



SOARING SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE OFFICIAL SITE OF THE SOARING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

USA SOARING
TEAMS

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**US Team
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2001 US Soaring Team News

The latest news on each of the US Soaring Teams. Follow each teams progress as they prepare for their World Soaring Championships. While the championships are underway see [Day Reports](#) for daily updates.



Team News Archive

2001	2003	2005	Team Calendar
2002	2004	2006	
Gyps Africanus		Dec 17-31, 2000	Completed
USA Club Team News		Jan 7-27, 2001	WGC Completed
USA 18-Meter Team News		Jun 18-30, 2001	WGC Completed
USA World Team News		Jun 18-30, 2001	WGC Completed
USA Junior Team News		Aug 5-19, 2001	WGC Completed
USA Open/15-M/Std Team News		Dec 18-31, 2001	WGC Completed
US Team Management News			

USA 2001 Open/15-Meter/Standard Soaring Team News

27th World Gliding Championships, South Africa, December 18-31 2001. Practice starts December 10.

01/01/02 With the closing ceremonies in South Africa the 27th World Soaring Championships have been completed. It was a highly competitive event with the lead changing often. Thanks to all the US Team supporters.

12/31/01 The 27th WSC in South Africa has been concluded. See all the Day Reports [here](#). Here are the cumulative scores for the top ten and the U.S. Team.

OPEN CLASS						
Place	Points	Reg	Pilot	Country	Glider	
1	8625	AS	O. Goudriaan	RSA	Asw 22ble	
2	8509	22	M. Sommer	D	Asw 22ble	
3	8414	TM	A. Kunath	BRA	Nimbus 4	
4	8341	HM	L. Goudriaan	RSA	Asw 22ble	
5	8325	X	H. Karow	D	Nimbus 4m	
6	8293	VB	T. Bode	D	Asw 22ble	
7	8262	EC	E. Napoleon	F	Nimbus 4t	
8	8209	FM	I. Renner	AUS	Ash 25e	
9	8121	N1	P. Harvey	GB	Nimbus 4t	
10	7846	IQ	D. Schmid/a. Keller	CH	Ash 25	
11	7842	7V	R. Gimmey	USA	Asw 22ble	
13	7816	HW	J. Payne	USA	Nimbus 4	

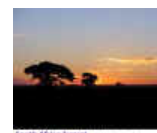
15-Meter Class						
Place	Points	Reg	Pilot	Country	Glider	

1	8867	WM	W. Meuser	D	Ventus 2ax
2	8779	1R	S. Raimond	NL	Asw27
3	8619	VP	J. Centka	POL	Asw27
4	8599	P7	G. Ittner	USA	Ventus C
5	8467	EX	A. Horn	D	Ventus 2ax
6	8405	EW	F. Hoyeau	F	Ventus 2a
7	8309	ACH	H. Romeijn	NL	Ventus2b
8	8221	VS	S. Ghiorzo	I	Ventus 2a
9	8203	5A	H. Breidahl	DK	Ventus 2a
10	8148	721	E. Johnston	GB	Ls6
15	7784	KS	K. Striedieck	USA	Asw27

Standard Class						
Place	Points	Reg	Pilot	Country	Glider	
1	8609	DA	L. Aboulin	F	Discus 2	
2	8596	57	M. Young	GB	Ls8	
3	8592	EF	J-m. Caillard	F	Discus 2	
4	8455	232	J. Coutts	NZL	Ls8	
5	8215	80	A. Davis	GB	Discus 2	
6	8153	LB	R. Brigliadori	I	Discus 2	
7	7989	X1	M. Ichikawa	JPN	Ls8	
8	7808	SB	B. Selen	NL	Ls8	
9	7793	C64	P. Crabb	IRL	Ls8	
10	7650	UG	T. Claffey	AUS	Ls8	
13	7539	DJ	D. Jacobs	USA	Ls8	
16	7296	W3	J (c) Garner	USA	Discus 2	

- 12/17/01** Tomorrow will be Contest Day 1 for the 27th WGC in South Africa. Follow the [Day Reports](#) on the US Team site.
- 12/08/01** First reports from South Africa now [available](#).
- 12/07/01** The 27th US Soaring Team is in South Africa with official practice starting on December 10. Organizers will have daily flight logs available and much more including a special 27th WGC edition of flight analysis software. See the [Day Reports](#) page for all the action and links.
- 11/29/01** Due to the medical condition of his son Ben, Sherman Griffith will not be competing in South Africa this year. Jim Payne will now be flying as Ray Gimmey's open class teammate in the 27th World Gliding Championships starting December 18. Jim is busy with last minute preparations and Heinz Weissenbueler has graciously agreed to allow Jim to fly his Nimbus 4 which is already in South Africa. The entire US team wishes Sherman and Dawn all the best and a speedy recovery to Ben. See the [team page](#)...
- 11/28/01** News from the U.S. Soaring Team in South Africa will be posted starting December 10. See [Day Reports](#) for daily bulletins from South Africa.
- 10/02/01** The 27th WGC organizers have a great web site. See it [here](#) or visit the [links](#) section.
- 10/01/01** US Pilots & Sailplanes. The US team for South Africa have settled on their mounts for the 27th WGC. Ray Gimmey is renting an ASW-22 BLE, motor glider. Sherman Griffith is flying Heinz Weissenbueler's Nimbus 4, Karl Striedieck is flying his ASW-27 and Gary Ittner is flying his Ventus C. Doug Jacobs is taking delivery of his new LS-8 in South Africa while Chip Garner is flying Tim Welles' Discus 2.
- 10/01/01** US Pilots are ready to go. It has been a long time coming but the 27th WGC is only a few short months away. While most US pilots are preparing for winter the US Team is getting ready for their trip down over. The costs of participation are staggering and the funding has been low. [See funding](#).
- 09/30/01** Good article from Gliding & Motorgliding International on [flying out of South Africa's Mafikeng](#) site of the World Gliding Championships in December.

- 09/24/01** [South Africa's Nationals](#) are now underway. Although the championship is not at Mafikeng (site of next WGC) the web coverage is worth a visit.
- 08/01/01** Team Committee Chair and South African Team Captain Gary Kemp reports, "The full U.S. team going to South Africa participated in a team training session for five days prior to the 15 meter Nationals in Uvalde, Texas. Time was spent learning to team fly with each other and working on the Assigned Area Task that has become so prevalent in Europe and was used in the Pre-World's. Pilots were eager to practice. They became more familiar with each other and began to further come together as a team. As Team Captain I am very optimistic about this team. All pilots seem eager to cooperate with each other and to come together as a team. They are also very determined to do well in South Africa."
- 07/18/01** Due to a shortage of team funding and the high personal cost of participation Mike Opitz has opted not to participate in the 27th World Gliding Championships. The next pilot on the seeding list is Chip Garner. Chip has accepted US Soaring Team Committee Chairman Gary Kemp's letter of intent to participate in the South African World Gliding Contest.
- 12/27/00** Doug Jacobs has provided a US Team Report on his Gyps Africanus experiences in South Africa. [See the edited version here](#). [See the photographs here](#). Plan to attend Doug's talk on South Africa at the SSA Convention.
- 12/27/00** Doug Jacobs is back from the pre-worlds Gyps Africanus contest as he could only be there for seven days. Doug says, "With the right planning and equipment, and especially with our Team's experience in the American Southwest, we both felt there was no reason we couldn't do very well here next year."
- 12/17/00** Ray Gimmey and Doug Jacobs have arrived in South Africa and are flying the WGC 27 pre-worlds. The first contest day for Gyps Africanus is the 17th and its over on the 31st. Read all about the site, see the photo gallery and follow the results on the official contest web site at [Gyps Africanus](#).
- 12/01/00** All FAI pilots have returned their letters of intent to compete in the World's in South Africa.
- 10/26/00** Ray Gimmey and Doug Jacobs will be flying in "[Gyps Africanus](#)" the pre-worlds in South Africa starting December 17, 2000 and we will be looking forward to their report at the SSA Convention.
- 10/26/00** Gary Kemp appointed Team Manager for South Africa. Gary is a long time contest pilot and an excellent choice for leading the charge to South Africa.
- 10/01/00** 2001 27th WGC US Soaring Team members qualify. Ray Gimmey (Open), Sherman Griffith (Open), Karl Striedieck (15-M), Gary Ittner (15-M), Mike Opitz (Std), Doug Jacobs (Std) qualify for South Africa.



[WGC 27 Team page](#). [Team Photo Gallery](#).

2001 USA 18-Meter Soaring Team News

1st FAI 18-M Class World Gliding Championships, World Air Games, Lillo (Toledo) Spain, June 18 - July 1, 2001



With the closing ceremonies in Lillo the 1st World Gliding Championships for the 18-Meter Class have been completed. It was a highly competitive event with long tasks and high speeds. Thanks to all the US Team supporters.

06/30/01 18M Class - Congratulations to the overall winners.

Final Overall 18M Class WGC

1. Steven Jones, GBR, 5831
2. Leonardo Brigliadori, ITA, 5570
3. Werner Danz, CHE, 5422
16. Rick Walters, USA, 5075
30. Bill Bartell, USA, 775

Stand by for the next 18-Meter WGC. The 2nd 18-Meter WGC, is scheduled to be part of the **28th FAI World Gliding Championships**, Reiti, Italy, 2003.

06/24/01 The contest is underway.

06/12/01 The World and 18-Meter teams are heading for Spain in a few short days. See the [World Air Games 2001 - Official Site](#). See Bill Bartell's and Mike Wilson's [World Air Games site](#) for the latest news from Spain. See the [Aero Club de Toledo](#) for great coverage of the contests. Drop by the [US Team Photo Gallery](#) for the latest photos. There is even more coverage on the [FAI World Air Games Web](#).

04/05/01 World Air Games allow two pilots in the 18-meter class and Bill Bartell is selected to the team.

03/05/01 Conrad Suechting will be doing double duty as the 18-Meter Team Captain in addition to the World Class team.

11/10/00 Rick Walters qualifies to compete in the 1st FAI 18-M Class World Gliding Championships in Spain. Sponsors limit number of competitors to one per country.

[18-Meter](#) Team page. [Team Photo Gallery](#).

2001 USA Club Soaring Team News

1st FAI Club Class World Gliding Championships, Gawler Australia, January 7-27, 2001



The Club Class Team would like to thank all the well wishers who e-mailed words of encouragement throughout the contest.

01/27/01 With the closing ceremonies the 1st Club Class World Gliding Championships have been completed.



Final Overall Club Class WGC

1. Peter Masson GBR, 6972
2. Richard Hood GBR, 6879
3. Thomas Suchanek CZE, 6789
7. Hank Nixon USA, 6240
25. Karl Striedieck USA, 5032
31. Alphonso Jurado USA, 4764

Stand by for the **2nd FAI Club Class World Gliding Championships** to be hosted in Musbach (Germany) August 10-24, 2002.

[1st World Gliding Championships Club Class](#) official Web site. Drop by the

[US Team Photo Gallery](#) for the latest photos or visit the [US Club Class Team](#) page. Charlie Spratt and John Good have posted updates on the [SSA Contest](#) page.

01/08/01 The Club Class team is assembled in Gawler and going through the last minute tuning. Reports are that it is hot and dry and the team is settling in to their new home. See the [official contest site](#). The practice period is from January 8-13 and the contest starts on the 14th. See the [SSA Contest Page](#) for the scores when the contest gets underway.



01/03/01 The 1st FAI Club Class Championships are almost underway. Located in Gawler near [Adelaide](#), the capital of South Australia the contest has a very international feel to it. There are over 50 contestants representing 25 plus countries. See the official [1st FAI Club Class Web site](#) for all the details on the contest. There will be team updates posted here as well.



12/31/00 US Club Class Team members are underway and will be arriving at Gawler in a few days. There will be team updates posted here as they come in.

10/26/00 US Club Class Team members (Karl Striedieck, Hank Nixon and Alfonso Jurado) have been busy with logistics and are looking forward to the start of the championships.

[Club Team](#) page. [Team Photo Gallery](#).

2001 USA World Soaring Team News

3rd FAI World Class (PW-5) World Gliding Championships, World Air Games, Lillo (Toledo) Spain, June 18-July 1, 2001

10/30/01 The Count down to the 2002 Pre World Event in New Zealand continues. Contact: Roy Edwards, Contest Director. [Link here](#).



With the closing ceremonies in Lillo the 3rd World Gliding Championships for the World Class (PW-5) have been completed. It was a highly competitive event with long tasks and high speeds. Thanks to all the US Team supporters.

06/30/01 **World Class** - Congratulations to the overall winners.

Final Overall World Class WGC

1. Olivier Darroze, FRA, 5524
2. Sebastian Dubreuil, FRA, 5500
3. Sebastian Kawa, POL, 5468
10. Pat Tuckey, USA, 5033
13. Francois Pin, USA, 4958

Stand by for the **4th World Soaring Championships for the World Class** to be held in Matamata (New Zealand) in 2003.

06/24/01 The contest is underway.

- 06/12/01** Talk about coverage! The World and 18-Meter teams are heading for Spain in a few short days. See the [World Air Games 2001 - Official Site](#). See Bill Bartell's and Mike Wilson's [World Air Games site](#) for the latest news from Spain. See the [Aero Club de Toledo](#) for great coverage of the contests. There is even more coverage on the [FAI World Air Games Web](#).
- 04/03/01** The World Air Games (WAG) organizers have issued the official rules, approved by IGC and FAI, for the Soaring events (two World Championships). Thirty countries have already expressed their intent to participate in the WAG. Events are currently scheduled in 8 general categories of Airsports, including Gliding, Hang Gliding, Glider Aerobatics, Paragliding, Parachuting, Powered Aerobatics, Rally and Precision, and Ballooning. Together, these events cover 8 official FAI World Championships and several other specific WAG Championships.
- Interface with the WAG organizers is being handled directly by the US-NAA for the entire US Airsports delegation, including athletes' entry forms, registrations, and coordinated US Airsports Team uniforms for the Olympic-style Opening and Closing Ceremonies.
- In this vein, efforts to increase participation in US World Class competitions have been strengthened, with focus on the upcoming US Nationals in Cordele (2001) and Uvalde (2002) and particular emphasis on young pilots (our future Olympic Champions) with several new sponsorships now available to support Youth registrations.
- In support of the new US Team procedures officially approved by the SSA Board of Directors at the 01 Convention, the logistics and preparation activities of the combined 18m and World Class Team going to the World Championships and WAG in Lillo are now fully aligned with and coordinated through the US Team Committee under the active leadership of its Chairman, Gary Kemp.
- 12/15/00** Having no current funding or financial help, the World Class Team is also hard at work toward identifying potential sponsors and support sources.
- 12/15/00** The World Class team has secured two PW-5s, trailers, and help for retrieves from Bielsko 1, the new Polish manufacturer of PW-5 gliders. Other logistics for transportation and lodging are proceeding well.
- 12/14/00** Conrad Suechting has been appointed as the World Class Team Captain for Spain.
- 10/26/00** Francois Pin & Pat Tuckey qualify for the 3rd FAI World Class WGC in Spain.
- [World Team](#) page. [Team Photo Gallery](#).

2001 USA Junior Soaring Team News

2nd FAI Junior World Gliding Championships, Issoudun (France), August 5-19, 2001.



With the closing ceremonies in Issoudun the 2rd World Gliding Championships for the Junior Class have been completed. Thanks to all the US Team supporters.

8/20/01 Thanks to the US Junior Team 2001 supporters including [Cambridge Aero Instruments](#), [Mountain High Oxygen](#), [Wings & Wheels Soaring Supplies](#), and [Cumulus Courseware](#).

- 8/20/01** Congratulations to Junior Team Captain John Campbell for organizing and securing the funding necessary to send our Junior Team to France. John has been a long time supporter of the Junior team and the youth soaring movement in the USA.
- 8/20/01** **Junior Class** - Congratulations to overall winners.
- Final Overall Junior Class WGC - Standard**
1. Jay Rebbeck, GBR, 6372
 2. Jez Hood, GBR, 6362
 3. Benjamin Schulz, GER, 6121
 4. Benjamin Neglais, FRA, 6121
 5. Rolf Friedli, SWT, 6030
 16. Danny Sorenson, USA, 5323
 30. Jason Howard, USA, 2711
- Final Overall Junior Class WGC - Club**
1. Peter Toft, DEN, 5768
 2. Sylvain Gerbaud, FRA, 5763
 3. Robert Scheiffarth, GER, 5739
 4. Damien Van Landeghem, FRA, 5722
 5. John Tanner, GBR, 5658
 28. Michael Robison, USA, 4133
- Stand by for the **3rd FAI Junior World Gliding Championships** to be held in Nitra (Slovak Republic) in 2003.
- 08/15/01** Junior Team [Photo Gallery](#) updated.
- 08/05/01** [Junior Team](#) arrives in Europe. New WJGC website links added.
- 07/01/01** The Junior WGC organizers in France have a web site [2001 Junior Class World Championships](#). This site has news, scores, rules, contestants and much more. Worth a visit.
- 07/01/01** **Junior Team Prize Drawing - July 31 Deadline**
- Enter to win fabulous prizes and help send the US Junior Soaring Team to the World Gliding Championships. Cambridge Aero Instruments, Mountain High Oxygen Equipment & Supplies, Wings & Wheels Soaring Supplies, Cumulus Courseware, and artist Joe Walter have each donated an item for a drawing to help support the 2001 Junior Team in France. No donation is required to register, but tax-deductible contributions to "SSA Junior Team Fund" will help send the 2001 team to France. Time is short with a postmark deadline of July 31 for entry forms. Details at www.soarcsa.org/ssa/ssay/jrtm.htm. Entry forms are available at www.soarcsa.org/ssa/ssay/jtsform.pdf
- 06/14/01** Junior Team member, Danny Sorenson, 21, won the recent World Class National Contest. Danny consistently placed in the first one or two each day. He won the World Class National Trophy, the World Class Youth Trophy and the Oran Nicks Trophy for the fastest speed during a contest task. [See a photo](#). Visit the [Junior Team](#).
- 03/17/01** The organizers of the World Junior Championships scheduled for Issoudun, France have announced a change in the dates of the event. The practice period will now be August 2-4, 2001 and the competitive period will be August 6-18, 2001. The IGC approved a request by the organizers to allow for up to three pilots per national aero club per Class.

- 02/01/01** The 2001 US Junior Soaring Team has been selected. Danny Sorenson and Jason Howard in Standard Class with club class reserve pilot Michael Robison. Meet the [US Junior Team](#).
- 01/01/01** Year 2000 was an extraordinarily successful year for Junior competition pilots (25 and under): At least 8 young contestants flew SSA sanctioned contests, a new high. Liz Schwenkler flew 3 Nationals! What's more, Jason Howard flew 2 Nationals and 1 Regional, Dan Sorenson 2 Nationals, and Mike Robison 2 Regionals (in a Blanik with club members, no less). Dan beat his Dad, Ken, at the 18m Nats, and Liz placed 5th overall at the 15m Nats. [Official US Junior Team Web Site](#).
- 10/24/00** Junior Team to be selected at the 2001 Soaring Convention.
- [Junior Team](#) page. [Team Photo Gallery](#).

2001 US Soaring Team Management News

- 10/23/01** The annual Sailplane Racing Association pilots poll results are in. This years poll asked several questions about the future direction of U.S. Soaring Teams. There were 151 respondents and here is what they thought regarding U.S. World Soaring Teams.
- 9.1** The SSA board decided at the Winter meeting to exclude from Club Class US Team selection any pilot that has been on a previous US Team (Junior and Feminine excepted). The theory is that this will encourage up and coming new pilots. Do you support the restriction that most ex-US Team pilots are restricted from being on the US Club Class Team? **Y 66% N 25%**
- 9.2** Management of the US Team selection procedures should be formally assigned to which of the following (subject, of course, to SSA Board oversight, as are the rules)? Note that this would not include responsibility for team organization, funding, or the number of pilots sent from each class to any given world competition.
- A. A new pilot-elected committee **18%**
 - B. The existing Rules Committee **24%**
 - C. An SSA Board-appointed committee **35%**
 - D. An SSA Board-appointed individual **4%**
 - E. Other **4%**
- 9.3** Do you believe investment in the US Team should be a high priority to the SSA? **Y 58% N 36%**
- 9.4** Should participation in the US Team be open to as many pilots as possible? **Y 62% N 30%**
- 9.5** Should the US Team become more focused on winning and thus use its funds to support fewer pilots and events, but have a better chance to place highly? **Y 41% N 46%**
- 9.6** Would you support a \$10 per pilot increase in sanctioned contest fees to be applied to the Robertson/Wood Trust to increase the corpus of the funds allocated to the US Team? **Y 63% N 46%**
- 9.7** Would you support a \$10 per pilot increase in sanctioned contest fees to be applied directly to the US Team fund? **Y 66% N 30%**

[See whole poll here...](#)

- 10/01/01** Ken Sorenson replaces Aland Adams as the US Contest Committee Chairman. Ken is a highly experienced competition pilot, representing the United States at the 1993 World Championships in Sweden and has been active on the U.S. Rules committee. Welcome Ken!
- 04/06/01** Want a glider just for you to fly for a month this summer? And also help the US Team at the same time? A US Team member is offering his PW-5 for one month this summer (after June 15) to the first qualified pilot (minimum 300 hrs TT gliders, Silver C badge, documented) making a sponsor donation of \$3,000 or more to the US Team. Contact Francois, (865) 584-2810.
- 02/13/01** We have just completed a great convention, in Indiana where we had much involvement of the U.S. Team. Charlie Spratt and John Good reported on the Club class competition in Gawler, Australia and Doug Jacobs and Ray Gimmey reported on the pre-Worlds in Mafikeng, South Africa.
- In preparation for competitions to be held in 2001, the South African contingent of Team USA met. All pilots were present, with Mike Opitz joining us via speaker phone. Team Captain, Gary Kemp conducted the meeting. Among the items discussed, were logistics, glider acquisition and team strategies. The team has decided to approach the Word's as a "lean and mean" organization and has therefore reduced those who will be in a support capacity, basically the team members and individual crews. A representative for the Air Force Academy, Captain Joey Medlin, was present and is working on a contribution of cadets for the effort. A discussion of team flying was held and general approval of the concept. Pilots agreed to practice together to further this goal. We will meet prior to the Nationals in Uvalde to practice World type Assigned Area Tasking as well as team flying.
- A second meeting was held with Gary Kemp, John Seaborn, Dianne Black-Nixon and John Campbell. John's sponsorship package was discussed and revisions were discussed as well as the development of a sponsorship package to be used in approaching people who are familiar with gliding. A ten year plan for funding was also discussed. John will approach the package delivery industry such as UPS and FedEx and Dianne will approach the automotive industry, Bruce Mauldin will use his contacts in the aircraft industry. Dianne is also going to contact Ford (the company she works for) shipping to explore possibilities for shipping gliders. Kerry Huffstutler has developed a [Team USA merchandising program](#) that will essentially, pay for all team uniforms.
- A great many people are involved in supporting Team USA, either by volunteering in various capacities or by contributing financing or in-kind donations. We thank all of these people for their great efforts.
- 12/13/00** US Soaring Team seeking volunteers for various positions. See the volunteer page to apply.
- 11/01/00** US Soaring Teams have a comprehensive new web site online. The new site covers all the US Soaring Teams with news, biographies, history, funding and much more.
- 10/26/00** Gary Kemp appointed US Soaring Team Committee Chairman. Gary brings an excellent organizational background and a keen competitive spirit to the job.

[Team Organization](#) page. [Team Photo Gallery](#).