



Women's Soaring Pilots Association

SSA Convention, Knoxville
October 2024



Women's Soaring Pilots Association

www.womensoaring.org



- **Founded 1986**
- **Division of the SSA**
- **501(c)(3) organization**
- **Promotes all aspects of soaring for women**
- **Members contribute to the growth of the entire soaring community**



At the 2024 WSPA Seminar, Sunflower, KS



Why WSPA?

- Peer group
- Role models and friendships
- Nurturing, less-competitive environment
- Financial assistance and mentoring
- Development of advanced soaring skills and certifications





WSPA Contributes To The Soaring Community

- Only 9% of SSA members are women
- Prime target for recruitment
- SSA can use WSPA to recruit women
- WSPA develops soaring leaders





What We Do

- Seminars
- Scholarships and mentors
- Trophies
- Website and quarterly newsletter
- Networking, support, and representation





Seminars

- **Annual 5-day event**
 - Lectures, 3 daily meals, instruction, and cross-country flights
- **Varying soaring sites**
 - Harris Hill, Slovenia, Caesar Creek, Italy, Minden, Canada, Vermont, Chilhowee, Germany, Kansas, and many others





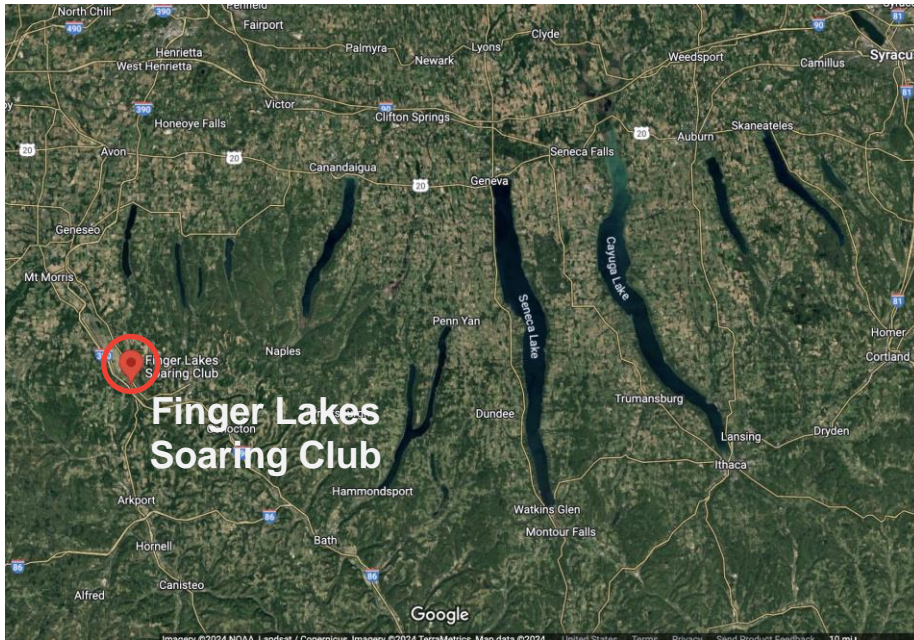
July 2024 – 46th Seminar





August 3-8, 2025 – 47th Seminar

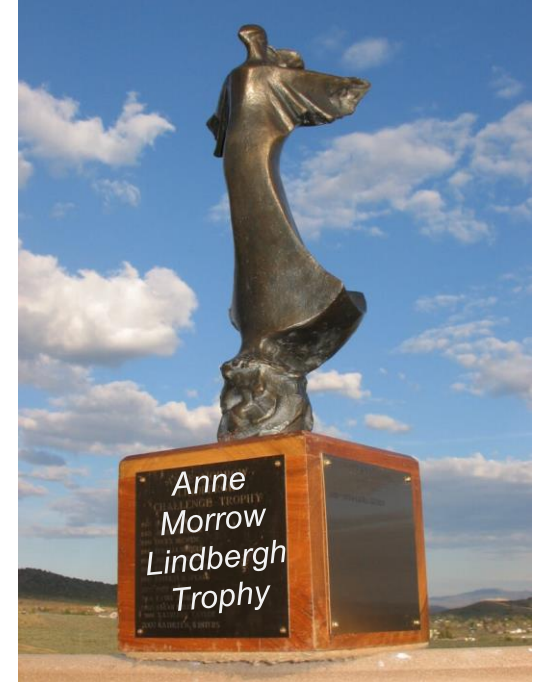
Finger Lakes Soaring Club Danville, NY





Trophies

- **Anne Morrow Lindbergh Trophy**
 - Longest-distance solo handicapped-scored flight
- **New! Betsy Woodward Cross-Country Participation Award**
 - Most OLC or WeGlide Flights scoring over 50 points
- **Virginia Schweizer Trophy**
 - Top average daily scoring woman in the [1-26 Championships](#)
- **Doris Grove Trophy**
 - Highest-scoring solo OLC cross-country flight
- **Bertha Ryan Service Award**
 - Exemplary service to women in soaring





WSPA Website

www.womensoaring.org



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Women's Soaring Pilots Association

Promoting all aspects of soaring for women glider pilots.

Congratulations to our 2024 WSPA Board Members

Lynda Lee Laberge (President)

Sylvia Grandstaff (Vice President)

Terry Duncan (Secretary)

Margarett Roy (Treasurer)

Kristin Farry (Scholarships)

Ulrike Franz (International)

[Learn more about the new WSPA Board members in Hangar Soaring](#)



Hangar Soaring

Quarterly Newsletter: Frauke Elber, Editor



Enjoy the newest *Hangar Soaring* publication from this year.

Newest Hangar Soaring August 2024



The sun is setting at the 2024 Women Soaring Pilots seminar at Sunflower Aerodrome, Hutchinson, Kansas

Frauke Elber is WSPA's editor for the Hangar Soaring newsletters published four times a year. We all really appreciate her many years of work in this position, and the interesting content she shares. Thank you Frauke!





WSPA Support

- **Networking**
 - Member Dashboard, Google Group, FaceBook
- **Financial Support**
 - Scholarships, XC Camp, Girls in Aviation Day, US Women's World Team
- **Representation**
 - SSA convention booth, Oshkosh booth, articles and ads in Soaring Magazine, SSA awards





How Can You Help?

Participate

Publicize

Volunteer

Donate





How Can You Help?

<https://womensoaring.org/>



Join

Join WSPA Now!

- Female 19+
- Youth Female 18-
- Life Member
- Associate Member (male)

Gift a Membership



Make a Donation

Donate to
Women Soaring Pilots Association

Donation
D-2019

\$100
USD

Make this a monthly donation

 [Donate with PayPal](#)

[Donate with Debit or Credit Card](#)



Scholarships

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Variety of WSPA Scholarships For Different Soaring Goals



- **Private Pilot Glider Certification**
 - For Under 25 and Over 25 Years of Age
- **Commercial Pilot Glider Certification**
- **CFI-Glider Certification**
- **Tow Pilot Qualification**
- **Advanced Soaring**
 - Cross Country, Aerobatics, etc.
- **Competition**
- **Attending the Women's Seminar**



Some of Our Success Stories

- **Audrey Topp, Minden Soaring Club**
 - 2024 Monique's Scholarship
 - Completed her CFI-Glider in June
 - Received check-out in Duo Discus
- **Full-time college student**
- **Teaches for CAP in Minden and with the Soar Truckee-Tahoe operation**
- **Signed off her first commercial add-on student this month**





Some of Our Success Stories

- **Ashleigh Andrews, Hamilton Soaring Club**
 - 2024 Glider Girl Scholarship
 - Working on her Commercial Glider Rating
- **Full-time college student**
- **Attended the 2024 Women's XC Camp in Moriarty**
- **Competed in the 2024 1-26 Nationals**





Some of Our Success Stories

All three of our 2020 world competitors at the 10th Women's World Gliding Championships in Australia were previous WSPA scholarship recipients.



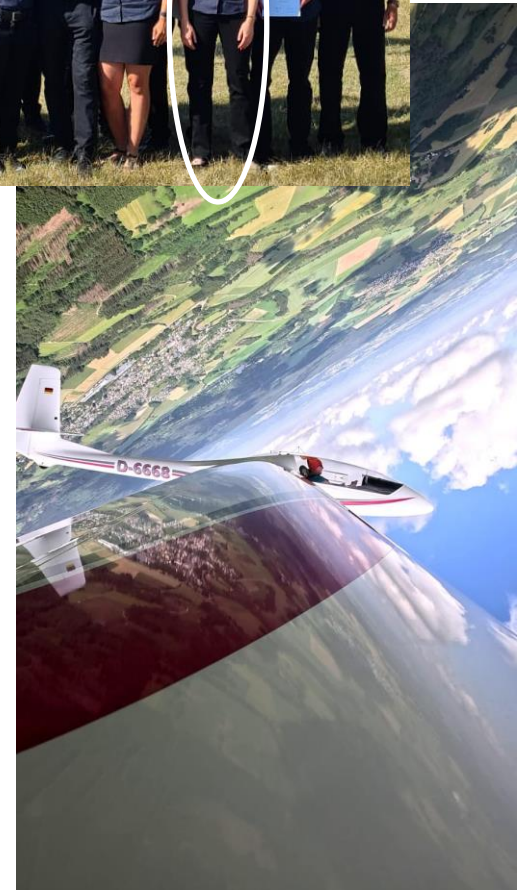
Sylvia Grandstaff, World Champion Sarah Arnold, Kathy Fosha



Some of Our Success Stories

Nora with the German Team

- **Nora Geusen, Hegenscheid Air Sports Club, Germany**
 - 2024 Maria Faber Scholarship
 - Training for aerobatic competitions
- **Glider Aerobatics Instructor**
- **Began training for German and Worlds Championships April 2024**
- **Placed 8th in the German Aerobatics Championship, July 2024**
- **Placed 32 of 35 in the Aerobatics Worlds Championship August 2024**
 - *Even though I am not quite pleased with my performance, I had a really good time*





Women Mentoring Women

Our successful mentoring program pairs a women soaring pilot mentor with each scholarship recipient

**A few of our Mentors
Jenna Cooper
Cathy Keller
Alice Palmer
Ute Kaden
Kristin Farry**





WSPA Scholarships Information

womensoaring.org/scholarships



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Scholarship Deadline: March 15

Prepare a Good Application

Your application for a WSPA scholarship will be judged on:

1. How well you follow the instructions on the application form (meet the criteria and provide required documentation in the correct formats).
2. How well your essay describes your goals and your attributes that make you a good candidate to receive a scholarship.
3. The strength of your recommendation letter.

YOUR CHANCES OF RECEIVING A SCHOLARSHIP IMPROVE IF YOU:

1. **Plan ahead.** Think about your goals for the coming year and beyond. Decide which of our scholarships will best help achieve your goals in a timely manner. You can only apply for one scholarship per year, but you can apply for additional scholarships in future years.
2. **Study the requirements.** Click on the link for the scholarship you are interested in. This will take you to



How Can You Help?

***Promote WSPA Scholarships in Your Club or
Commercial Operation***

Women Soar
with scholarships from the
Women's Soaring Pilots Association

Whatever your goals in soaring are,
we have a scholarship for you.

Visit our website: womensoaring.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15th



womensoaring.org



Email the WSPA Scholarship Chair for more information:
scholarships@womensoaring.org



Questions?

