



Hangar Soaring

August 2024

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WOMEN SOARING PILOTS ASSOCIATION.

<https://womensoaring.org/>

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

Badges and Records
President's Notes
From The Editor

PAGE 3

Scholarship Update
Stay safe outdoors

PAGE 4

Cross Country Soaring
Camp in Moriarty

PAGE 5

First Women Friendship
Soaring

PAGE 6-7

2024 Seminar Report

PAGE 8

In the News

PAGE 9

Sustainable Growth for
Soaring

PAGE 10

Voices from the Seminar

Listen Carefully, the Menu
has Changed

PAGE 11

Hangar Soaring 50 years ago

PAGE 12

WSPA team at 1-26 Nation-
als



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

We hope
to
See You



At the
2025
Seminar

At the Finger Lakes
Region of New York
Date TBA

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

BOARD

Lyndalee LaBerge
President
president@womensoaring.org

Sylvia Grandstaff
Vice President
vicepresident@womensoaring.org

Margarett Roy
Treasurer
treasurer@womensoaring.org

Terry Duncan
Secretary
secretary@womensoaring.org

Gail Schipper
Membership Director
membership@womensoaring.org

Kristin Farry
Scholarship Director
sctrophy@womensoaring.org

Ulrike Franz
International Director
international@womensoaring.org

Scholarship Chair
Cathy Keller
scholarships@womensoaring.org

HANGAR SOARING
Frauke Elber
editor@womensoaring.org

Badges recorded through August 2024

Gold Distance
Catherine Keller

Gold Altitude
Jenna Cooper

Silver Badge
Erin Firth

Silver Altitude
Shona Fenion
Erin Firth
Emilie Phillips

Silver Distance
Erin Firth

Silver Duration
Erin Firth

Bronze Badge
Katia A. van Horn,

Texas Records
Erin Firth
Feminine Standard
Free Out and Return Distance
72.6 mi
Feminine Sports
Free Out and Return Distance
66.7

Kolstad Award
Erin Firth



From the Editor

The July 2024 SOARING magazine featured an article on the declining numbers of glider pilots, and the great Civil Air Patrol (CAP) glider program for young people to reverse this trend. The article states: "US Airmen Statistics show a paltry 226 glider (only) certificates were issued in 2023. At this rate it would take 118 years to replenish the ranks of current glider pilots. A look around any glider clubhouses across the country reveals an increasingly grey (geriatric) community" (editor: That's my club 😊).

Encourage young people to look at the CAP glider program (our own Ute Kaden is a CAP instructor) and what it has to offer. Check out the many youth scholarships the SSA and many clubs have to offer and bring it to the attention of the young people.

In July, my club conducted a seven-day intensive learning camp for three scholarship students age 15-17. All three came from a CAP power flying program and it showed in their progress they made during the camp. All three soloed within the 35 allotted free flights, two with flights to spare which they can now use in normal club operation after joining the club. One of the three already joined the club to pursue his glider license.

When we the "oldies" want our sport to survive we must point the young people to all the means out there and show them the possibilities glider training offers for future aviation careers and making them

President's Note



2024...is now half over. A year which will go down in history for its record-breaking heat, record breaking numbers of tornados, fires in the West, power outages in the East, elections and an assassination attempt. Yet, beyond all of the "Black Swan" events our women's organization has continued to grow in numbers of members and successful record-breaking flights. More and more youth have attended glider ports coast to coast. Even our senior aviatrix have recovered from the Covid Pandemic and returned to the cockpit with more courage and determine than ever before.

The women's cross-country camp, held in Moriarity, New Mexico, hosted by the women of the Albuquerque Soaring Club was once again a memorable success. This year's 46th Annual Women's Soaring Association Seminar, hosted by the Sunflower Soaring Foundation with vintage ships and enthusiastic CFI-G's was, well, AMAZING. So many new faces. So many new Kansas State records set. God saw fit to supply us with not only cloud streets seemingly leading to Heaven, but a week of cooler temperatures morphing into cumulus clouds with daily bases in the vicinity of 8,500 feet MSL. The only issue was landing before official sunset each day.

On the administrative side, we have begun a restructuring of our website (still in progress) with a team of WSPA members giving precious hours of their time and expertise to its development. Additionally, a new Financial Committee has been established to manage WSPA funds. This has been of paramount importance to assure and maintain our scholarship program, the lifeblood of our organization.

I invite each and every member of this incredible organization of women to join in the camaraderie of future events. See you at the Convention in October in Knoxville, Kentucky. You will be making life-long friends.

Blue Skies,

Lynda Lee LaBerge, WSPA President

better professional pilots. (One of our club members recently landed a Lear Jet safely after losing power in both engines. He flew the plane as a glider). Over the years several scholarship students went to the Service Academies (amongst them three women) Sadly they did not return to soaring.

We need the young people, or we are doomed.

Frauke

STAY SAFE OUTDOORS

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ...

▶HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES

More people 50 and older are taking diuretics, antihistamines or beta-blockers, each of which can increase the risk of heat-related illnesses in the summer. If your urine is dark yellow, you're drying out. Drinking water helps, but an electrolyte drink, such as Gatorade, Powerade or Vitaminwater, is better; sip it regularly until your urine is clear and more frequent. Get out of the heat upon any signs of heat exhaustion, including heavy sweating, thirst, pale or clammy skin, headache or dizziness. In as little as 30 minutes, heat exhaustion can progress to disabling or deadly heat stroke, which can damage internal organs. Symptoms can include hot, dry, red skin; profuse sweating; confusion; slurred speech; or loss of consciousness. Move anyone with these more advanced symptoms to a cooler location immediately, then call 911. Bring down the person's body temperature by pouring cool water on their skin or getting them into a cold shower or bath. Give the person an electrolyte drink if available. Do you live alone? Ask someone to check on you twice a day when the National Weather Service issues excessive-heat warnings.

—James Williams, emergency medicine physician, Texas Tech University Health Sciences School of Medicine

**WSPA Scholarship Update
Alice Palmer, WSPA Scholarship Committee**

It is with gratitude that I can take this opportunity to thank the WSPA Scholarship Committee, **Cathy Keller**, **Elaine Ernewein**, **Judith Galbraith**, and Scholarship Director **Kristin Farry**, for their exceptional dedication, hard work, and time they have given to WSPA scholarships. After five years, I am handing over the reins to our new Scholarship Chair, **Cathy Keller**. I am excited to continue as a member of the Scholarship Committee and to continue working with these inspirational WSPA volunteers. Thank you, Cathy, for stepping into this role as Chair, and to the rest of the Committee for your continued support of scholarships!

This is also an opportunity for me to update you on some of our recent scholarship successes. Among our 2023 scholarship recipients, **Aileen Watkins**, our 2023 Monique's Scholarship recipient, earned her Glider instructor rating as an add-on to her CFI certificate. **Brenda Romero**, our 2023 Mid Kolstad recipient, has been hired by American Airlines and will continue her glider training for her add-on rating as soon as she completes her airline training. **Julia Clitheroe** attended a cross country clinic hosted by her club and had the opportunity for dual flights with XC coaches. She continues to stretch her cross country skills as part of her Maria Faber Scholarship.

Ruth Ann Van Vranken, one of our 2023 Glider Girl recipients, earned her Commercial Glider certificate. Ruth Ann said this about her scholarship:

"I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the Glider Girl Scholarship for Commercial rating that WSPA awarded me. This scholarship was the "wind beneath my wings," allowing me to achieve my commercial glider rating despite the numerous challenges of the past year.

Your support has been invaluable, providing not just financial assistance but also the encouragement and motivation I needed to chase my dream of flying. Despite numerous challenges, your backing has been critical, enabling me to achieve my commercial rating while I still have the precious opportunity to share this accomplishment with my 94-year-old father."

Our 2024 scholarship recipients are already making progress. **Audrey Topp**, one of our Monique's Scholarship recipients, earned her CFI-Glider certificate in late June. **Julie Ann Apoderado** has soloed in gliders and is working on her add-on glider rating as part of her Mid Kolstad Scholarship. **Isabel Ulland** (2024 Sky Ghost recipient) earned her B Badge and is looking forward to attending the Women's Seminar at Sunflower. Both **Ashleigh Andrews** (Glider Girl) and **Jennifer Hunt** (Monique's) attended the Women's XC Camp in Moriarty NM and got some great dual XC training to stretch their wings. **Sandra Ryder** checked out in the 1-26 and had her longest and highest flight as she pursues her Commercial certificate with the assistance of the Glider Girl Scholarship. **Nora Geusen** (Maria Faber Scholarship) used her scholarship for intensive aerobatic training in April, May, and June to prepare for the German Aerobatic Championship held in July, where she finished in 8th place.

Congratulations to all of you on your inspiring achievements! Other scholarship recipients are pursuing their goals and we look forward to their future updates.

It's not too late to be thinking of next year's scholarships! If you, or someone you know, are interested in WSPA scholarships, please read the information available on the WSPA website at: <https://womensoaring.org/scholarships/>. **Deadline for 2025 is March 15.** Be sure and read all requirements for the scholarships you are interested in well ahead of the deadline so you can be sure to meet all prerequisites. If you have questions about any of the scholarships, you can contact Cathy Keller at scholarships@womensoaring.org.



Photos from top left to right top
Julia Clitheroe, Nora Geusen, Aileen Watkins (center) with DPE Franklin Burbank and Eileen Youngblood



Photo center bottom
Julie Ann Apoderado



Ashleigh Andrews, Colleen Koenig (Camp Instr.), Jennifer Hunt, Judith Galbraith, Cathy Williams, Alice Palmer (Camp Instr.), Sarah Anderson, Margaret Roy, CarolAnn Garratt (Camp Instr.), Mary Hawkins, Madlen Leinemann.

Soaring Beyond Limits: A Participant's Journey at the Women's Cross Country Soaring Camp in Moriarty, NM

Madlen Leinemann, Jennifer Hunt

Nestled in the heart of the Land of Enchantment, Moriarty, NM, offers more than just breathtaking vistas and endless skies. This year, it became a haven for a group of women pilots gathered during the first week of July for the Women's Cross Country Soaring Camp. As one of the eight fortunate participants, we found ourselves immersed in a week of unparalleled learning, camaraderie, and soaring adventures that have profoundly transformed my flying experience.

The Magic of Thermalling

The camp kicked off with a deep dive into thermalling skills, the bread and butter of cross-country soaring. Under the guidance of seasoned and very inspiring instructors, we dissected the nuances of thermal detection and centering. The classroom sessions were comprehensive and sometimes eye-opening, but the true magic happened in the cockpit.

Flying over the vast expanses of Moriarty, we honed our ability to read the sky and practice the intricate art of remaining within a thermal's core. The thrill of rising effortlessly on invisible currents to heights of almost 17,000 ft and leaving the airport behind farther and farther, was nothing short of exhilarating. However, we realized quickly that mastering the art of soaring will be a life-long learning process.

Charting New Horizons: Cross-Country Planning

Next came the challenge of cross-country flight planning. For many of us, the idea of venturing far from the safety of the airfield was daunting. However, the camp provided us with the tools and confidence needed to embrace this adventure. We learned to read weather patterns, plot potential routes, and anticipate challenges.

Moriarty's unique topography, with its mix of plains and mountains, offered a perfect training ground. We tackled the intricacies of selecting waypoints, calculating glide ratios, and preparing for outlandings. This included visiting fields and remote airports on foot. Each flight was a lesson in self-reliance and strategic thinking. The satisfaction of completing a cross-country task, reaching our destination, and then returning home, was a triumph that boosted our confidence sky-high.

Confidence in the Cockpit

Beyond the technical skills, the camp emphasized building our confidence as pilots. The supportive environment, coupled with the encouragement from both instructors and fellow participants, created a space where we felt empowered to push our boundaries. Each flight, each challenge overcome, added a layer to our growing self-assurance. The cross-country camp was designed for new XC pilots who have been thermalling close to home and haven't yet cut the apron strings. Ideally, they would bring their own ship or a club glider. Also accepted are less experienced glider pilots who were able to fly dual cross-country with seasoned CFI-G's.

The Power of Post-Flight Analysis

A significant part of our learning curve was the detailed analysis of our flights using the SeeYou and WeGlide software. After every flight, we gathered in the airport office, laptops in hand, to debrief and dissect our performance. The software allowed us to visualize our tracks, analyze our decisions, and chart our path towards continuous improvement of skills. We could replay our flights, scrutinize our thermalling techniques, and understand how we could optimize our routes. This iterative process of

flying, analyzing, and refining was instrumental in accelerating our growth as pilots.

A Community in the Sky

Yet, the technical knowledge and flying experience were only part of what made this camp extraordinary. Thanks to our generous sponsors, we were able to enjoy cold beer and snacks during our daily airport office gatherings, while sharing our flight stories. These sessions were a blend of laughter, shared wisdom, and mutual support. We recounted our highs and lows, exchanged tips, and bonded over our shared passion for the skies.

It took tremendous support to make the Women's Cross Country Soaring Camp happen including from the SSA, Women's Soaring Pilots Association (WSPA), Southwest Soaring Museum, The City of Moriarty, Albuquerque Soaring Club, Merlin Aviation, and Sundance Aviation, for which we are very grateful. We are deeply appreciative of CarolAnn Garratt, Alice Palmer, and Colleen Koenig for leading the camp, as well as the many volunteers who selflessly gave their time and endured the scorching heat on the flight line to ensure we all got safely up in the air.

Reflections

Looking back, the Women's Cross Country Soaring Camp in Moriarty was more than just a training program; it was a transformative journey. We arrived with varying levels of experience and confidence, but we left as a cohesive group of empowered pilots, ready to take on new challenges.

The camp not only enhanced our skills but also ignited a deeper passion for soaring. It taught us the importance of community, the value of continuous learning, and the joy of pushing our limits. As I continue my flying adventures, the lessons and friendships from Moriarty will always hold a special place in my heart. Soaring, after all, is not just about flying; it's about embracing the limitless possibilities above and within us.

Editor's note: CarolAnn Garratt flew a 504.05 km flight during the camp (OLC)



Madlen Leinemann in tow

The first Women-Friendship-Soaring: (in German: FFF-Frauen Freundschafts-Fliegen on the Uebersberg, South Germany)

By Ulrike "Uli" Franz



One day at the gathering (the composition of the group changed throughout the week)

WSPA members are Ulrike "Uli" Franz, third from the left to the left of the glider, Sylvia Geusen back row fourth from the right and Ute Karden third from the right to the right side of the glider)

After the wonderful 2023 WSPA-Seminar at our gliderport Uebersberg on the Swabian Alb in South West Germany, three of our female club members decided to organize it once more in 2024 for German women pilots. The spirit of joy and friendship of the WSPA-seminars had inspired us to start something comparable here, that might become a tradition. As we talked about that idea during the final banquet-dinner last year, all of us were excited, some immediately decided to come again – especially the Geussen-family (mother and daughters are WSPA members) and their friend Isabelle and so they did. 19 women came from all over Germany. All the four clubs of our FSVUE (Flugsport Vereinigung Uebersberg, the four clubs which fly from this field) were open for it, and many members thankfully were there to help with the flight operations. Both winches

were available all week long.



Excursion to Castle Lichtenstein. Uli Franz on the right

Although the weather was not as good for soaring this time, everybody had the chance to fly several times and most of all, we enjoyed being together, having fun and exchanging experiences in good company in our enchanting environment. On

rainy days, we organized some tours into the surroundings, like on Sunday, a group of 10 visited the castle of Lichtenstein, which is in sight of our gliderport. Lichtenstein was built on top of a mediaeval ruin in the 19th century and was the model for the more famous castle Neuschwanstein that was built not much later in Bavaria. We also enjoyed visiting once more the Streifeneder-plant in Grabenstetten with the Glasfluegel-Museum, the prototype of a lately developed experimental glider and a lot of information about the Glasfluegel history, many small wooden glider-models. Last year's seminar-participants might still remember this place.

<https://streifly.de>

(Continued on page 8)



BACK ROW FROM LEFT: Kristin Farry, Vickie Hankins, Julie Kinder, Emily Adair, Ali Inge, Kieran Burns, Erin Firth, Tony Condon, Aland Adams, Charlotte Taylor, Alice Palmer, Lucy Anne McKosky, Mark Palmer, Cathy Keller, Isabel Ulland, Shaun Keller, Karen Becker, and Margaret Roy

FRONT ROW FROM LEFT: Libby Westfall, Jenna Cooper, Becky Kinder, Lynda LaBerge, Angeline Barber-Petroff, Sharon Austin, Sophia Westbrook and Leah Condon

Not Pictured: Ute Kaden, Tammie Searles, Paul Searles, Mike Westbrook and Alex Westbrook

The 2024 WSPA Seminar, Sunflower Aerodrome – Kansas By Leah Condon

The 2024 WSPA Seminar at Sunflower could be summarized in two words – “Epic Weather” but that would make this seminar report rather short. Truthfully though we were blessed with excellent weather each day. Including CFGs we had 27 pilots and 2-non flying attendees join us July 22-July 26 at the Sunflower Aerodrome in Yoder, Kansas

In addition to personal gliders brought by participants, attendees had the opportunity to fly the following types: SGS 1-26, SGU 2-22, SGS 2-33, Ka 2, Grob 103 and H-201 Libelle. Many people had their first flights in a wooden and/or metal glider this seminar. A total of 90 hours was flown by the listed gliders. Over 100-tows were made, both aero and auto tows. Many thanks go to the Sunflower Soaring Foundation for hosting us and the Kansas Soaring Association, Wichita Soaring Association and Neal Pfeiffer for the use of their gliders.

BADGES The following badges were earned:

Angeline Barber-Petroff

A & B badges
Passed her PPG the day after the seminar

Karen Becker

B & C badges – flown in a 1-26

Jenna Cooper

Gold Distance and Diamond Goal
Flown the day after the seminar in the H-201 Libelle

RECORDS At the time this report was written, the following Kansas State Records were claimed or pending:

Sophia Westbook and Jenna Cooper – Flown in a SGS 2-33
Feminine Open Class Multiplace - Absolute Altitude (7851 ft)

Feminine Open Class Multiplace – Altitude Gain (3670.6 ft)

Erin Firth and Jenna Cooper – Flown in a SGS 2-33
Youth Open Class Multiplace - Absolute Altitude (8035 ft)
Youth Open Class Multiplace - Altitude Gain (4064 ft)

Libby Westfall and Tony Condon – Flown in a Ka2b
General Multi-place Triangle Distance and 3-Turn Point Distance

Karen Becker and Aland Adams – Flown in a Duo Discus
General Multi-place Free Triangle Distance
General Multi-place Free 3-Turn Point Distance

Kristin Farry – Flown in her 1-26
Feminine Open, 13.5m, and Sports Class Free Triangle Distance
Feminine 13.5m Free 3-Turn Point Distance
Feminine 13.5m Free Out and Return Distance

Jenna Cooper – Flown in a H-201 Libelle
32-Youth and Feminine Records

Thank you to all of the speakers who shared their knowledge during the morning lectures and evening programming. Each day we also highlighted women on the National Soaring Museum's Wall of Fame.

The weather really was amazing and supported 7-hours of soaring each day. The evening programming on Tuesday night was delayed because I lost control of our speakers, CFGs Tony Condon and Mike Westbrook who just couldn't seem to come down until after 7pm. The seminar really found its groove when the CFGs focused on shorter dual cross country flights of 50km-100km. This allowed 3-people a day per instructor to get coaching and a taste of cross country flying. A highlight for many was the short field/off-field landing practice on Thursday. Pilots took a field trip to the nearby privately owned grass strip Irish Creek. Here they received coaching on field selection and the 1700 ft long runway provided a change from 7000 ft long Sunflower runway.

Event organizers intended auto towing to be the back-up activity if there was an overcast or lack luster day. Since the weather was so good, we suggested skipping this activity so as not to distract from the thermals. However, the pilots convinced us to wake up early on Friday and nine auto towed flights were made in the SGU 2-22. Shout out to the USAFA team who towed the glider out to the runway before 7am.

As great as the soaring was, the WSPA community was the real highlight of the seminar. The icebreaker game "WSPA Bingo" got the group interacting the first morning. Everyone really pitched in and helped out all week. Mentoring took place, and cheering could be heard to celebrate each other's accomplishments. The positive energy could be felt.

Eimerick Winner – Libby Westfall

*There once was a girl with a glider
And with her best friends beside her
She soared up above
As free as a dove
Her soul wild and fierce as a tiger*

The seminar provided a unique opportunity for a round table discussion about women in soaring. The focus was on how to both attract and retain women to our sport. A few common themes arose which are shared here. Having a sense of community plays a big role in people staying active in soaring or returning once they are able. The more you can make the glider club a fun place to hang out the better. Some suggestions were simulator night Thursdays, frequent club dinners and of course WSPA events. Beyond that though, experienced pilots showing patience with newer pilots goes a long way towards inclusion and retention. Representation is also critical and it is important to get and see women in leadership roles like that of CFGs. WSPA's scholarships help play a role in making this happen.

Five women from the US Airforce Academy soaring team enjoyed their life as civilian glider pilots for a week. They were

Kieran Burns, Ali Inge, Erin Firth, Emily Adair and Maj. Libby Westfall



USAFA Soaring Instructor Pilots with the Ka2b, (L-R) Kieran, Ali, Erin, Emily and Libby

Their comments

Best week ever!

Thank you all so much for welcoming us to the civilian glider world! This was such a unique training experience, and I am so grateful to have had this opportunity. Awesome instructions and camaraderie. You guys are the best
Erin Firth

Thanks, from the USAFA. What an amazing experience. Thanks Sunflower. Thanks for a great week of flying with some incredible women.
Thanks
Major Libby Westfall

So much fun to fly some "non-Air Force" gliders. Thanks so much for having us. It was an amazing experience.
Emily Adair

This was such an amazing week. Thank you so much to our new friends at Sunflower for a highflying and educational week. We hope to be back next year.
Kieran Burns

Thanks so much for the great opportunity this week. We had a blast and are so grateful for the hospitality that you have given us.
Ali Inge

A big Thank You to the volunteers at Sunflower

Mike Westbrook, Tony Condon, Doug Dutton, Doug Peters, Bob Hinson, Josh Maez, Vicki Hankins, Steve Leonard, Mike Davis, Kirk Bittner, Neil Pfeiffer and Alex Westbrook. Thank you to all the WSPA members who helped to make this seminar such a success.



(Continued from page 5)

Another excursion brought us to the beautiful old town of Trochtelfingen, with its many half-timbered houses and a huge botanical garden near the old city, the "Alb-Gold-Center" <https://www.alb-gold.de> about 20 miles the south in the center of the Swabian Alb highland.

Susanne Schoedel, a multiple world record holder, a women's world champion and current president of the AMF (Dr. Angelika Machinek Förderverein Frauensegelflug e.V.), the German equivalent to the WSPA, accompanied us on that tour. Afterwards, after dinner in our clubhouse, she introduced the AMF to us, describing the background, history and goals of the organization which was named after the brilliant glider pilot Dr. Angelika Machinek. <https://www.am-foerderverein.de> (see Hangar Soaring, May 2024, page 10) The AMF-club supports women in competitive soaring. Besides organizing training camps, they also provide gliders like the Janus, Hornet or LS4 for training or competition use.

Very interesting and informative was one of our FSVUE-members' talk about the latest scientific research on the nature and evolution of thermals.

Uli Schwenk came once more and in his humorous way talked about cross country flying, sometimes in vintage gliders and showing how to observe and how to use cloud streets. Another evening, WSPA member Ute Kaden and Uli shared photos of their soaring-experiences in Alaska, New Zealand and in the USA.

Most of our FFF participating ladies brought either club gliders or their own ones, like LS4, Discus or DG100, flew with our flight-instructors in our ASK21, Duo-Discus or even with our Ultra-light double seaters Bristell, Remos G3 and Dynamic WT9. Thursday and Friday were sunny and led to flights that lasted a little longer than an hour, and the participants were able to enjoy the beautiful landscape with the middle-sized mountain ridges, the edge of the Swabian Alb. As another highlight on Friday evening, shortly before our final Party-barbeque, two participants in their Micro performed a nice little formation flight with their Piccolo-Ultralights. Finally, after the final barbecue-dinner, we walked to the "Maedlesfelsen" – translated the "Girls-Rock" and watched a very romantic sunset on the "Alb-Vorland", (the piedmonts of the Alb) where we could see the Black Forest in the west and the Stuttgart Television-Tower in the north.



View from the "Girl's Rock" over the Swabian landscape

This first Friendship Flying meet was so successful that a date for the second Women-Friendship-Soaring or in German: "2. Frauen Freundschafts Fliegen" will be held once more on the Uebersberg, from Saturday July 5th to Saturday July 12th 2025. Pilots from outside of Germany are welcome to participate.

In the News

In Memoriam: George Moffat (1927-2024)

Another great American soaring pilot has passed. GEORGE MOFFAT. Although he has never on the WSPA horizon, his soaring life is a legend.

I met George (and Suzanne, his then wife) first at the 1974 World Championships in Waikerie, Australia. Over the years our paths have crossed at several national and international competitions, and from 1995-2005 we met annually at the Senior Championships at Seminole glider port in Florida. A book could be written about his legacy in soaring and sailboat racing.

George started soaring in 1958. He won several National Championships, two World Championships, 1970 and 1974 and flew three triangle speed World Records. He was holder of Diamond Badge # 44 (1965). George won the 1975 Smirnoff Transcontinental Sailplane Race, the 1977 European Championships at Angers, France and the "Return to Kitty Hawk Transcontinental Race" in 2003. George was inducted into the Soaring Hall of Fame in 1963; received the Lilienthal Gliding Medal, the highest international honor in 1977. His national honors included the Exceptional Achievement Award in 1966, 1970, 1973 and he was the recipient of the Exceptional Service Award in 1999.

His victories in the 1969 Nationals and the consequent Worlds in 1970 and his World Championship win in 1974 are immortalized in Robert Drew's film "the Sun Ship Game" and the Australian film "Zulu Romeo-Good Start."

George published two books on soaring: "Winning on the Wind" (1975) and "Winning II", a new perspective in 2005. He wrote numerous articles for soaring publications.

In his professional life George was an English teacher and was head of the English Department at the prestigious Pingry School.

Frauke

(Information from Wikipedia and other sources)

First Solo

Charlotte Wuensche (center, age 16) flew a perfect solo flight in the Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association's 2-33 on July 19th. Shown just as the traditional water soaking comes her way. Celebrating her success is her instructor, Rich Matheus (right of Charlotte) and other M-ASA members. Included in the photo (to her left) are fellow students; her parents and 14 year old brother, Jack. Charlotte is the first of the 4 to solo a glider. (Photo by Bob Reuter)

Cathy Willimas



Vesna Stergar from Slovenia reports

Every year FEWP – Federation of European Women Pilots organizes a meeting in one of the European countries.. This year the Dutch women organized the meeting.

We gathered at Breda airport and saw the interesting Netherlands from air

and from land. We visited many landmarks, the North Sea and beautiful cities like Breda, artistic Rotterdam, elegant Hague, mysterious Amsterdam, fabulous student cities full of cyclists like Delf, Leiden and Utrecht and the Belgian capital of Brussels.

We were particularly impressed by the Neeltje Jans water park and museum, which perfectly illustrates a 40-year project of building water dams protecting most of the Netherlands from floods. We learned that 60% of the Netherlands lies below sea level, reclaimed from the sea by dikes and draining. Kinder Dijk is a beautiful UNESCO protected park with numerous windmills used to draw water from the wetlands. This tourist attraction is worth seeing..

World Aerobatic Championships

For the first time in 30 years the Soaring Aerobatic World Championships are returning to Germany. Our German member **Nora Geusen** and her brother Holger are participating flying a SZD-59 Acro.. Nora placed 8 in the German Aerobatic Championship. Nora is this year's winner of the WSPA Maria Farber Scholarship



Sylvia Grandstaff finishing 2nd in Club Class Nationals.

The Club Class, 15m Class and 18 m Class Nationals were held in Hobbs, NM. Sylvia Grandstaff, flying in Club Class was the only female competing

The final standings in club Class were:

1st Tony Condon	(Standard Cirrus)
2nd Sylvia Grandstaff	(Discus 2aW)
3rd Andrew Brayer	(ASW20-15)



L to r: Tony Condon, Sylvia Grandstaff, Andrew Brayer

Sustainable Growth for Soaring

By
Becky Kinder

I've seldom been more impressed than I am with the young pilots who attended the 46th Annual WSPA Seminar at Sunflower Glider Port, in Yoder, Kansas, July 22-26, 2024. From the youngest student—I think that was Alex Westbrook, who sold snow cones when he wasn't volunteering or flying—to Major Elizabeth (Libby) Westfall, who led a four-cadet cadre from the US Air Force Academy, they produced impressive results. If the cadets we saw are any indication, our skies are well secured. When someone suggested turning these engaging, informative, enthusiastic young people loose on social media to promote soaring, it sounded amazing. Then I remembered.... In the early days of our club, the Black Forest Soaring Society, they needed new members, and held a membership drive. It was successful. Too successful. The influx of members was more than the club could support. Details eluded me, but I'm told that many left dissatisfied. During my tenure as a member of the BFSS, we have not needed to recruit new members. As our waiting list grew, we referred applicants to nearby clubs. All of them were in similar straits. I haven't done a comprehensive study, but everyone I spoke with from Washington to Virginia indicated their clubs were at or near capacity. BFSS set a cap on students, encouraged instructors to minimize scheduling during peak launch times, and maximized launch efficiency. Still, launch lines remain long, and sometimes not everyone can get in the air while the lift is good. It's a real downer when members miss the day because they can't catch a tow in time. Club morale suffers for it. Board members everywhere struggle to balance resources. Aircraft, tow planes, tow pilots, CFI- Gs for ab initio and advanced training, ops support, mechanics, administrators, even avgas supplies can challenge a club. We need more airports, more clubs, and everything necessary to support them. Despite renewed interest in soaring, our sport is losing numbers. We need to grow, but to do that we must have the resources to support new pilots. It's essential to guard against negative experiences among the public and those new to the sport. Good will is our best means of acquiring the resources we need. There is no shortage of challenges, but the glamor of soaring still sings a siren's song. If we can provide context and set appropriate expectations, the next generation will exceed all previous generations as they stand on our shoulders.

WSPA SEMINAR 2024 by Alice Palmer



Photo: Becky Kinder

Landing at Irish Creek, a field away from

Well, it's funny that a hot week in Kansas was one of the highlights of our summer, but that's the case. **Mark, Alice, Becky,** and **Julie** headed east to Sunflower Gliderport near Hutchinson with two gliders in tow for the 2024 Women's Soaring Pilots Association Seminar. This was our first visit to Sunflower and we were immediately welcomed by hosts **Leah** and **Tony Condon** and **Steve Leonard** (yes, brother to our very own

treasured **Dave Leonard**).

The weather was outstanding for the entire event, with the young and tireless flying until 7:30 PM every day. On our last evening as the closing banquet was going on, **Ute Kaden** landed at 8:30 PM after a well-deserved long solo flight in the Libelle after instructing all week.

Julie had her first opportunity to fly Blue Jay somewhere other than Kelly, and Becky got to fly it too. Mark flew both the DG and the antique Ka-2 with Tony, and checked out in the Libelle 201B with a 2-hour flight!

I can't say I accomplished any earth-shattering things, other than having incredible fun doing a whole bunch of different soaring-related things. I did have a short cross country of 100+ miles out to Stafford and return with a bit of sightseeing south of Sunflower at the end. A couple of fun firsts were flying with Tony in his beautiful SGU 2-22E and checking out in the club's Libelle (a bucket-list item since I saw my first Libelle as a teenager, and oh—am I in love with that ship!).

We also got to help a bunch of pilots experience their first ground landings on auto tows with Tony in the 2-22. One of my other favorite activities was an off-field landing in the 2-22 with Tony at a private grass airfield two miles south of Sunflower, Irish Creek. They conduct regular XC landing training there and tow the gliders out. Becky and Julie had their first real off-field landing experience and what a hoot for all of us!

The USAFA had four Instructor Pilot (IP) cadets and their leader, **Major Libby Westfall**, there to experience another world of soaring. All of the pilots were not only IPs but also part of their USAFA soaring racing team. They were always out there helping and loved the auto tows! We may see them at Kelly Airpark one of these days.

Every day was well organized with presentations in the morning and some in the evening and group meals to share experiences. We look forward to flying at Sunflower again, we hope sometime soon! Thank you Leah, Tony, Steve, Lynda, Kristin, and all the many other volunteers, from Kansas Soaring Association and WSPA, who made this such a joyful event. Can't wait to go to Finger Lakes, New York for the Seminar next year!

Charlotte Taylor writes

Many thanks to Leah, Lynda, Kristen, Tony, and team for hosting and organizing this. It was an excellent week for me, for hanging with my WSPA peeps, great ground school, and really great flying.

Many thanks also to some hard-working instructors, including Ute, Jenna, and Mike, and who got us all in the air with a fleet of hardy tow pilots who spent the day out on the runway in some seriously hot weather. Also thanks to two - count'em two - glider clubs who provided us very fun equipment, Kansas Soaring and Wichita Soaring.

And, my special compliments to the organizers for the really great weather they arranged.

Looking forward to flying with all of you again next year!

Editor's note: the following is a poem one of my co-residents at our retirement community wrote. Anne is our "Poet Laureate" and every Tuesday she is treating us with one of her poems at "Coffee with Friends." I am sure all of us know the frustration when being put on hold on the phone.

Listen Carefully, Our Menu has Changed

By Ann Falcone Shalaski

When I dial, a voice that sounds
Like a moving train in a tunnel answers;

"Press 0 if this is an emergency.
Press 1 to place an order.
Press 3 to speak to an assistant".

I press 3. Another voice says:
"Press 1 to take advantage
of our daily special.

Press 2 for accounting."
A pre-recorded voice
that sounds as if a fishbone

is caught in her throat,
Says: "this is not a working number".
I press 4. Another voice, sweet as

A July honeydew melon, purrs,
"Press 2 if you wish to be removed from
our contact list.

Or press 1 to never-ever use
your phone again. Press 0
and have a nice day."



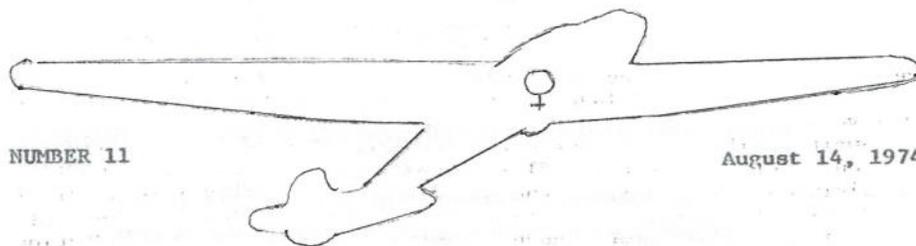
Hangar Soaring 50 years ago

Thanks to the late Bertha Ryan, who collected all the newsletters, scanned them and sent them to me on a CD, I can get a glimpse back into the early WSPA history and before.

In preparation for the upcoming presentation at the SSA convention WSPA breakfast on the history of WSPA I combed through all the newsletters. As space allowing I will copy some into the future issues.

Reading this one from August 1974, exactly 50 years ago, I have the feeling that in the 70ies we had more women activities, the zenith of it being in the 50ies. But this year's seminar report was encouraging. Maybe we have reached the nadir and are on the rise again. I always thought that with the Women's Liberation movement in the 70ies sports like soaring would get a larger influx in female participation. It did not pan out that way, to the contrary: fewer women joined the sport. Watching the Olympics I was very pleased to see that some of the sports (relay swimming, relay track race) have now combined teams. I hope to see more women in soaring competition.

Frauke



NUMBER 11

August 14, 1974

NEWSLETTER FOR WOMEN SOARING PILOTS

"HANGAR SOARING"

Happy summer soaring! Some people are really having a great year. Lee Claxton Tweed is claiming a new feminine world record for speed over a 100 km triangular course. Her story, taken from her record application, is re-printed on page 3. Dorothy Asdel has become the 4th woman in the U.S. to complete her diamond. The story of her distance flight (taken from WEST WIND) starts on page 6. The interesting thing about this flight is that it took place over California's Central Valley where the spectacular desert soaring usually associated with California is unknown. Helen Dick has been trying for long flights and is claiming a new California Feminine Distance record of 418 miles. She has also made a 400 mile flight on an attempt for a 430 mile Out and Return. Lyn LeCrone, on her first cross-country flew a 198 mile Out and Return flight in Texas to claim gold distance, diamond goal, Texas senior and feminine Out and Return, Texas feminine absolute altitude and altitude gain. Incidentally, according to Note 4 of the part of the FAI Sporting Code for badges, it also counts for silver distance. Lyn's account of her flying glass for the first time is on page 2 and her story of her Out and Return Flight is on page 4. Madeleine Holland has completed requirements for her silver badge in her 1-26 at Estrella. We hear Marion Barritt team flew in the Western Region Canadian Nationals with her husband and completed all the tasks she flew, but we have no details yet. Any other long flights and accomplishments? Please let us know.

Nancy Platt worked at the National Soaring Contest and gives her impressions on page 5. Jean McAdams, a silver badge holder, has earned her Commercial glider certificate and is working on her glider instructor certificate. She and her husband have started a commercial soaring operation at California City Airport, Ca, open every day except Tuesday and offering for rent 2-33's, 1-34, Blanik and soon a 1-26. Jean is presently doing most of the towing. B. J. Walters of China Lake, Ca, has earned her Commercial glider certificate flying with Ross Briegleb in Las Vegas. She also is working on her glider flight instructor certificate and hopes to instruct at a small weekend soaring operation soon to be started at Inyokern, Ca (your Editor's home airport). B.J. is an electronics engineer, a sky diver and a part time power flight instructor. Congratulations to all of these women on their achievements! Let us hear of any others throughout the country so we can congratulate them too.

There has been interest in continuing the newsletter for a while longer. So, as long as you send material, we will put out an issue everytime we can fill at least 8 pages (size of this issue). We haven't been receiving too much material lately but we think it may be that people are doing more flying than writing and that is good! Everywhere we go, we see more women soaring - and soaring well too. We thank all of you who have given financial help (mentioned in the last issue + Nancy Platt). We now have enough stamps for a few more issues so no more financial contributions will be accepted for a while until we see how long the newsletter continues. Send your articles to B. M. Ryan, Box 5567, China Lake, Ca 93555. HAPPY SOARING!!!!

Latest News (after Hangar Soaring was finished, ready to go out):



Kristin, Cathy, Ashleigh, and Judith on the grid.

Team WSPA, five members are competing in the 1-26 Championships in Hamilton, TX: Cathy Williams, Judith Galbraith, Kristin Farry, and team Ashleigh Andrews and Angelina Barber-Petroff.

You can follow us on the SSA website by looking up "Racing Results" and then 1-26 Championships. And on Facebook: 2024 1-26 Championships (<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=2024%201-26%20Championships>)

We have had four tasks so far. The weather looks good for the remaining two days. Quite a relief after high winds canceled the first two days.

We've had some individual "firsts" this contest.

Judith Galbraith won the day yesterday!!!! First day-win for her. It was a difficult day and long task (3 turn points, min distance 60 miles) and she blasted around it. Proof that you can take your first flight in a glider at age 66 and have a flight like this just 7 years later in a glider you bought for \$3500 (including the chute and trailer) and incrementally rebuilt...!

Judith, Cathy, and I are celebrating completing all four of the tasks so far. This is significant considering that many days have seen 5-6 land outs. This completion rate is a first for both Judith and me.

Ashely and Angelina (Lina) are juniors in the Hamilton club. Ashley Andrews completed her very first task in her first contest. She's also had some successful, safe land outs. Proof that the Bronze Badge training is effective. You may recall that just passed her PPL checkride with Tony Condon at the WSPA Seminar in Sunflower, KS, so we are looking forward to her flying the remaining days.

Kristin Farry

Membership Dues Structure

Membership Dues Structure

[WSPA Membership Application & Renew](#)

WSPA ANNUAL DUES

- Full Members & Associate Members (Mail In, Zelle) \$25.00
- Full Members & Associate Members (PayPal) \$28.00
- Youth Members (Under 19) (Mail In, Zelle) \$10.00
- Youth Members (under 19) (PayPal) \$11.00
- Life Members (Mail In, Zelle) \$350.00
- Life Members (PayPal) \$365.00

WRITING A CHECK TO WSPA

Checks to WSPA should be written *to the order of* **WOMEN'S SOARING PILOTS ASSOCIATION**.
On the *Memo line* write the **purpose** of the check.

MAILING A CHECK OR DOCUMENT TO WSPA

Send correspondence to:

Margarett Roy
PO Box 1197
Central Islip, NY 11722-0950