



# Hangar Soaring

November 2024

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WOMEN SOARING PILOTS ASSOCIATION.

<https://womensoaring.org/>

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## Sarah Arnold and Karl Striedieck win the 38th World Gliding Championship in the 20m multi-place Class In Uvalde, TX

"For years I've dreamed of becoming the first woman to earn gold in the unrestricted World Gliding Championships, and superstitiously refused to say it aloud, afraid that perhaps it was just too big of a goal".

Sarah Arnold

### Mark Your Calendar

2025 Women Cross Country Camp: June 29-July 4, Moriarty, NM  
Contact : CarolAnn Garratt cagarratt@gmail.com

[www.xcwomen.org](http://www.xcwomen.org)

2025 WSPA Seminar:  
See future updates

August 3-8, Danville, NY

[www.womensoaring.org](http://www.womensoaring.org)

2nd Women Friendship Soaring  
Seminar)  
Contact: Uli Franz

July 5 -7, 2025, Uebersberg/ Germany (locale of the 2023 seminar)  
eule@ulrikefranz.de

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

### BOARD

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## Badges and Records Recorded through Oct. 2024

**Diamond Goal**  
Erin Firth  
Jenna Cooper

**Gold Badge**  
Erin Firth  
Jenna Cooper

**Gold Distance**  
Rita Edris

**Gold Altitude**  
Erin Firth

**Silver Altitude**  
Katia Van Horn  
Rita Edris  
Isabel Ulland

**Silver Distance**  
Rita Edris  
Emilie Phillips

**Bronze Badge**  
Emilie Phillips

**C Badge**  
Isabel Ulland

**B Badge**  
Isabel Ulland  
Barbara A McClurkin

**A Badge**  
[Isabel Ulland](#)  
Barbara A McClurkin  
Ella Huber  
Aida Hughes  
Julie Ann Apoderado

### STATE RECORDS APPROVED

**KANSAS Records**  
Female Open Multiplace  
Sophia Westbrook (Crew: Jenna Cooper)  
Gain of Height: 3,760.6 ft  
Absolute Altitude: 7,851 ft

General Open Multiplace  
Elisabeth Westfall (Crew: Tony Condon)  
Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 66.7 mi  
Triangle Distance: 66.7 mi

Karen Becker  
(*Badges and Records on page 5*)

## President's Notes



Multi-place competition in Uvalde, Texas. Yet, there remains a vast amount of work to be done.

By now it may be obvious that we are slowly healing from the attrition of Women's Soaring Pilot Association membership due to Covid 19. This has been an amazing year for the aviatrix among us garnering many certifications, badges, state records and of course the amazing gold medal won by Sarah Arnold with Karl Striedieck in the World Championship 20 Meter

To assure the continuity of WSPA's growth and improvement of opportunities for the ab initio to advanced pilots, the Board of WSPA has developed a plethora of ideas and financial options to consider. We, as an organization, and in fact that of our "mothership", SSA, are faced with technological, biological and logistical challenges to facilitate retention and expansion. We are working hard to simplify and creatively present the potential of our sport to populations of all ages while maintaining the camaraderie and friendly engagement of current members.

WSPA is dedicated to #1 safety and #2 enjoyment. The SSA Convention is a case in point. Educational lectures were presented from which to learn and sharpen our skills while reuniting with friends with whom we have flown from around the world. Many of you visited our booth at the Convention and shared fond memories from this past year. That having been said, there remains an insidious albeit very real dilemma which our organization must address. Though our sport is uniquely engaging it can

(*President on page 5*)



## From the Editor

As of this writing, the Northern hemisphere soaring season officially has ended (as determined by OLC and "weglide", (both created in Germany), although most of this part of the world will fly until November or as my club does, fly year around. While the northern birds go into hibernation except for a few migrating ones that find their way to Namibia, SW Africa or even to Australia, glider pilots on the Southern hemisphere are just waking up (except the few that flew in the recent World Championships in Texas).

WSPA had a very successful season. Early in July the Women's Cross-Country Camp was held in Moriarty, NM, which gave the participants with different skill levels the confidence to head away from the home airport and taught them cross-country skills. Thanks to CarolAnn Garratt who spearheaded the now second camp of this type.

Also the WSPA seminar at Sunflower Aerodrome in Kansas provided a great week of soaring and camaraderie in which several badges and State records were achieved.

WSPA members also did very well in Regional, National and World Competition. Sylvia Grandstaff finished second in the Club Class Nationals, Sarah Arnold finished first in a regional contest, our 1-26 flyers did exceptionally well in the 1-26 championships with the largest women participation ever. And to crown it all, Sarah Arnold and Karl Striedieck (both WSPA members) won the World Championships in the 20 m multi-seat class, a first time American win in a gender-neutral contest since 1985. (Doug Jacobs won the Gold medal in 1985). And the first woman ever winning an unrestricted, gender neutral World Championship. I was glued to my computer screen during the 12 days of

flying watching Sarah and Karl holding their narrow lead every day. The last day was a real nail biter (like the US women winning basketball game during the Olympics). But a few minutes after they had landed, my son texted me "THEY HAVE DONE IT". (Sarah had previously won Bronze, Silver and Gold in Women World Championships). Several State records were posted during the soaring season. WSPA membership is on the up-swing again.

On a more local level: my club, Tidewater Soaring Society (TSS) also saw an increase in membership again, but sadly not in the female category. Our three annual scholarships went to young males. The week-long training camp for these three students was very successful and all three so-loed during that week.

And finally, on a sad note: our club is grounded for several weeks/ months? because a natural gas line is being built across the middle of our runway, and we don't know when the runway will be back in usable condition.

In the upcoming new year, I am looking forward to my 24<sup>th</sup> year as Hangar Soaring editor. Maybe I will make it to 25, the longest acting editor of any soaring publication in the US.

IT IS MY GOAL

Frauke

<b>WSPA</b>
<b>FINANCIAL REPORT</b>
<b>July 1, 2023 To June 30, 2024</b>

<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$15,251.77</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$13,809.14</b>
<b>Revenue over expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,442.63</b>
<b>Total Investment Income</b>	<b>\$10,430.84</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$11,873.47</b>

<b>Scholarships</b>	
<b>Start of Year</b>	<b>\$197,813.76</b>
<b>Funds received</b>	<b>\$41,094.05</b>
<b>Funds Payouts</b>	<b>\$40,935.33</b>
<b>End of Year</b>	<b>\$197,972.48</b>

<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Bank and PayPal</b>	<b>\$ 37,351.05</b>
<b>Investments</b>	<b>\$172,494.90</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$209,845.95</b>

**DONATE YOUR OLD EQUIPMENT**

Upgrading your panel with new computer, navigation, or vario equipment? Think about donating your old equipment to a good cause. **XC Women**, who run the Women's XC Camp in Moriarty, NM, is looking for old, functional equipment. We know pilots buying their first glider need more modern, but not the best, equipment. *Upgrading to a new Oudie? Consider donating your old one.* If you have anything that a new *cross country* glider pilot could use, please let us know. Contact [CarolAnn Garratt](#) or [Alice Palmer](#)

**Scholarships available**

Briegleb Scholarship	\$750.00
K.Striedieck Competition Scholarship	\$750.00
Sky Ghost Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Mid Kolstad Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Glider Girl Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Maria Farber Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Monique Weil Scholarship	\$1,500.00

Deadline for the scholarships is **March 15**. See the web page [www.womensoaring.org](http://www.womensoaring.org) for details and rules

**Thank You to our donors**

Peter F. Selinger  
 Mary E. Rust & Michael K. Rust  
 Patricia Laverty  
 Leon Zeug  
 Ruth Ann Van Vranken  
 Bethany Arnold  
 Soaring Society of America

## BOARD NOMINATIONS

The following members' 2-year tenure on the WSPA Board is coming to an end:

Lynda Lee LaBerge (president), Margaret Roy (treasurer), Gail Schipper (membership) and Uli Franz (International). Lynda, Margaret and Gail agreed to stay on the Board but must be re-elected. Uli Franz will drop off. Anna Laura Geusen, Germany has agreed to run for Uli's position. Vote be held in November on-line.

### Gail Schipper



I joined the Boulder, Colorado soaring community in 1996, though I first trained in gliders in Wurtsboro, NY, in the early 1990's. I currently hold a commercial license in gliders and commercial/instrument ratings in power. My professional career has not allowed me to pursue all my aviation dreams, but I've had some amazing adventures through WSPA and WSPA friends. Neita Montague and I hold the Nevada and California Free Distance and 3-turnpoints

Distance Feminine records for flights made in Neita's ASK21. Flying glider aerobatics for a week in York, Ontario during the WSPA Seminar with Manfred Radius was one of the best weeks of my life

I've created a few videos to celebrate some of the WSPA seminars I've attended. You can find them on You Tube: Women Soar Project: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y\\_LOrCWkfm](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_LOrCWkfm)

WSPA Seminar2014 Aerobatics Program: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KDtPsgncDI>

WSPA Seminar 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoehOsudKUo>

For many years I've been telling women pilots that my favorite aviation organization is WSPA. I've been a pilot for nearly 30 years and belong to many fine organizations including The Ninety-Nines, The Antique Airplane Organization, AOPA, EAA and the International Aerobatic Club. However, I've not found any club activity that tops WSPA for sharing the fun of aviation, building skills in a supportive environment, and providing community for women pilots. In this aspect, WSPA is quite extraordinary. I want to join the WSPA board to ensure that this organization continues its unique and amazing support for women pilots. I have served on the Board since 2020 and would like to continue supporting the organization in this way.

### Margaret Roy



It was as a student at the university that I got my first acquaintance with the gliding community and had my first introduction flight in a glider. Since then I fought my way to the upper altitudes borrowing the wings of a Grunau Baby II, a Schweizer 1-26 or an ASK-21. I learned to appreciate the appeal of a ridge with the most favorable wind direction as well as the steady altitude gain of the mountain wave.

After enjoying many WSPA seminar camps, I have now joined the board and will continue to help in that capacity.

My past careers include Teaching Math in High School, working on software systems running on mainframes and, with a small group of colleagues, moving a banking process from the mainframe platform to the PC, a novelty at the time.

I hope that my contribution will help further the goal of the association, to increase and consolidate our participation in the sport.

### Lynda Lee La Berge



Began soaring in 1998. Completed commercial rating in 2004.

North Carolina dual women's altitude record 24,000 ft with Jayne Reid.

Completed power private, commercial, multi engine and instrument rating by 2004.

WSPA secretary 2012-2014

Commercial tow pilot 2004-2017

Total power hours 2,400+

Current WSPA President.

2022 seminar coordinator.

Co-owner/operator "Pandora Aviation" flight school (gliders), Concord, Georgia 2004-2016

Currently own 301 Libelle ("OW")

Hoping to assist in expanding WSPA membership to women ALL ages.

### Anna Laura Geusen (nominated for International)



Hi, my name is Anna-Laura, and I am a glider pilot from western Germany. I started my soaring journey 20 years ago at the age of fourteen and got my license when I was seventeen. I am proud of the Anne Marrow Lindbergh Trophy which I won the same year. Two years later I enjoyed my first WSPA Seminar in Slovenia followed by the Seminar in Reno the year after. Last year I also participated at the first Seminar held in Germany at the Übersberg. I like

to spend my holidays in the Alps in southern France where I enjoy mountain flying. Sometimes I even do some aerobatics. I have a motor glider license as well. I am currently the managing director of my club, where one of my jobs is to gain new members. We currently have almost as many female students as male, a fact I am very proud of. As a board member of the WSPA I would love to make the WSPA known among Pilots in Europe and help to gain new members.

## Check out the November issue of SOARING

The women got a lot of coverage in that issue;

Page 12: Interview with Karl Striedieck after winning the World Championships in Uvalde, TX

Page 18: Ephrata Junior Cross Country Academy, 2024

Page 22: Farther, Faster, and Higher (1-26 Championship)



*President from page 2)*

be quite expensive. It leans strongly toward the necessity for time, dedication, focus and money to remain proficient. Many depend upon scholarships to participate. Technology is ever changing. Additionally, these are not easy requisites for the average individual holding jobs or continuing their education to meet. Subsequently, most of our current members are 50 years old or older. Although many opportunities are available to assist pilots of all ages many are not well known. Many go underutilized. WSPA is working hard to establish a user-friendly website and other media which will assist in identifying options available to everyone.

Take heart. Many of us, having engaged in our flying passion with a scholarship in our youth, return to soaring after a hiatus. It is not uncommon to reestablish soaring into a daily schedule later in life and to pass love of the sport on to our children and friends. We are here to help guide you wherever you find yourself along the continuum of your life. Don't hesitate to reach out to us to offer suggestions or new ideas or to ask for ours. Our cockpit is always open.  
Blue Skies,



Photo: Mary Rust

*Lynda LaBerge*

WSPA president Lynda LaBerge in her "presidential regalia"

*Badges and Records from page 2)*

(Crew : Aaland Adams)  
Free Distance up to three Turnpoints: 152.65 mi  
Free Triangle Distance: 124.4 mi

Youth Open Multiplace  
Erin Firth (Crew Jenna Cooper)  
Gain of Height: 4064 ft  
Absolute Altitude: 8,035 ft

**Jenna Cooper**  
Female Open Singleplace  
Free Distance: 105.5 mi  
Free Out and Return: 176.78 mi  
Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 209.9 mi  
Free Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 214.87mi

Female 15 m  
Free Distance: 105.5 mi  
Out and Return Distance: 176.78 mi  
Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 209.9 mi  
Distance up to Four Turnpoints: 214.87 mi

Karen Becker  
(Crew : Aaland Adams)  
Free Distance up to three Turnpoints: 152.65 mi  
Free Triangle Distance: 124.4 mi

Youth Open Multiplace  
Erin Firth (Crew Jenna Cooper)  
Gain of Height: 4064 ft  
Absolute Altitude: 8,035 ft

Female Open Singleplace  
Gain of Height: 3,300 ft  
Absolute Altitude: 4,464 ft

Female Sports  
Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 214.1 mi  
Free Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 219.17 mi  
Free Distance: 107.61 mi  
Free Out and Return Distance: 180.3 mi

Female Standard  
Free Distance 105.5 mi  
Free Out and Return Distance: 176.78 mi

Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 209.9 mi  
Free Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 214.87 mi

Youth Open Singleplace  
Free Out and Return Distance: 176.78 mi  
Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 209.9 mi

Youth 15 m  
Free Distance: 105.5 mi  
Free Out and Return Distance: 176.78 mi  
Distance up to Three Turnpoints 209.9 mi  
Free Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 214.87 mi

Youth Sport  
Free Distance: 107.61 mi  
Free Out and Return Distance 180.3 mi  
Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 214.1 mi  
Free Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 219.17 mi

Youth Standard:  
Free Distance 105.5 mi  
Free Out and Return Distance: 176.78 mi  
Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 209.9 mi  
Free Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 214.87 mi

**Kristin Farry**  
Female Open Singleplace  
Free Triangle Distance: 29.3 mi

Female 15m  
Free Triangle Distance: 25.3 mi  
Female Sports  
Free Triangle Distance: 40.48 mi

Female Standard  
Free Triangle Distance: 25.3 mi

Female 13.5 m  
Free Triangle Distance: 25.3 mi  
Free Out and Return Distance: 25.9 mi  
Free Three Point Distance: 33.62 mi  
(all flights in a 1-26)

**UTAH Record**

Allison Inge (Crew: Erin Firth)

Open Multiplace Female

Free Triangle Distance 173.9 mi  
Free Distance: 74.99 mi  
Free Distance up to three Turnpoints 180.1 mi

**Erin Firth**  
Female Open Singleplace  
Free Distance: 121.7 mi  
Free Out and Return 206.8 mi  
Out and Return 300 40.6 mph  
Out and Return Distance 206.2 mi

Female 15 m  
Free Distance 121.7 mi  
Free Out and Return:206.8 mi  
Out and Return 300: 40.6 mph  
Out and Return Distance 206.2 mi

Female Sports  
Free Distance 111.4 mi  
Free Out and Return 189.8 mi  
Out and Return 300: 34.1 mph  
Out and Return Distance 188.72 mi

Female Standard  
Free Distance: 121.7 mi  
Free Out and Return:206.8 mi  
Out and Return 300: 40.6 mph  
Out and Return Distance 206.2 mi

**WASHINGTON records**

**Katia Van Horn**  
Female Open Singleplace  
Free Distance 39.12 mi  
Free Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 85.6 mi  
Gain of Height 5,779 ft  
Absolute Altitude 9.984 ft

Female Standard  
[Free Distance 39.12 mi](#)  
Free Distance 39.12 mi

Female 15 m  
Free Distance 39.12 mi  
Free Distance 39.12 mi

Female Sports  
Free Distance:46.16 mi  
Free Distance up to Three Turnpoints:101 mi

**Rita Edris**  
Female Open Singleplace  
Free Distance: 73.94 mi  
Free Out and Return Distance: 140.43 mi  
Free Distance up to Three Turnpoints: 225.62  
Triangle Distance: 205.18 mi



The WSPA booth crew  
 Back: Margaret Roy, Mary Rust  
 Front row: Frauke Elber, Lynda La Berge, Ishitha Arekapudi

## The 2024 SSA Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee

By Ishitha Arekapudi



Ishitha speaks at the  
 WSPA breakfast

As a 17-year-old passionate about aviation, attending the 2024 Soaring Society convention in Tennessee was truly an unforgettable experience. From the moment I stepped through the doors, I found myself immersed in an inspiring community of seasoned pilots, instructors, and aviation enthusiasts who shared my love for soaring. This event presented a remarkable opportunity to engage with individuals who possess deep understanding and extensive experience, opening my eyes to the rich history and boundless possibilities within the soaring community.

One of the moments that stood out most was the diverse range of speakers who presented on various topics related to aviation and soaring. Their insights not only enriched my understanding of the technical aspects of flying but also highlighted the vital importance of community and collaboration in this field. I learned about numerous ways to get involved, whether through flying, volunteering, or mentoring others. This realization made it clear that there's a place for everyone in this captivating field of soaring, regardless of age or experience level or knowledge. Throughout my time at the convention, I was particularly impressed by the potential for expanding youth programs in soaring. Connecting with fellow aviators and witnessing their rich knowledge reinforced my belief that we need more opportunities tailored to the next generation. By

fostering an environment that actively encourages youth involvement, we can ensure that the spirit of soaring continues to thrive and evolve, inspiring future generations of pilots.

I am deeply grateful for the support I received during the event. Being surrounded by so many passionate individuals who share a common goal of advancing soaring created an atmosphere of encouragement and camaraderie. This experience has motivated me to pursue my dreams in aviation even further, and I am eager to contribute to the community that welcomed me with open arms. I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the opportunity to be part of such an incredible community. This experience has demonstrated to me that while soaring begins with the mechanics of learning to fly a glider, it ultimately grows into something much more meaningful—a lifelong journey of discovery, friendship, and achievement.

To the organizers, speakers, and every pilot who generously shared their knowledge and experiences—thank you for making this convention such an enriching experience. You have not only helped shape my understanding of soaring but also inspired my vision for its future. I am excited to see how soaring evolves and grows, and I am eager to be part of that journey alongside all of you.

**Editor's note:**

The convention in Knoxville, TN treated us to beautiful Fall weather and the changing colors across the Appalachian ridges provided an extra bonus. What a change from most of the past conventions that were marred by severe winter weather.



Frauke speaks about WSPA's history

40 Years of WSPA

Mary Rust

This convention was much smaller than previous ones; not as many sailplanes on display; not as many vendors and fewer visitors as before. One nice thing: sailplanes displayed ranged from a primary glider, to a SGS 1-29 to the state-of-the-art machines, showing the evolution of sailplanes. There were the typical breakfasts and lunches for the different interest groups. The WSPA breakfast was held on Friday morning and featured two speakers: Frauke Elber presenting 40 years of WSPA and 17year old Ishitha Arekapudi about her own journey in soaring and how to reach youths. She brought the house down. To listen to her speech got to

20241025\_082508.mp4.

The WSPA booth was colorful and busy. The raffel, an original artwork by Cathy Keller, was won by Mary Jo Berry and the silent auction of a Charles Lindbergh signed Lithography of the Spirit of St. Louis was won by Becky Kinder. 20 WSPA members were in attendance, incl. Associate members. Eight gave presentations ( the women only).

And as with all conventions: meeting old friends and making new contacts is the basis of these gatherings.



From this primary glider



to this SGS 1-29



Now this Ventus e  
Photos:WojtekTomanek

**Awards presented to Women (members and non members)**

**At the SSA membership meeting**

**Alice Palmer:**

for instructor who does the most for the A,B,C program.

Most active instructor Region 9 in the A,B,C & Bronze program.

3rd place : most active in structor in the US in



Mike Shakman, SSA Chair presenting Alice with one of her awards

Photo: David Hart

**At the closing banquet**

**Jenna Cooper:**

The Kolstad Junior Scholarship Award  
To the pilot whose activities have been prominent among junior pilots



Jenna Cooper receiving Award from MikeShakman and Mark Kolstad

**Jaqueline Payne**

voted by the SSA membership into the Soaring Hall of Fame, recognizing individuals who have made the highest achievement in, or contributions to, the sport of soaring into the United States of America



Jaqueline Payne, Mary Rust, Gordon Boettger

Badges and Records from page 5

Out and Return Distance:  
206.2 mi

#### Female Sports

Free Distance 111.4 mi  
Free Out and Return 189.8 mi  
Out and Return 300: 34.1 mph  
Out and Return Distance:  
188.72 mi

#### Female Standard

Free Distance: 121.7 mi  
Free Out and Return: 206.8 mi  
Out and Return 300: 40.6 mph  
Out and Return Distance:  
206.2 mi

### WASHINGTON RECORDS

#### **Katia Van Horn**

##### Female Open Singleplace

Free Distance: 39.12 mi  
Free Distance up to Three Turn-  
points: 85.6 mi  
Gain of Height 5,779 ft  
Absolute Altitude 9,984 ft

##### Female Standard

Free Distance 39.12 mi

##### Female 15 m

Free Distance 39.12 mi

#### Female Sports

Free Distance: 46.16 mi  
Free Distance up to Three Turn-  
points: 101 mi

#### **Rita Edris**

##### Female Open Singleplace

Free Distance: 73.94 mi  
Free Out and Return Distance:  
140.43 mi  
Free Distance up to Three Turn-  
points: 225.62 mi  
Triangle Distance: 205.18 mi  
Triangle 300 km Speed: 40.6 mph  
Gain of Height: 7,782 ft  
Absolute Altitude: 12,027 ft

##### Female 13.5 m

Free Distance: 73.94 mi  
Free Out and Return Distance:  
140.43 mi  
Free Distance up to Three Turn-  
points: 225.62 mi  
Triangle Distance: 205.18 mi  
Free Triangle Distance: 205.18 mi  
Triangle 300km Speed: 40.6 mph

#### Female Sports

Free Distance 76.16 mi  
Free Out and Return Distance:  
144.64 mi  
Free Distance up to Three Turn-  
points: 232.39 mi  
Triangle Distance: 211.34 mi  
Free Triangle Distance:  
211.34 mi  
Triangle 300 km Speed:  
41.86 mph

#### General 13.5 m

Free Out and Return Distance:  
140.43 mi  
Triangle Distance: 211.34 mi  
Free Distance: 73.94 mi  
Free Distance up to Three Turn-  
points: 225.62 mi  
Free Triangle Distance:  
205.18 mi

#### **Kolstad Award**

Katia Van Horn (Century 1)

### 2024 OLC summery.

Some pilots post their flights on OLC only, others on "weglide" and some post them on both. Unfortunately, these two scoring platforms cannot be combined since they are based on different algorithms.

The top three OLC posts for 2024 are

**Carol Ann Garratt** 13,312 pts.,  
12,320.28 km and 30 flights  
**Tulianna Laukkanen** 7,727.86  
pts, 6,190.72 km and 23 flights  
**Rita Edriss** 5,831.10 points,  
4,751.84 km 17 flights

### 2024 "weglide" summery

Besides some pilots post their flights on both platforms, others post only on we glide

**Cathy Fosha** 27,039 pts,  
25,225.48 km, 85 flights  
**Carol Ann Garratt** 12,295 pts,  
12,376.31 km, 30 flights  
**Lisa Trotter** 8,980 pts. 8,953.26  
km, 18 flights

Tulianna Laukkanen hails from New Zealand and flies in the US during their winter  
Lisa Trotter lives in Australia and flew here prior to the World Gliding Championships in Uvalde.

## My Cross-Country Gliding Adventures all thanks to the WSPA Maria Faber Scholarship

By Julia Clitheroe (Ontario, Canada)

In 2023, I was awarded the WSPA Maria Faber Scholarship of USD 1500, which goes a long way in CAD! Over two gliding seasons here in Ontario, Canada, I used all the scholarship funds to advance my cross-country gliding experience. As an FAI Silver-Badged soaring pilot, I accomplished a lot within the past two seasons. This is all thanks to the funding generously provided by the WSPA, especially as a 19-year-old student.

When the airfield dried out from all the melted snow over the long winter, I began right away, trying my first small race against other novice cross-country glider pilots in my club in the SZD-51 Junior. I also hopped into more advanced sailplanes such as the Discus 2B and Duo Discus. Eventually, I got checked out to go cross-country in the Discus 2B and I loved flying cross-country in that glider, it was a huge step up from the ASK-21 and SZD-51 Junior. Flying cross-country in the Discus 2B made me hooked on cross-country soaring. In August 2023, my gliding club (SOSA) hosted the Canadian National Soaring Contest. For that 2-week long contest, I was the Launch Boss (I guess they think I am bossy). While engaging with many of Canada's greatest soaring pilots from coast to coast, they shared valuable soaring knowledge, tips, and secrets. I would then practice what they told me in the air. This contest provided me with great connections, advice, and leadership experience. I continued to soar until school started in September.

My 2024 soaring season began with SOSA's annual Cross-Country Clinic Camp. I spent the week at my club learning from experienced cross-country instructors who taught me a lot about safety in the sport. Each day began with class in the morning and flying in the afternoon. We focused heavily on the safe execution of land-outs, information that I wish I learned a lot earlier! During the Cross-Country Clinic Camp, I experienced a triangle with a Schempp-Hirth Arcus, my favourite flight of the year! In the 2024 season, I also began flying the Jantar, which to my surprise, I quite enjoyed. I enjoyed the Jantar so much, I think it will be my main glider for next season.

The WSPA also provided me with a wonderful mentor, which was great because I had always found it challenging to find like-minded ladies in the sport of Cross-Country Soaring. Cathy Keller is my mentor, and we share similar goals. We would always keep each other updated on our progress. Cathy also gave me great advice on flight planning and ways to reach my goal of the 300-kilometre Gold Badge flight. I am grateful for the WSPA mentorship program!

I encourage every woman in gliding to join the WSPA and apply for their scholarships. The WSPA Maria Faber Scholarship allowed me to pursue my cross-country soaring goals. I look forward to continuing with my cross-country gliding progress and one day competing in more competitions and seeing more women in this sport.

-Julia Clitheroe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v41C7jOCGfU>





## In the News

### They did it!



Karl Striedieck and Sarah Arnold after they learned that they had won the Multiplace World Championship

#### Sarah wrote on Facebook

*"For years I've dreamed of becoming the first woman to earn gold in the unrestricted World Gliding Championships, and superstitiously refused to say it aloud, afraid that perhaps it was just too big of a goal. Along the way I've learned how to earn points in glider racing, and a LOT of ways to lose them. I've learned that it takes a special set of circumstances to win and not all factors are in anyone's control. I've felt the thrills of victory and agonies of defeat.*

*I've learned that in glider racing there are more hard lessons to learn than easy ones. I've been buoyed by countless kindnesses and felt the pressure at the top, being hunted by the best in the world.*

*These experiences of mine have come over but a fourth of the time that Karl has been on his own quest. It seemed like such a fairy tale to wish for us to win, for Karl to get his gold, and again have USA world champions from a contest hosted inside the United States.*

*When we took the lead early on, we both fought hard to keep thoughts of a potential win out of our heads, and just took one day at a time. We couldn't believe it would happen until we crossed the finish ring yesterday afternoon. Thank you to all who have worked tirelessly over many years to give us this opportunity. Words aren't enough, my heart is full."*

Both made history that day: Sarah being the first woman ever winning an unrestricted World Championship and Karl being the oldest one ever winning one (he won 2 Silver medals in the past). The US did not have a World Champion since 1985 when Dough Jacobs came home with Gold.

#### Aerobatic World Championships in Oschatz, Germany

German WSPA member **Nora Geusen** finished 32rd amongst 34 participants in the Advanced Class. Nora was this year's recipient of the Maria Farber Scholarship.

#### 1-26 Championship results

Cathy Williams 4<sup>th</sup>

Judith Galbraith 5<sup>th</sup>

Kristin Farry 8<sup>th</sup>

Out of 17

Judith Galbraith wins day 3 and 6

#### Region 10

##### Sports Class

Tuniilla Laukkanen 5<sup>th</sup>

Katia van Horn 12<sup>th</sup>

##### FAI Handicapped Class

Sylvia Grandstaff 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Ishitha Arekapuda** received her PPL in October after she got her glider license last year. Ishitha is the recipient of the Sky Ghost Scholarship, the SSA Discovery Scholarship, the 1-26 Scholarship, Civil Air Patrol Cadet Wings Scholarship, the Red-Tailed Hawks Fly Cadet Scholarship and the Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 84 Scholarship.

#### The WSPA Board awards **Phyllis Wells** the WSPA Bertha Ryan Sustained Service Award.

The Bertha Ryan Sustained Service Award recognizes WSPA members who have served WSPA and the soaring community for ten years or more. The emphasis in this award is service and promotion of women's participation in soaring beyond personal flying accomplishments. Anyone can nominate a WSPA member for the Bertha Ryan Sustained Service Award. It's simple: send an email to [trophy@womensoaring.org](mailto:trophy@womensoaring.org) with the name of your nominee and with a few sentences about her service and why you are nominating this member. We will help you polish the nomination.

Phyllis Wells was instrumental in building WSPA's scholarship program to the level it is today.

Prior to 1998, WSPA offered only two scholarships: the Briegleb and the Sky Ghost. Prior to 1998, the recipients of those two scholarships were chosen by the WSPA Board. From 1990-1997, WSPA Board awarded 15 scholarships totaling \$2700. In 1998, the Scholarship Committee was formed with Phyllis as Chairperson. Phyllis served as Scholarship Committee chair for twenty-two years, leading the expansion of WSPA's scholarship program to nine scholarships. She introduced a rigorous decision process, encouraged donations to expand the program, and implemented new scholarships. Her leadership led WSPA to today's nine successful scholarships. During her 22-year leadership, 95 women received scholarships totaling over \$75,000. Scholarship winners have gone on to become CFI-Gs and even compete in world championships and glider aerobatics.

The scholarship program foundation Phyllis put in place has made transition of the program to her successors seamless. It has also built momentum in donations supporting scholarships, including the recent support from the Soaring Society of America.

Phyllis Wells' leadership over more than two decades is largely why WSPA has such a successful and growing scholarship program today.

#### **Kristin Farry** wins 2024 Anne Morrow Lindbergh Trophy

WSPA awards the Anne Morrow Lindbergh Trophy annually for the best non-competition cross-country flight, handicapped by both pilot experience and glider performance. The flight period is March 1<sup>st</sup> through the last day of the following February.

We had four great entries for the 2024 Anne Morrow Lindbergh Trophy: Cathy Keller, Jenna Cooper, Colleen Koenig, and Kristin Farry. The winning flight was Kristin Farry's Marion, TN, flight of 159.3 statute miles



## View into the Past



Editor's note: By February 1999, no club to host the WSPA seminar had been found. Wolf Elber and then TSS president Drew Landman sprang into action. Wolf, still working at NASA Langley at the time, recruited NASA's PR department and NASA became the main sponsor. TSS at the time had no facilities, just a hangar with an attached bathroom. We engaged the help of a club west of TSS (now Merlin gliderport) and its owner sent a tow ship and tow pilot and paid for the week-long hotel stay of the tow pilot. The small farm community where TSS is located is called ORBIT (but has a Windsor postal address). The locals were so thrilled that we incorporated that name into our t-shirt design by Gray Wilson that they bought 50 t-shirts. With all this support our impromptu seminar was a big success. The local church half a mile from the gliderport made their facilities available and the church ladies provided breakfast and lunch and thus made money for the church. We had dinner and our evening programs there. NASA provided the

Air and Space Museum for our banquet including 2 IMAX films.

# WSPA Hangar Soaring

An Official Publication of the Women Soaring Pilots Association

<http://home.swbell.net/sierray/wspa>

Aug., 1999



## VIRGINIA'S 1999 WSPA SEMINAR



The Women Soaring Pilots Association flew Tidewater skies and NASA's "Holodeck" during their 1999 Seminar. Hosted by Tidewater Soaring Society (TSS) at Garner Airport in Orbit, Virginia, 20 women pilots from the desert of Ennis, TX, to the suburbs of Hillsborough, NJ, assembled June 21-25 to try their hands at East Coast soaring.

Tuesday afternoon developed some great soaring weather. Kate Landman (TSS, VA) had a three-hour 1-26 flight. Marty Hudson (CISA, IN), logged one hour and 43 minutes in the club Lark with an instructor. Wednesday was our longest flying day, complete with blue skies and puffy clouds -- unfortunately, producing little lift.

Seventy-eight flights later, Karen Aiken (Chester, SC) was checked out in the Lark; CFIG Janet Sorrell (CCSC, OH) had her first flight in a Lark with CFIG Peter Bacque; Kate Porter (Roanoke, VA) flew a 2-33 and a 1-26 for the first time; Charlene Taylor (TSA, TX) had flown with FAA Examiner Linda Mathias; and Ajna Wei (CISA, IN) had another seminar under her belt.

This year, Kate Landman's presentation on GPS took you step-by-step through the process. And, through the aggressive work of TSS, their two 2-33's were equipped with GPS units that recorded flight information that could be downloaded for later analysis. (Thanks to Dave Ellis at Cambridge Instruments for their outstanding generosity!)

Kate and Marita Rea (TSS, VA) also gave a lecture on Badge applications with datalogger documentation (and doing it the old-fashioned way). Paul Lynch's presentation on thermalling and cross country techniques is recapped on page 4 of this issue.

The 99's Hampton Roads Chapter hosted a dinner for us, with three impressive guests of honor: Louise Thaden, Poncho Barnes, and Phoebe Omlie. Linda Mathias (99 and TSS glider pilot) wrote a skit featuring these three pioneering women pilots and three 99's enacted it.

Did you know that Phoebe Omlie was injured in a flight when a student froze on the stick during instruction? That Poncho Barnes beat Roscoe Turner in an air race -- even taking some time out to film part of a football game in mid-flight? That Louise Thaden, the first woman to win the Bendix Trophy, is the *only* woman to hold the women's altitude, speed, and endurance records simultaneously?

Wolf Elber planned our visit to NASA Langley to start with a glider symposium where NASA employees could ask questions of our visiting pilots. Kate Landman brought her Pegasus and displayed it outside the lecture hall. We viewed a test of the machinery that helped NASA scientists improve Space Shuttle tires and runway surfaces so that the Shuttle can now land in up to a 20 mph crosswind (up from 6-8 mph).



## WSPA 1999 SEMINAR (Cont'd from Page 1)

Our stroll through the wind tunnel with its directional vanes, accoustical vanes, and huge fan blades mounted on the 14,000 horsepower motor (that is not a typo!) was really neat. Though the restoration hangar in at the Naval Air Station here in Florida is big, NASA's hangar that held the 757 seemed gigantic.

Two simulators waited for us at our last stop. One was set up as a C-130 cockpit and looked much like a conventional simulator with left and right seats and all the pertinent dials, controls, and guages (I guess). This was mounted on hydrolic arms that simulated motion.

The other simulator reminded me of Star Trek's Holodeck. It was laid out differently -- as a big white ball inside and out. You entered the center of the ball on scaffolding and earth and sky were projected around you as, in your imaginary plane, you followed a fighter flying through the sky. Wow!!!

Our speaker at the banquet that evening was Commander Paula Hinger, US Navy. She spoke about her adventures flying for the Navy in Antarctica and landing supplies on carriers (her current job). Virginia's Air & Space Center housed about a dozen planes from the Langley Aerodrome to a Schleiche ASW-12 to one of Rutan's Veri-EZ's. We were treated to an IMAX double-feature: *Egypt* and *Special Effects*.

Hospitality and meeting new people are great side benefits of attending WSPA Seminars. Tidewater has turned southern gliderport hospitality into an art form. No one at the club could do enough for us. You know, it might be a risky proposition to have a bunch of unknown pilots

descend on your gliderport, flying your equipment and using your facilities. I believe that everyone at TSS was impressed with the loving care we took of their planes and their home port. The fact that we've been doing it for 21 years and it's still an active seminar speaks well of our being good guests. At TSS, our hosts made this a very pleasant visit.

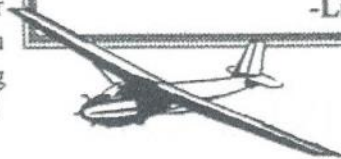
Frauke not only set up breakfasts, lunches, and meeting space with the Woodland United Methodist Church women, she also arranged for an extra towplane and pilot. Accommodations were close by with good rates.

Have I mentioned sight-seeing yet? I visited Kitty Hawk (site of the historic Wright Brothers flight), Ft. Monroe (where Jefferson Davis was incarcerated after the Civil War), and the Cape Hatteras lighthouse (being moved to a new home). Others visited Williamsburg, Jamestown, and Virginia Beach.

### SEMINAR LIMERICK WINNER

**There was a gal with a side-by-side glider  
But her bum grew increasingly wider.  
She gorged on candy and cake  
Enough for a huge bellyache  
But, alas, no room for anyone beside her.**

-Linda Mathias



Thanks is hardly enough to say to all of the TSS members who supported this year's seminar. Frauke and Wolf's hard work and planning were evident every day. Tow pilots, instructors, and other club members were always genial and helpful. The facilities and equipment were in great condition and people were more than willing to check us out and trust us with their equipment (including their brand new John Deere tug!).

Competition pilots go to contests to compete. But I have seen tremendous commaraderie and a sharing of learned skills at Ohio's Wright Memorials and Region 6 gatherings. WSPA pilots go to our seminars to fly and learn. There you will also experience commaraderie, skill improvement, and a lot of just plain fun.

CHRIS SCHNIER

## Badges and Records

From November 2024 SOARING

### C-Badge

Sandra Tomas Roig Ryder, NY  
Karen Becker Fort Collins, CO

### B-Badge

Sandra Tomas Roig Ryder, NY  
Karen Becker Fort Collins, CO  
Aida Hughes, Colorado Springs, CO

### A Badge

Sandra Tomas Roig Ryder, NY  
Cindy Lawyer, Alexandria, VA

### New Mexico Records

#### Jenna Cooper

##### Youth Sports

Free distance; 104.39 mi  
Free Distance up to 3 Turnpoints;  
289.39 mi

##### Youth Open Singleplace

Gain of Height; 9009 ft

##### Youth 15 m

Free Distance; 106.2 mi  
Free Distance up to 3 Turnpoints;  
294.4 mi

##### Female Sports

Free Distance 104.39 mi  
Free Distance up to 3 Turnpoints;  
289.39 mi  
Free Out and Return; 116.95 mi

### Colorado Records

#### Alice Palmer

##### Female Standard

Free Distance; 130.19 mi

##### Female 15 m

Free Distance; 130.19 mi

### Idaho Records

#### Rita Edris

##### 13.5 m

Free Distance; 71.5 mi  
Free 3 Turnpoint Distance;  
196.6 mi  
Free Out and Return Distance;  
96.5 mi

##### Female Open Singleplace :

Free Out and Return Distance;  
96.5 mi  
Free 3 Turnpoint Distance;  
196.6 mi

##### Female 13.5 m

Free Out and Return Distance;  
96.5 mi  
Free 3 Turnpoint Distance;  
Free 3 Turnpoint Distance;  
196.6 mi  
Free Distance; 71.4 mi

##### Female Sports

Free Out and Return Distance;  
99.39 mi  
Free 3 Turnpoint Dis-  
tance; 202.8 mi  
Free Distance; 73.54 mi



## 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