quite some time at the contest site, we were put to work. At that time, we were rooting for three teams: the German (one of my former club members flew in this contest), the American (from our newly adopted country) and the Australian (because of Wolf's Aussie background). The

**43rd WSPA Seminar
August 24-28, 2020
Springfield, VT
Information:
www.womensoaring.org**

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Winter greetings to all our WSPA members, associate members and friends. So much is following our USA women's team as they competed in The 2020 Women's World Gliding Championships in Australia last month. WOW can they fly! Thanks, Kathy, Sarah and Sylvia for representing us so well. Congratulations to Sarah for winning the Standard Class Gold medal. Links to traces, reports and scores are on our website.



A reminder that you should look over the WSPA scholarship possibilities and get to work on your application. We have scholarships for girls and women of all ages and experience levels. I especially would like to see some applications for help earning towing or instructor credentials. The soaring community needs you! Applications are due by March 15th. There is a revised application form that can be found on the website and submitted online. Donations to support the scholarships will be gratefully accepted by the treasurer. Many thanks to Phyllis Wells for her years of work on this committee and to Alice Palmer for her willingness to chair the committee going forward.

Some of us will be gathering at the SSA Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas. Dates are February 20-22. Stop by our booth to visit and check out the items for sale. Mary and Frauke always make the space attractive and welcoming. The WSPA breakfast will be on Saturday morning. Last time the tickets were sold out, and late-comers were turned away. Reserve your ticket now by contacting the SSA. You can pay when you arrive.

Mark our upcoming seminars on your calendar. The 43rd Women's Soaring Seminar, hosted by Margaret Roy and Cathy Keller, will be at Springfield, VT from August 24th to 28th, 2020. Information and registration on the website. The 2021 44th seminar will be in the beautiful Baden-Wurtemberg area of southern Germany from July 25th to 31st. It will be hosted by Ulrike Frantz and the Luftsportverein Reutlingen e.V. Soaring club.

(Continued on page 3)

then slogan at these Worlds was: "It never rains in Wai-kerie", but that year the sky opened the flood gates and many of the turnpoints were under water. Because of the flooding, we had an adventurous drive back to Sydney.

Our next Worlds were 1983 in Hobbs, NM, where Wolf, I and our son had an official job. Wolf was one of the three scorers. Dirk worked as line boy and anywhere they needed him. Being bi-lingual came in handy for him. His work in Hobbs netted him an invitation the following summer to Germany's biggest soaring school. I worked with Charlie Spratt at the finish gate (that year we did not have a start gate since the organizers tried out a ground clock).

In 2002, I went to the Sports Class Worlds in Germany, again originally as tourist but was put to work there, helping the understaffed Team Pakistan (which was taken care of by the US team, since Adnan, the pilot hat his home port in New Castle, VA, flew in many US contests and was a friend of our son).

2005, I was invited to be the official interpreter for the 3rd Women's World Championships in Klix, Germany. This job came with long working hours, and also keeping the daily/hourly reports on the web page current in two languages. I also became part of the film crew and the final product can be seen on youtube. "**Babajaga, Hexen im Aufwind**", (I did the English subtitles).

In 2013, I paid a short visit to the Worlds in Issoudun, France (as cheerleader for Sarah) together with my friend Susanne Lucas (our WSPA member from France). This were the first Women's Worlds Sarah flew in (and came back with a Bronze Medal). Again, I

was put to work since on the International Evening Sarah had fallen sick and I stepped in for her serving the delicious food (and Whiskey) the team had brought for that event. Also, during my stay there, Margot Aquaderni from Italy and I reconnected and decided to organize a future seminar in Italy, which became reality in 2016.

Now, with my travel years being over and observing the Worlds only remotely, I miss the atmosphere and the camaraderie amongst the women. Sarah, Kathy and Sylvia are going to report about the latest Worlds at the SSA Convention banquet and I will ask permission to tape the presentation.

It has been just announced that the 2021 Women's World Championships will be held in England at Husbands Bosworth from Aug.14-28, 20121.

I hope WSPA will get into the fund drive mode right away to have a team again representing the US, the SSA and WSPA.

Frauke

(Continued from page 2)

Lastly, I ask again for your help in keeping our organization strong. We badly need a member to manage our facebook and social media presence. Also, we are in need of a member or two for the finance and the nominating committees.

Elections for Board members will be in November. Please contact me or one of the Board members. We can find a job for you that will fit within your time constraints."

Kathy

Scholarship Updates

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Melanie Nichols, Colleen Koenig, and Phyllis Wells for all their help in the past few months with designing and testing the new online scholarship applications. Each of our scholarships now has an online application and information sheet. All the information is at womensoaring.org/scholarships. Please encourage the women at your club or commercial operation to take a look at the information and apply for a scholarship. If anyone needs help deciding which scholarship to apply for, please have them contact me at scholarships@womensoaring.org.

Also, I want to remind everyone that we've moved up the deadline for most of the scholarships. It is now **March 15**. That was done so we can make the funds available to recipients earlier in the soaring season. If you can help as a scholarship judge or especially as a mentor to a scholarship recipient, please contact me.

Thank you for helping to encourage women pilots to reach their goals through our scholarship program.

Alice Palmer, WSPA Scholarship Chair



IN MEMORIAM(Curtesy of Simine Short)

BETSY WOODWARD (1928-2019)

The following poem was written by Betsy Woodward in 1967

What Fun I'll Have

What fun I'll have when I depart.
 When I will go from here to there
 I'll spread my wings and join the hawk
 Spiraling up beneath the cloud.
 He then breaks off and I soar up
 Through the cumulus, then on top
 Pileus forms, and I look down
 And on the cloud, I see with joy
 A rainbow halo that surrounds
 The shadow of my invisible form.
 What fun I'll have when I depart
 When I will go from now to then
 A gull will join me as I soar

Figure eights above the sea cliff.
 Wing behind wing, he finds the lift
 From the vortex shed from my wingtip.
 I'll fly down to the southern seas
 And circle the globe like the albatross.
 Dive downward, turn, then climb
 And gain potential for another round.
 Then up, up, up to twelve miles high
 The polar vortex pulls me there
 Halfway to heaven where I will join
 Mother of pearl clouds in the arctic night.
 Sometime, someplace, somehow, somewhere,
 What fun I'll have when I get there.

From the Soaring Hall of Fame nomination (1967)



Betsy Woodward was an adventurer. Her two great loves were soaring and soaring meteorology. She was independent; had chosen her own path in life. And she has been successful. She held Silver #116 (1949); Gold #36 (1952; First American woman); Amongst the first six recipients of the Symon's Three-Lennie Pin (1950) and she was internationally known
 How did it all begin?

Starting at age 14, Betsy worked as a golf caddy so she could learn to fly. She made \$1 for 18 golf holes so figured she needed 180 holes to buy an hour of flying at the rates of the time. She started flying at age 16 and had accumulated 300 hours time when, in 1948, she had the opportunity to fly a Piper J-5 from Annapolis, MD to San Diego, CA. She decided to stay in California for a while and start college. Then she heard about a \$100 prize issued by Jack Northrup for the person who set the highest altitude that year in a glider. She thought, if she won that prize, she could put it aside as bus fare back east and meanwhile, enjoy California and her studies.

Thus, this prize encouraged her to learn to fly sailplanes. She joined the Torrey Pines Club and soloed. The next plan was to go with Bob Fronius, who had a Robin sailplane initially owned by John Robinson, to the desert and try for the prize. Bob had a landing mishap which temporarily damaged the Robin so Betsy decided to go to El Mirage by herself after the college year. There she flew a BT-13 towplane and soon earned her commercial so could instruct (by the rules of the time). When not flying, she worked on gliders.

In the 1950ies, she started flying every competition she could – national, regional, local.

Along the way she became National Feminine Champion at the 1952 Nationals in Texas. (At that time about 10% of the competitors were women.) She also set several national and world records both single-seat and multi-seat.

She continued her education in the Meteorology Department at UCLA and joined the Sierra Wave Project. On April 14, 1955 she set the World Feminine Absolute Altitude Record of 39,993 feet (12,190.2 m) and Gain Of Height Record of 29,918 feet (9,199

m). Later that year she moved to England where she joined the British soaring meteorologists and studied the structure of thermals at Imperial College in London. She visited Germany and became acquainted with the soaring community in that country. Additionally, she became affiliated with OSTIV in several capacities and published a book with them – *The World Sailplanes* – in June 1958.

In 1962 she joined Paul MacCready in his company, Meteorology Research, Inc., specializing in the physics of convective storms.



Betsy at the 2002 Sierra Landmark dedication

Quiz:

How many women are in the Soaring Hall of Fame?

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**

Sarah Curtis

Sarah Jameson

Michelle Liberty Hill

Stella Szostak

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Ute Kaden

Don't ever let an airplane take you someplace where your brain hasn't arrived at least a couple of minutes earlier.

Anon.

What does it mean to "Grow Up with Gliders"? Let me tell you a little about what that means for me. My name is Ginny Pawlak, but most would know me as Ginny Fleet, daughter of Kevin Fleet.

I spent my childhood weekends at airports, unlike most kids who would rather be anywhere else, I opted to spend them with my dad flying gliders. From the original location at New Market, Virginia airport to Front Royal, Virginia where we lived, which made spending the weekends there so much more enjoyable to see it from the sky. From a young age, I had lots of surrogate dads and as usually the only female and kid, I can guarantee I was exposed to more than these guys would rather admit. I think that toughened me up though, no one ever behaved differently around me and that taught me to be myself no matter what. It wasn't all "guy" stuff, I listened intently about cloud patterns, wind direction, barometer readings, learned the difference between tow planes and different types of gliders, rope quality (very important), flying the pattern and so much more. I was bitten by the flying bug and no; I don't mean the stink bugs that plague the Shenandoah Valley.

Summer after summer, we'd wake up before dawn and we trekked to the airport, New Market was my favorite. The drive down 340 across Luray and down through "Bela's Gap". I'm not sure how many have had the privilege of flying "the gap", but Bela had his spot pegged and while he was happy to share the air, if Bela was in the gap you stayed clear. It seemed that was that man's happy place, and no one dare interrupt that. Bela shared this infamous "gap" with my dad, Kevin. Dad would spend all day there if he could, catching thermal after thermal. I never got to fly the gap, but the drive through was enough for me. I would sit patiently and wait for dad to return, absorbing as much info as possible, reading books, running around, swimming at the owner's house with their kids, wandering aimlessly inside the airport reading the history and listening to air traffic control. My favorite times were when we had family weekends, we'd all bring potluck and drool over "Charlie's Chili" even if it was too spicy for me as a kid, I still ate it. These days, I got to meet the other guy's kids and their families and have other kids to play with. Most of them could've cared less about getting up in a glider for a ride, but not this girl. I bided my time until someone desperately wanted up but the only glider available was one of the 2 two-seaters and they didn't have a passenger. I'd hop in and strap tight and enjoy the ride. I usually sat quietly and let them do their thing and just enjoyed the ride.

To see the ground below from a glider is like no other experience. It is complete and utter freedom, bird like freedom. You can see every single field cutting pattern, swimming pools, tree lines, cows look like ants, cars look like cows, it's crazy the perception of things from up above. The thing about a glider that makes it so freeing, is that there isn't the hum of an engine. Aside from the beeping barometer, it's totally quiet, even with the window open. That type of peace can't be found anywhere else, except for maybe from the winner's circle. We had some fun days and I hope I still own bragging rights. Someone decided to have a contest with water balloons and a tarp with a target

painted on it. I rode backseat in the ASK-21 and landed a perfect bulls-eye. I kind of wish I had been on the ground to see my dad's face the moment it hit. However, the smile and high fives when we landed were enough.

Dad (Kevin) has been plagued by dementia. Hang gliding accidents that caused severe head trauma and his facial bones replaced by metal plates with two significant TBI's caused early on-set dementia. While his mind is still fairly sharp, his mobility has declined significantly.

I am now married (15 years) and have three children, Scarlett (14), Aspyn (13) and Noah (8) We, as well as my mom (Denise), go and visit dad every Sunday afternoon. I've taken some hang gliding pictures, scored a couple of hang gliding magazines and now share the SSC Facebook page with dad when we visit. See, flying was his first love, so much so that he wanted me to experience it and love it just as much as he does. I do, he got me two glider lessons with Jim Kellett. Those two lessons learning to fly were incredible, but unfortunately as I became a teenager, I had sports, work, and other commitments that kept me from the airport on the weekends with my dad. I still dream of getting my pilots' license, I want my children to experience what I call glider peace, and with any luck, I'd like to get my dad up one more time while he's mentally well enough to enjoy it, because growing up around gliders is

something so many don't get to experience and I was truly one of the lucky ones. Soar Hi.

Editor PS: Ginny's father Kevin used to be a member in my club, Tidewater Soaring Society in the 70ies . He was one of our young members then.



Growing up with Gliders

By
Ginny Fleet Pawlak

WOMEN'S MEETINGS OVERSEAS

Australia:

We did have a very small group of women attend Lake Keepit meeting in November, but as everyone was either competing in the WWGC, crewing or on general duties around the airfield the main reason for us all getting together was to organize ourselves to this end. It was also going to be a practice week for the Australian team and we were all looking forward to being part of the briefings etc. but unfortunately the team manager had to change the date to a few weeks later. A disappointment but we enjoyed each others company and did a little flying. The fires had already started and it had not rained for nearly 2 years, so our flying was limited by visibility with dust and smoke.

This persisted into the practice period of the WWGC as I am no doubt you are aware. As I write this it is raining!!! We now have a lot of very happy Australians and looking forward to getting some grass growing again and water running in our rivers. Lets hope it lasts.

Best wishes from Australia and wishes for the a great gliding season in 2020.

Wendy

Tale of two Countries

(ed. Note: this story was written several years ago for a presentation at the National Soaring Museum. Because our US women's team returned from Australia with a Gold medal, it is so timely to show the soaring community how difficult it was, to get a World Championship for women established, I am publishing this article again.

Pictures copied from the team website, photographer unknown.)

After World War II, Germany was divided in two parts, the communist dominated GDR (German Democratic Republic) and western capitalism oriented GFR (German Federal Republic). This division was not only on paper, but both countries were separated by an almost impenetrable, physical border. Families were divided and separated. Many fled or tried to flee and many lost their lives doing so.

The soaring communities on both sides of the Iron Curtain were affected by that separation also, especially the soaring women who did not want to succumb to the quirks of higher politics.

After the 2005 Women's World Championships in Klix/ Germany, two of the great women glider pilots from both sides of the fence were interviewed for a documentary film. Michael Schneider, a journalist and Thomas Siegel, a film maker recorded the past history of these women, Monika Warstat from the GDR (East Germany) and Gisela Weinreich from the GFR, (West Germany) and the women soaring history of their countries. A third woman, Gill van den Broeck from Belgium, who played an essential role in international women soaring was also interviewed for the film. All three were present in Klix, but did not fly anymore. Frauke Elber translated these interviews (and all text for the film) for future use as sub-titles and put it together here as the story of two pilots and two countries.

Monika (East)

My flight training took place in Auerbach in the early 60ies. I progressed pretty quickly. I spend a lot of time there and it became my second home and as many said even my first one. It was always fun, something was always happening there. On the days not being at the airport one was missing a lot. In 1964, the club in Schoenhagen conducted a flying camp and they invited a group of women. Walter Schmeier took them on a pattern flight to determine their skill level and the feasibility of further training. For me Schoenhagen was a very nice experience. I even spent my vacation there because they had airplanes. It was during that time that I met my future husband. He was on the National Team and that set for me the goal to become a team member also.

Gisela (West)

Wolfgang and I got married in the city of Hamburg in 1968. At

that time, he was a pilot for Lufthansa based in Hamburg and I was a Stewardess also with Lufthansa. That's how we met. I became a member of the Hamburg Club, which was based at the "Hornberg". In Spring of 1968, I had 10 days of vacation left, for the rest I had already plans. Wolfgang suggested to go to a flying school. Well and I just registered at the Hornberg for ten days. I was so scared. Every day I thought and dreamed that I would crash the plane. It was horrible. Almost a nightmare. But it turned into the most beautiful vacation I ever experienced, a fulfilling, beautiful time and fantastic weather.

Monika

Because the international skill level was determined by the Polish women and by the Russian pilots who had flown world records, the contests of the socialist countries always were high points. In the forefront were Adela Dankowska and Pelagia Majewska both from Poland, because they had the best opportunities and they were outstanding pilots.

And one day I had an idea. We could have a World Championship. No harm done by suggesting it. So, I sent a petition through General Secretary Degenhard Lueck to the president of the FAI and ask him to establish a World Championship for women. Well, the outcome....the response: "After extensive discussions, the decision was made to postpone the discussion on a separate Women World Championship and to put it back for consideration in 1972 and 74."

The atmosphere at these contests was excellent. In the air we were fierce competitors, but in the evening, we had great get-togethers and nice events including this Witches' Sabbath.

Gisela

Fred Weinholtz and Ingrid Blecher were the first who pushed the movement (for Women World Championships) forward. All others said "What

sense does this make? Soaring is not a muscle sport, why having separate contests? We didn't have that in previous years, why now?" But we could see –and that's what we strived for- that the Polish women pilots were far ahead of us, as were the women of all the East Block countries. These gliderpilots had more contest skills and had more contest experience than we had. The reason for that was that the system got them involved. The ones that stood out went to training camps, they were sent to contests or encouraged to fly in contests. And this moved everything a step forward

Gill (Belgium)

And then in 1977 came Oerlinghausen (West Germany). This was proclaimed the test if the women deserved contests that were called "championships". Fred Weinholtz was the organizer in Oerlinghausen. Everything went so well that we were granted Europe-



The US Team
at the 10th Women's World Gliding
Championships

Sylvia Grandstaff, Sarah Arnold,
Kathy Fosha
(the dresses earned a lot of praise)

an Championships (which made it for the women from outside of Europe impossible to compete). The first ones took place in Dunajvaros in Hungary in 1979 and it was decided there to hold these European Championships alternately in the East and the West.

Monika

Until three days before the departure date it wasn't clear if the Central Committee of the GST(Society for Sport and Technique) would give the green light to go. Rolf Peter, our coach asserted during the deciding meeting: "I guarantee a medal." It is impossible, to make such a promise since there is no guarantee. In the end he was glad that he hadn't made any empty promise.

I was determined to hold on to my second place and I mobilized all my strength. All I needed was to get around the course and be fast and not to land out. I was totally relaxed during my final glide and thought that I had succeeded to hold the second place. Well, after the roll-out I looked around to watch the arrival of the other pilots when Gill came running towards me all exited. You know her and her temperament. She had already calculated that I had enough points to be in first place.

(Thus, Monika became the first **European Women Champion**)

But when we returned home to East Germany, we learned that a whole family had fled to the West. And somebody in the government, I don't know who, ordered that something had to be done to put breaks on the aero-sports.

The result was that approximately 50 percent of all airports were closed, that security checks were implemented in a scale that must have been unprecedented in Germany. Out of formerly 8000 active gliderpilots only 3000 remained. The ones that were expelled –the official version was that they were not recertified– were good, solid people which were greatly missed. They were the flight mechanics, winch mechanics, instructors and many who provided valuable work at the airfields. Some of them were there from the beginning of soaring and then had to stop at once. This caused big hardship for many.

Gisela

It was such a great gathering, which lead to deep friendships. It made no difference where one came from, the East or West, from a communist, socialist or western capitalistic country. We didn't care. We had outstanding connections to all pilots. It was more complicated with the East German team, contact was much more hesitant probably from both sides. We knew that they were not supposed to have any contacts with our team because that would have caused only problems. For us they were just a German team...a strange situation. Despite this we tried to behave as normal as possible. I always thought to myself: why that? Politics have no place here. They are our soaring buddies and beside they are Germans too. How could we be stern and keep separate from each other and not knowing anything about each other? Very cautiously we opened up to each other. I remember that Monika stood in front of my door one day cautiously peeking left and right that nobody was watching and just came in our room. Nobody was supposed to know about that. We talked about god and the world.

We, in the West, did not know how to utilize our planes to

their full potential, did not utilize the performance that was imbedded in these machines. We had so little experience. We were left behind by the others. I think, I never saw Monika in the air.

Through the creation of a National Team we were able to get Federal support for our training camps.

The sport federation also provided support. There were additional incentives when we flew successfully. We were on the sport panels and we had a team representative at the board meetings. Not only did we develop flying-wise we also developed in sport politics. We saw improvements on all fronts, suddenly we were moving forward. We flourished on all levels.

Monika

We knew that the 1981 championships were going to be in France. Actually, we didn't have much hope to participate and had no expectation. But we dreamed about it nevertheless. But then something started moving, something we didn't know anything about, we just had no idea. Suddenly people we didn't even know, (on the other side of the border. Ed) engaged themselves for us, people who behind our backs wrote to the Central Committee or the Sport Federation, stating that they considered it unjust that we were not allowed to participate. Much later we found out who all were involved in that. In the end- after a lot of discussions and fights- it became clear that we were allowed to go. This was fantastic. We didn't think this was real until we had crossed the border with our vehicles and trailers. Up to this point we did not believe that it was true.

In 1983 the championships were supposed to be held in Oriol/ UDSSR. But the facilities weren't ready and the organizers backed out. Belgium stepped in

Gill

That all happened in 1983. And, it was all too late. We had only five months. But had nobody taken over, the movement would have been dead. One can't interrupt for two years and then pick up the loose ends again. It doesn't work. We had no other choice then to organize. And we said: ok let's give it a try.

Gisela

By mid May I was totally untrained, and I hadn't had any flights. The weather was horrible that spring. We had rain and floods everywhere. Why should I fly there, I will be last anyhow? Well, and then.....suddenly I was first. I just couldn't believe it, I don't know how it happened, but I was in a fighting spirit and unyielding to the end. I fought my way through, and with the experience I had gained I reached good results.

(Gisela moved on to become five times European Women Champion, and in addition won two Silver Medals and one Bronze Medal. She served as the head of the Jury at Lake Keepit Ed)

In 2001, the IGC (International Gliding Commission based in Lausanne, CH) approved the first Women's World Gliding Championships, which were held in Lithuania.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Monika

Today (2005) we are celebrating the third one, 2001 was the first. But it took 33 years until it became reality. I was very happy when I learned that we would have the first World Championship four years ago.

And so, soaring in the two Germanys, has produced women who achieved a lot on international level, despite different approaches and development.

(Ed. Note: I had been invited to participate in the 2005 WWGC as the official interpreter..

And while at these championships I was constantly asked, why no American woman ever participated. But like the West German women soaring pilots earlier, the US at the time did not have a qualifying woman to compete on this level of the sport.

In 2009 Liz Schwenkler from the US qualified, but marriage and starting a family got in the way. She did not compete and never competed again.

Finally, in 2013, Sarah Arnold made her debut at the Worlds in France and immediately drew the attention of the world elite women glider pilots. She came home with a Bronze medal.

Four years later she flew again in a WWGC in the Czech Republic and returned with a Silver Medal.

Now, in 2020, the US sent three women to the Worlds in Australia: Sarah Arnold, Sylvia Grandstaff and Kathy Fosha and to great jubilation on the home front and amazement of the international soaring brother and sisterhood, Sarah came home with the Gold Medal, the first Soaring Gold medal for the US since 1985.

Congratulations Sarah and Team USA.

The film with its English subtitles can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjq9xx09fMk>

When you watch attentively, you will see and hear your editor in action at the 2005 Women's Soaring World Championships in Klix/Germany



Aude Grangeray (F) Sarah Arnold (US) Ayala Truelove (GB)

A thank you message from Sarah on FB:

"The thing about realizing a goal or dream is, it means the most when it is difficult to accomplish. Coming into the competition, I felt that it was my time. From the first practice days, I felt like I had come to a place of maturity in my flying and that it would work out, but I knew those French girls would be hard to beat!

Thank you **Aude Grangeray** and **Aude Untersee** for keeping the competition so fierce! **Lisa Trotter** was on fire, and I loved our flights together with **Claire Scutter**. **Ayala Truelove** too! So many strong amazing women with whom I'm privileged to associate.

To my teammates **Kathryn Fosha** and **Sylvia Grandstaff**, thanks for being my gaggle! Your friendship is a precious thing which buoyed me up in so many key moments.

Jason Arnold, husband, partner, friend, and best crew in the world. We really did it!!!

John Good has invested so much in so many ways for so long – coaching, scheming, drumming up support, acting as crew and captain. Thank you.

These last two days I've been reading a long and happy congratulatory card which has come in the form of many emails, comments, posts and likes. This couldn't have happened without the support of every one of you. I am continually thankful for my soaring (and extended) family."



Our team at the Babajaga ceremony. Kathy, center and Sylvia right were the new inductees into the sisterhood of the "Flying Witches"

(I did not learn who their godmothers were in whose language they had to recite the oath of flying fairly and to respect their crews)

Ritz report day 4 [With permission from John Good]

Ritz de Luij, the roving reporter from the Netherlands wrote a daily, day-long detailed blog. This is just one sample of her many afternoon blogs

4.30 PM:

Rushed out and was sitting there in time [to see the pilots come back].

Heard the USA girls Kathy and Sylvia talk to each other and help each other. "Remember to put your gear down"

11 km. OUT.....

"I have height , you pick what site you want to land "; Kathy.

Sylvia ; "I have some lift" ,[she was worried if she was s going to make it too. With the bit of lift it was OK].

A loud **HAPPY YELL** when they were sure they could make it.

"Gear down."....."SAME".

And there they were,... I applauded them and it looked as if Kathy heard it , she looked and waved!!!

So nice!!!

Off to the landings again.

At 5.10 :

a warning for a gust front arriving soon

5 minutes later ;" frontal- weather -close-by" warning!

Lot's of gliders are in. I missed a few by running up and down [the runway].All classes.

5. 24 PM;

The storm starts to race over the field...still not too bad!!!

ZE arrives ; wind very strong, but still good for landing is the mes-

sage from Peter who does a fabulous job on the radio!!!!!!!He

even manages to calm down everybody ,also at the ground with his voice and his remarks.

5.40 PM;

All gliders in safely the last 3 , ZE....ZF 2 girls from Czech Rep.and P1, Agata from Poland , had tough circumstances, but they dealt with it superbly at 5.30!!!

So the weather-forecast and tasks were set nicely within the limits.

A GOOD day, smiling faces and good soaring conditions!!!!

What do you want more.

AND,...**WHAT A FLIGHT from Alena in 18 m.** ; 446 km. in time 3.07 making a speed of **143 km./h!!!!**

Standard; Anna from Poland with 379,83 km. in time 3.19h, so a nice speed of 114 km./h just ahead of Sarah [USA] and Ayala[UK]

Club class; shows 2 winners at this stage preliminary: Elena from Italy and Chrissie from Germany.

Kathy and Sylvia did really well but finished in the end on spot 14 and 15. BUT,..they were back!!!

6 PM; CU tomorrow.

PS from the editor:

As I mentioned in my editor's column, they (the organizers) always find work for anybody standing around. It wasn't any different in 2005. Although I had a designated job, I still had some time at hand during the practice week and was put in charge of polishing the trophies (the 18 m class didn't exist then). Fortunately, the Club Class trophy is not quite as elaborate as the Standard Class one but it still was tedious to clean. At the end the devil came over me and I asked Monika Warstat, the very first winner of this trophy, if she could get me a spring-loaded Micky Mouse in town. One of the tow pilots was in on that plot too. They came back not with a spring-loaded one but one with a spring attached. So, in a culvert operation we glued the spring+Micky Mouse into the lid of the trophy. Fortunately, throughout the competition while the trophies were on display nobody ever lifted the lid.

Came the award ceremony and the happy recipient in a move of curiosity lifted the lid and out came the

MICKY MOUSE.

The culprits were never found. (at least not then)

(Continued from page 5)

Germany



The German annual women pilots' meeting took place from January 2-26,2000 in historic Magdeburg near Berlin. The German meeting compasses women from all aero-sports. Therefore, the two full days of the gathering offered a very diverse program with presentations by a balloonist, a helicopter pilot, an aerobatic glider pilot, a flying doctor, a power pilot and a lecture on Ger-

man youths in aviation.

A guided tour through historic Magdeburg was also on the program. Individual participants enjoyed a "self-guided tour" through the numerous cozy pubs.



**Thank you to these WSPA donors who supported our team
(from the SSA webpage)**

Janet Barslow	Jenny Beatty	Summer Benjamin	Tim & Cynthia Blakeslee
Gabe Bourbeau	Ann & Howard Bradley	Edward Bransford	Edward Bransford
Marge Brickey	Cindy Brickner	Elaine Carlson	Anne Chalmers
Jim Clark	Leah Condon	Christine Covell	Mary Crawford
Timothy Culligan	Bruce Cynamon	Diana Dade	Jim Dobberfuhl
Robert Driscoll	Frauke & Wolf Elber	Frauke Elber	Kristin Farry
Ulrike Franz	Carol Ann Garratt	Heinz Gehlhaar	Scott and Cheryl Gross
Donna Hatch	Maggie Hettinger	Dianne Higgins	Karol Hines
Linda Hivert	Leeann Ho	Ute Kaden	Cathy Keller
Shaun Keller	Cary Kennedy	Robert Kuhlo	J. R. Lazar
Byron Lowry	Adam Lukaszewski	Geoffrey McCarthy	LucyAnne McKosky
Marilyn Meline	John and Marion Mittell	Billy Montgomery	Rolland Nakashima
George O'Leary	Mark Olinger	Jerry "Randy" Owings	Phyllis Wells Owings
Mark & Alice Palmer	Danny Phelps	Don Post	Camelia Ravanbakht
Max Ravazzold	Greg Reese	Elizabeth Robertson	Tupper Robinson
Uwe Rudloff	Mary & Michael Rust	Gail Schipper	Grandpa Seelye
Peter Selinger	Tomasz Sielicki	Tom & Sandy Snyder	Brett Spires
Marcia Myers Swanson	Gary Swift	Mamad Takallu	Kathleen Taylor
Robert Wister	Jeff Wreck	Kazuyoshi Caz Yokoyama	1-26 Rendezvous Gang
Willamette Valley Soaring Club		Anonymous (2)	

From Pat Valdata's "Where No Man Can Touch" (with friendly permission of Pat Valdata)

**I
might
not have
flown it if
Cleve and I hadn't built it.
My flight was short and no great shakes.
Don't tell Cleve, but piloting a balloon is a lot more fun**

Geneve Shaffer (c. 1894-1976), first American woman reported to fly solo in a glider,
1 August 1909?

Answer to Quizz on Page 4

8 women have been inducted of the Soaring Hall of Fame. Here are the names, their honors, year of induction (in chronological order) , and achievements

Woodward, Betsy	1967	Silver # 116 (1949); Gold #36 (1952) 1st American woman Amongst the first 6 recipients of the Symon's Three-Lennie Pin (1950)
Dick, Helen	1968	Eaton Trophy (1992); Exceptional Achievement Award (1972); Certificate of Appreciation (2004); Silver # 337 (1959); Gold # 20 (1962) Diamond #79 [int. 545]] (1967), first American woman
Schweizer, Virginia	1971	NAA Katharine Wright Award; Silver #86 (1947) 1st American woman
Ryan, Bertha	1972	Majewska Medal (1996) 1st American; Eaton Trophy (1996); Schweizer Award (2006); Exceptional Service Award (1967, 1980) Silver #310 (1958)
Grove, Doris	1988	Majewsk Medal (2008); Eaton Trophy [with Tom Knauff] (2000) Certificate of Appreciation [w/T.Knauff] (2004); Silver #3197 (1976) Gold #1148 (1978); Diamond #388 ([international 2417] (1978); 1000km Diploma #12 [int. #24 , 1st woman] (1980)
Lamont, Lianna	1992	Eaton Trophy with Doug Lamont (1980)
Hamilton, Harriet	2003	Gliderport Owner/Operator; Tow Pilot
Hange, Patricia	2003	gliderport owner/operator; sailplane builder; maintainer; flight instructor



WSPA DUES

WSPA Dues - Due Date: July 1st of each year (except for LIFE Members and Honorary Members)

Full Members (women) and Associate Members (men/ or women who are not pilots) = \$25/yr.

Youth (young women 18 yrs. and under) = \$10/yr.

Life Membership = \$350 (one-time)

Can be paid:

By personal check written to “WSPA” and mailed to: Mary Rust - Treasurer, 26630 Garrett Ryan Ct, Hemet, CA 92544

By Pay Pal on-line at our website www.womensoaring.org , or you can go to your own on-line PayPal Account and send us the dues amount plus extra \$2 for PP Fees to: treasurer@womensoaring.org

Note: If you use your business PayPal account or another family member's account, please put a note on your electronic payment with your full name, so we will know who to credit.

Hangar Soaring
1002 Old Denbigh Blvd. #206
Newport News, VA 23602



First Class Mail