



# History of the WSPA Scholarship Program

## Background on this History Document

This document was first created by Phyllis Wells, the WSPA Scholarship Chair from 1998 through 2019. She updated it each year after creating it, until retiring from the position in 2020 when she transitioned the Scholarship Chair duties over to Alice Palmer.

*Most recent update:* December 27, 2023, by Cathy Keller, WSPA Scholarship Committee Member.

## Briegleb Scholarship

In 1989 the Women's Soaring Seminar was held at Tehachapi. During the seminar Gus Briegleb donated \$500 to start a scholarship in his wife Anne's name. The purpose of the scholarship was to help pay expenses for WSPA members attending future seminars. A committee was established to manage the scholarship. Mary Rust, Nancy Clark, and one other person were on the committee. It was decided that the scholarship would be for \$200. Since Mr. Briegleb did not intend to donate any more money to the scholarship fund, it was agreed that \$1.00 from each seminar registration would go into the scholarship fund. In 1992, it was decided to raise that amount to \$2.00. Sometime later it was raised to \$10.00 per seminar registration. The first Briegleb Scholarship was awarded in 1990. It has been awarded almost every year since then. In 2001 the amount of the scholarship was raised to \$500. Since \$10 from seminar registration would no longer generate enough income to fund the scholarship, WSPA began having raffles and various fund raisers, initiated mostly by Frauke Elber. In 2007 the amount of money donated from seminar registration was increased to \$15.00. The Briegleb Scholarship is now for \$750 and is funded primarily with \$20 from every seminar registration.

## Gross Sky Ghost Scholarship

Around 1991 or 1992 the Gross family donated money to WSPA to be used for a scholarship. They stipulated that the applicant be an academic student and/or a student glider pilot under the age of 25. The scholarship could be used at a seminar or at another glider port. Except for these stipulations, WSPA could manage the scholarship as they wished. In the beginning the Sky Ghost Scholarship was given to someone at a Women's Soaring Seminar, just as was done with the Briegleb Scholarship. The Sky Ghost was first awarded in 1992 and until 1997 it was for \$200. From 1997 to 2000 it was for \$250. In 2001, it was increased to \$500. In 2012, the scholarship was increased to \$750. For 2020 the scholarship was increased to \$1200. This is a very popular scholarship and is used to help with expenses toward obtaining a Private Glider Certification. In late 2021, the WSPA Board approved increasing the scholarship award to \$1500 starting in 2022.

## Scholarship Committee Formed

In 1998 the Board agreed to form a new Scholarship Committee. Up until that time scholarship recipients were chosen by the Board at the Women's Soaring Seminar, from the group of women who were in attendance at the seminar. The Briegleb and the Sky Ghost were both used for seminar expenses. The newly formed committee would be chaired by Phyllis Wells with Margaret Roy, Kathy

Taylor, and Susan Von Hellens serving as judges. Procedures were established, requiring applicants to submit their applications prior to the time when they would need them. Criteria for each scholarship were published in *Hangar Soaring* and on the web page. Ads about the scholarships were run in *Soaring* magazine. Each applicant was required to be a member of WSPA and SSA at the time of their application. The three judges reviewed the applications and voted for their choices. Applicants were then notified if they had been selected or not. Scholarship money was distributed by the WSPA Treasurer.

Note: Procedures have been streamlined and updated as needed. Details of current scholarship application processing and selection procedures are available in the Scholarship Committee section of the Standing Rules. Current Committee members are Alice Palmer (Chair), Phyllis Wells, Elaine Ernewein, Cathy Keller, and Susan von Hellens.

### **The Flying Montagues Scholarship**

In 2000 Mark and Neita Montague felt strongly that we should have two scholarship recipients at each seminar to give each woman moral support and encouragement. They donated money to make this possible. And so it was that at the 2000 Women's Soaring Seminar we had one Briegleb recipient and one Montague recipient. The intention of the Montagues was that WSPA would match whatever money they contributed to The Flying Montague Scholarship. This scholarship has been available every year since 2000. Originally the scholarship was awarded to a student pilot; however, recently the criteria has been changed to a woman who already has at least a Private Pilot Glider Certificate and is working on additional ratings, specifically Commercial and/or CFIG. While the Scholarship Committee administers this scholarship, both Neita and Mark Montague are involved in the selection of the recipients.

Note: This scholarship does not require membership in the SSA.

### **National Soaring Museum – Eileen Collins Aerospace Camp for Girls**

In 2002, we began giving a scholarship for a girl, age 9 – 14 to attend this camp held at the NSM in Elmira NY. The girls came from the surrounding area. The recipient was selected by the museum staff. The scholarship began at \$300 and increased to \$400. We gave this scholarship every year between 2002 and 2017. All details of the scholarship were handled by the museum; we just sent a check. In return they gave us information about the recipient, usually a photo, and information about the camp. In 2017 the Soaring Museum decided to discontinue the camps.

### **Competition Scholarship**

At the 2003 Women's Soaring Seminar (business meeting) it was decided to start a scholarship to encourage U.S. women to compete in soaring competition. It was agreed that the scholarship would be for \$500 and would be funded from WSPA funds. The first Competition Scholarship was awarded in 2003. The current dollar amount is \$750.

## **Maria Faber Scholarship**

In 2005, the Maria Faber Scholarship was created in memory of Maria. The Board decided to create this scholarship and Maria's family contributed monies given as memorials at the time of her death. The family gave additional monies at a later date, but it was not their intent to continue to fully or even partially fund this scholarship. Because Maria had expressed a desire to have a scholarship for advanced training in gliders and/or for tow pilot training, the scholarship was designed for that purpose. It was originally for \$500 but in 2012, it was increased to \$750, and for 2020, it increased again to \$1200. The last contact information we had for Maria's husband was: Jan Job Faber, 666 SW Westwood Drive, Portland OR 97201 (503-246-7867). In late 2021, the WSPA Board approved increasing the scholarship award to \$1500 starting in 2022.

## **Mid Kolstad Scholarship**

This scholarship was established by Mid in 2007, shortly before her death at the age of 90. It was her desire to have a scholarship for older women who were committed to obtaining their glider license. It was Phyllis's understanding that she bequeathed investment funds having a value at the time of about \$35,000. Her intent was to donate enough money so the interest would generate at least \$1500 per year. Phyllis worked personally with Mid, and after her death, with her children, to establish the criteria and selection process for this scholarship. This is a popular scholarship because of the dollar amount. It was first awarded in 2008. It is Phyllis's understanding that the investments are handled by Schwab at no charge to WSPA. The contact person for the family is Marge Kolstad Flemings, 6875 Milner Mountain Ranch Road, FT. Collins CO 80526. E-mail: [marge.kolstad@gmail.com](mailto:marge.kolstad@gmail.com). As of July, 2020, Marge still wants to remain as the contact person for the scholarship.

## **WSPA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS and Additional Changes by Year**

### **1990**

Rhona Culp – Briegleb Scholarship (\$200). This was the first scholarship given by WSPA.

### **1991**

Kymberly Ceres – Briegleb Scholarship (\$200)

### **1992**

Martha Hudson – Briegleb Scholarship (\$200)

Kymberly Ceres – Gross Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$200) used at seminar

### **1993**

Christy Brandon – Briegleb Scholarship (\$200)

Miche Jo – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$200) used at seminar

## **1994**

Christy Brandon – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$200) used at seminar

Miche Jo – Briegleb Scholarship (\$200)

## **1995**

No scholarship applications received this year

## **1996**

Stella Paredes – Briegleb Scholarship (\$200)

The following women each received \$100 from the Sky Ghost funds to use at the seminar:

Elizabeth Deener, Megan Clark, Mandy Baird, Shelly Hunt

## **1997**

Mary Ripberger Williams – Briegleb Scholarship (\$250)

Sharon Hilchie – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$250) used at seminar

## **1998**

Ajna Wei – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$250) used at seminar

**Note:** From this point on the Sky Ghost Scholarship has been used at the recipient's glider port.

## **1999**

Regina Wright – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$250) used at her glider port.

## **2000**

Melody Charlton – Briegleb Scholarship (\$250)

Ami Howard – The Flying Montague Scholarship (\$250) used at seminar. First time for this scholarship.

## **2001**

Kate Flynn – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$500) used at her gliderport

## **2002**

Sylvia Szafarczk – Briegleb Scholarship (\$500)

Mary Jet – Briegleb Scholarship (\$500)

Lauren Reitz – The Flying Montague Scholarship (\$500)

Lynne McAllister – Awarded \$200 to use at her gliderport (donated by a WSPA member)

Kathy Fosha – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$500)

## **2003**

Lucy Anne McKosky – Briegleb Scholarship (\$500)

Lynne and Lauren McAllister – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$500) (sisters shared the scholarship)

Valerie Paget – Competition Scholarship (\$500). First time for this scholarship.

## **2004**

Peggy Leoffler – The Flying Montagues Scholarship (\$500)

Jeannie Dismukes – The Flying Montagues Scholarship (\$500)

Aileen Lennon – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$500)

Cathy Williams – Competition Scholarship (\$500)

## **2005**

Juliane Hinz – Briegleb Scholarship (\$500). First time a WSPA scholarship awarded to a foreign member.

Neva Cole – The Flying Montagues Scholarship (\$500)

Laura Hohanshelt – Competition Scholarship (\$500)

Grace Higgins – Billy Goat Hayes CX Camp (\$500). One-time scholarship administered by WSPA.

Dianna Fleming – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$500)

## **2006**

Helen D’Couto – Ntl Soaring Foundation Scholarship (\$500). One-time scholarship administered by WSPA.

Ashley Sprandel – Briegleb Scholarship (\$500)

Ashlee Klemperer – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$500)

Cheryl Beckage – Maria Faber Scholarship (\$500). First time this scholarship awarded.

Sarah Kelly – Competition Scholarship (\$500)

## **2007**

Anna Rucz – Briegleb Scholarship. Unable to attend because of broken leg.

Marissa Anaya – Briegleb Scholarship (\$500). In place of Anna Rucz.

Amy Guyton – The Flying Montagues Scholarship (\$500)

Kirsten Hein – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$500)

Mara Morgenstern (Orescanin) – Maria Faber Scholarship (\$500)

## **2008**

Jamie Morris – Briegleb Scholarship (\$500)

Amy Guyton – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500). First time for this scholarship.

Marti Klemm – Maria Faber Scholarship (\$500)

Eleni Brand – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$500)

Sylvia Szafarczyk – Competition Scholarship (\$500)

## **2009**

Ana Klansek – Briegleb Scholarship (\$1000) Amount increased for this year only.

Mary Herman – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$500)

Tabitha Thomas – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500)

### **2010**

Elizabeth Collins – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500)

Pyper Ribble – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$500)

Elizabeth Tattersall – Maria Faber Scholarship (\$500)

Carol Mulder – The Flying Montague Scholarship (\$500)

Leah Condon – The Briegleb Scholarship (\$500)

### **Other scholarships made available from outside donors and administered by WSPA**

Kate Redick and Summer Gajewski – each received \$500 to use at the Women’s Soaring Seminar. These scholarships were provided by The Billy Goat Hayes Scholarship Fund.

Phyllis Wells received \$500 from Cliff Robertson for use at the seminar.

### **2011**

Jennifer Hunt – Ngan Nyguen Scholarship for the Women’s Soaring Seminar at Tucson Soaring Club, Tucson Arizona (scholarship made possible by Mr. Nyguen, member of Tucson Soaring)

Cecilia Stebbins – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$500)

Jeanne Pitsenberger – Competition Scholarship (\$500)

Kim Rendek – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500)

### **Scholarship Amounts Increased**

The WSPA Board of Directors voted in 2012 to increase the amount of the scholarships to \$750. This does not include the WAI Scholarship which remains at \$500 and the Mid Kolstad Scholarship which is for \$1500. The Eileen Collins Aerospace Camp for Girls Award is adjusted annually and most recently was \$350.

### **2012**

Heather Jordan – WSPA Scholarship awarded through Women in Aviation (\$500) (First time)

Lenka Kubina – Maria Faber Scholarship (\$750)

Jill Rowland – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500)

Katie Berkey – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$750)

Eileen Collins Aviation Camp (\$325)

**SoaringNV Scholarship** is established from a foundation managed by Laurie Harden, owner SoaringNV, Minden NV. It is for beginning student pilots seeking to obtain a Private Pilot License in Gliders. It is for \$1500.

## **2013**

Phyllis Ko – Briegleb Scholarship (\$750)

Li Yang – The Flying Montagues Scholarship (\$750)

Ella Renshaw – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$750)

Maja Djuriscic – Maria Faber Scholarship (\$750)

Kathleen Mrocicka – SoaringNV Scholarship (\$1500)

Pamela Grandin – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500)

Karrie Brimhall – Women in Aviation Scholarship (\$500)

Beth Stavely – Anonymous Scholarship donation (\$200)

Eileen Collins Aviation Camp

## **2014**

Anne Chalmers – Maria Faber Scholarship (\$750)

Rebecca Kramer – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$750)

Laura Radigan – SoaringNV Scholarship (\$1500)

Valerie Deschamps - The Flying Montagues Scholarship (\$750)

Pat Viall – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500)

**Monique's Scholarship** is established from a donation from Monique Weil for a woman with a Commercial Glider license working toward an Instructor Rating in gliders. The rating must be obtained within one year of being selected. (\$1500).

**The Flying Montagues Scholarship** is revised to focus on women who are already licensed and experienced glider pilots and are seeking to become CFGs. It requires attendance at the annual Women's Soaring Seminar in the year the scholarship is received followed by instruction toward Commercial and/or CFG ratings. Funds will be distributed in increments as requirements are met. Neita and Mark Montique are involved in the selection process. Total money available if all requirements are met is \$2000.

## **2015**

Christina Schreiber – Briegleb Scholarship (\$750)

Sophia Fremis – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$750)

Laura Radigan – Maria Faber Scholarship (\$750)

Vanessa Nelson – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500)

Mary Dalli – Monique's Scholarship (\$1500)

Marianne Guerin – The Flying Montagues Scholarship (\$1500)

Elizabeth Roberts – Anonymous Scholarship donation (\$500)

**The SoaringNV Scholarship** is revised. It now focuses on women seeking advanced ratings. The applicant must be a licensed glider pilot seeking Commercial and/or CFIG. If the applicant is a licensed pilot, SEL and Glider, the scholarship may be used to obtain a tow pilot endorsement. The rating sought must be obtained within one year of being selected.

## **2016**

Judy Soroka – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500)

Lina Leonard – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$750)

Veronica Morthorpe – Briegleb Scholarship (\$750)

Lora Lewis – Monique’s Scholarship (\$1500)

Karen Kalisheck – SoaringNV Scholarship (\$1500)

Elaine Ernewein – Maria Faber Scholarship (\$750)

Chantelle Schlump – Judges Award (Chantelle withdrew from the program)

Eileen Collins Space & Aviation Camp – (\$400)

## **2017**

Erzsebet Vizaknai – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500)

Karen Kalisheck – Maria Faber (\$750)

Denise Vanderkooi – SoaringNV (\$1500)

Nora Geusen – Monique’s Scholarship (\$1500)

Maryam Ali – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$750)

Chris Larson – The Flying Montagues (\$1500)

Terresa Morgan – Judges Award (\$500)

Elizabeth Robertson – Judges Award (\$500)

Sara Schofield – Judges Award (\$250)

Jeanay Luines – Judges Award (\$250)

(The Eileen Collins Space & Aviation Camp has been cancelled.)

**Mentorship Program:** It has been decided to implement a Mentorship Program to ensure better accountability for the scholarship funds. This program will be modeled after the 99s program, which has proven very successful. Mentors will be recruited from the WSPA membership. The program will be overseen by the Director of Scholarships and the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee.



## **2018**

Allendria Brunjes – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Phyllis Wells

Elizabeth Robertson – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Karen Kalisheck

Edith Lee – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$750)

Hannah Horvath – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$750)

Chris Larson – Maria Faber Scholarship (\$750)

Danica Cerne – The Flying Montagues Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Marianne Guerin

Lindsey Gordon - Sugarbush Youth Camp Scholarship (\$400)

**Note:** Since the camp at the Soaring Museum was cancelled, we looked for another camp where we could offer a scholarship to a young woman; thus the Sugarbush Youth Camp Scholarship was created. This scholarship is awarded in September after all the camps have been completed. The funds are to be used for further glider training beyond the camp environment.

## **2019**

Diana Lauren – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Lucy Anne McKosky

Terresa Morgan – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500)

Andrea Garcia – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Mary Rust

Lindsey Gordon – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$750) – **Mentor:** Cathy Keller

Marcy Capps – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$750)

Rachel Rosenzweig – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$750)

Judy Galbraith – Maria Faber Scholarship (\$750) – **Mentor:** Cathy Williams

The Sugarbush Youth Camp Scholarship recipient was to be selected in September, but there were no candidates in 2019.

## **Scholarship Amounts Increased**

The WSPA Board of Directors voted in late 2019 to increase the amounts for the Sky Ghost and Maria Faber Scholarships to \$1200 each starting in 2020. Also, instead of requiring the Bronze Badge as a prerequisite to apply for the Maria Faber Scholarship, the guidelines were changed to make the Bronze Badge the first goal for the recipient, to be accomplished as soon as possible after being awarded the scholarship.

## **SoaringNV Scholarship Renamed the Glider Girl Scholarship**

Since Laurie Harden is no longer associated with SoaringNV, the scholarship was renamed in late 2020 to the Glider Girl Scholarship. This scholarship continues to be regularly funded by Laurie with a donation of \$3000 every two years, allowing for a \$1500 scholarship to be awarded each year.

## **Online Scholarship Application Implemented in 2020 and Deadline Moved Up**

For 2020, a completely online application was implemented with help from Melanie Nichols, the WSPA Webmaster. Alice Palmer, with input from Phyllis Wells, made some changes to standardize many of the requirements across the scholarships to make them more consistent and easier to administer. Due to privacy concerns regarding personally identifiable information, raised by former webmaster Colleen Koenig who researched this with the FAA, we eliminated some personal data collection, including no longer requiring applicants to submit a copy of their pilot certificate or birthdate.

Also, the deadline for most of the scholarships was changed to March 15 so that the funds can be made available to recipients earlier in the soaring year. The deadline for the Briegleb Scholarship was set at May 31, closer to the seminar registration dates, and later moved to June 15 due to the delay in making a decision about the seminar because of COVID-19. Also, the Competition Scholarship, while the nominal deadline is March 15, can be flexible depending on the registration deadlines for contests.

In May, 2020, the 2020 Vermont Seminar was postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19 concerns. Therefore, the Briegleb Scholarship was not offered in 2020.

## **2020**

Rebecca Kinder – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Terresa Morgan

Fiona Harnischfeger – Glider Girl Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Phyllis Wells

Danica Cerne – Judges Award with funds provided by Neita Montague and Marianne Guerin (\$700) –

**Mentor:** Marianne Guerin

All of the recipients for 2020 achieved their certification goals by the end of 2021.

## **2021**

Maayan Shalev – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Phyllis Wells

Melanie Paradis – Maria Faber (\$1200) – **Mentor:** Dani Cerne

Callie Edsall – Sky Ghost (\$1200) – **Mentor:** Judith Galbraith

## **Scholarship Amounts Increased**

The WSPA Board of Directors voted in late 2021 to increase the amounts for the Sky Ghost and Maria Faber Scholarships to \$1500 each starting in 2022. This aligns the award amounts with many of the other WSPA scholarships.

## **2022**

There were many outstanding applications for scholarships this year. The WSPA Board approved awarding one additional Mid Kolstad Scholarship and one additional Glider Girl Scholarship.

Ishitha Arekapudi – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Julie Kinder

Karen Becker – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Gail Schipper

Nichole Marcus – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Cathy Keller

Jenna Cooper – Glider Girl Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Colleen Koenig

Terresa Morgan – Glider Girl Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Elizabeth Tattersall

Jennifer Hunt – The Flying Montagues Scholarship (starting amount \$1000) – **Mentor:** Alice Palmer

Rebecca Kinder – Maria Faber Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Kristin Farry

Judith Galbraith – Competition Scholarship (\$750) – **Mentor:** Cathy Williams

There were no applications in 2022 for the Briegleb Scholarship.

### **Competition Scholarship Renamed**

In recognition and gratitude for his generous donation to WSPA scholarships, the Competition Scholarship has been renamed The Karl Striedieck Competition Scholarship.

### **Additional Scholarship Funding**

WSPA received a generous donation from WSPA member Susan Simmons for scholarships.

In September, 2022, the Soaring Society of America notified WSPA that it was awarding the organization \$25,000 for WSPA scholarships. This award is to be paid over two years.

### **Tracking of WSPA Scholarship Recipient Accomplishments and Contribution**

In support of the proposal for WSPA scholarship funding with the SSA, Alice Palmer created a document that lists past scholarship recipients along with their known soaring accomplishments and contributions back to our sport. This document will be updated periodically with new information.

## **2023**

There were many outstanding applications for scholarships this year. The WSPA Board approved awarding two additional Glider Girl Scholarships and one additional Maria Faber Scholarship.

Berea Boerrigter – Sky Ghost Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Becky Kinder

Brenda Romero – Mid Kolstad Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Cindy Brickner

Olivia Tate – Glider Girl Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Fiona Harnischfeger

Rebecca Taylor – Glider Girl Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Sandrine Gressard Wyman

Ruth Ann Van Vranken – Glider Girl Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Jenna Cooper

Aileen Watkins – The Flying Montagues Scholarship (starting amount \$1000) – **Mentor:** CarolAnn Garratt

Jenna Cooper – Maria Faber Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Colleen Koenig

Julia Clitheroe – Maria Faber Scholarship (\$1500) – **Mentor:** Cathy Keller

Adriana Barragan Iberri – Competition Scholarship (\$750) – **Mentor:** Sarah Arnold

Lawsen Simpson – Briegleb Scholarship (\$750) – **Mentor:** Lucy Ann McKosky

Ilana Steele – Sugarbush, VT, Youth Camp Scholarship (\$400) – **Mentor:** Jenna Cooper