



SOARING SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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

USA SOARING
TEAMS

- SSA Home
- Home
- About
- News
- Reports
- Open
- 18-Meter
- 15-Meter
- Standard
- Club
- World
- Junior
- Feminine
- Camps
- Press
- Gallery
- Committee
- Financials
- Calendar
- Funding
- Selection
- Organization
- Links
- Archive
- History
- Champions
- Site Updates
- Contest Results

US Team
eBulletin
NEWS
Sign Up Here

2003 USA Soaring Team News



World Soaring Championships & Team News

► Multi Class Team	► Feminine Team	► Club Team	NEWS
29th Championships Uppsala, Sweden June 5-17, 2006	3rd Championships Klix, Germany Summer, 2005	3rd Championships Elverum, Norway June 12-27, 2004	2006 2005 2004 2003 2002 2001 Calendar
► World Team	► Junior Team		
5th Championships 2005	4th Championships Husbands B., England Aug 6-20, 2005		

Multi-Class - Open, 15-Meter, Standard, 18-Meter

2003 U.S. Soaring Team News

12/02/03 IGC REPORTING AND NEWS

The FAI's gliding activities, in particular World Records and International Competitions and with the exception of glider aerobatics, are conducted under the direction of the International Gliding Commission (IGC). A small IGC news section has been added to the U.S. Team Committee [page](#). IGC news will appear here as well. Thanks to Eric Mozer, the U.S. representative to the IGC.

- John Seaborn

11/30/03 IGC RECOMMENDS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CALENDAR AND WGC CHANGES

The IGC working committee, headed by Eric Mozer, has made recommendations regarding the future direction of World Gliding Championships and published the pending 2007/2014 WGC calendar. These two documents are recommendations at this stage and will be presented to the full IGC in February 2004. See the U.S. Team Committee [page](#) for the documents in PDF format or have a go here. WGC Changes, [Report \(pdf\)](#) / WGC Calendar, [Report \(pdf\)](#)

- John Seaborn

11/25/03 PROPOSED CHANGES TO TEAM SELECTION

Selection to the U.S. Soaring team is both an honor and the opportunity to compete against the best soaring pilots in the world. The selection procedures have evolved from the early 1950's through the voting system of the 1970's to the formula approach of the mid 1980's. In light of the recent expansion in the number of FAI classes it has become clear that current team selection procedures are in need of refinement once again. The US Team Committee (USTC) will be proposing to the SSA Board of Directors a number of changes to the "SSA US Soaring Team Selection Policy" at their winter meeting in Atlanta, and the USTC solicits your thoughts on these changes by December 31, 2003. See the U.S. Team Committee Page [here](#)...

- John Seaborn

09/30/03 TEAM E-NEWS BULLETIN 12

The twelfth U.S. Soaring Team e-Bulletin was sent to subscribers. Team Bulletins are provided by the U.S. Team Committee to bring you the latest team and international championship news. To receive future team E-News Bulletins for a free subscription click [here](#).

- John Seaborn, Team Bulletin Editor

09/29/03 U.S. CLUB CLASS SELECTION FOR 2004

The U.S. Club Class is a rapidly growing FAI class both here at home and internationally. Over the last several years excellent performances have been turned in with Alphonso Juado, Tim McAllister, Hank Nixon, Bob Barber and Manfred Franke all in contention for the 2004 U.S. Soaring Club Team who will compete in the 3rd Club Class WGC in Elverum Norway in June. As the dust settles it looks like Alphonso Jurado declined his 2002 selection, opening the door for perennial top performer Bob Barber to be selected. Out of 2003 Manfred Franke and Tim McAllister have earned a position on the 2004 team. As it stand now the 2004 U.S. Club Class Soaring Team will be Bob Barber, Manfred Franke and Tim McAllister.

09/29/03 ATTENTION U.S. TEAM PILOT CANDIDATES

At the January 2003 Board of Directors meeting, a little remarked proposal to change the current selection procedures (Version 1.0) for the various US Teams was made by the Contest Committee Chairman Ken Sorenson and adopted by the Board. The key change is with regard to selection for Team classes having only a single participants (such as Open and 18 Meter in Poland). Previously such Team members were selected from ranking list for the year just previous to the World Championships. To facilitate participation in Pre-World competition, the selection rule change dictates that selection will be made from the ranking list two years prior to the World Championships, leaving pilots free to attend the Pre-Worlds. This rule change applies to all US Teams.

As an example, for the 2006 World Championships in Sweden, a single pilot will be selected for each of the four announced classes (15, Std, Open, 18) in 2004. Additional selections, if any, will be made from the 2005 ranking list. At the current time, the FAI has approved 5 member Teams for Sweden's four classes, with no specified breakdown among classes. If this does not change, the US Team for Sweden will consist of four pilots selected in 2004 and one pilot selected in 2005. Pilots aspiring to the Team should make their plans accordingly. As part of their mandate, the US Team Committee is considering a variety of selection rule changes, and plans to circulate and publish these proposals in the coming months so as to obtain feedback from affected pilots. Any final proposals will be made to the full SSA Board at the Atlanta Convention meeting in 2004. - Doug Jacobs, Chairman U.S. Team Committee

09/29/03 NEW CASTLE REGION 4 FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

The recently concluded Region 4 South contest at New Castle chalked up another stellar fundraising success. Again Dianne and Hank Nixon along with 15-meter winner Tim Welles and Doug and Martha Jacobs all pitched in to sell team merchandise and collect contributions. Just over \$2,500 was raised at this traditional year end contest.

09/17/03 Robertson Trust builds on success, keeps teams flying

First came the successful 2002 *Funding The Future* campaign which raised over \$110,000 for the Robertson Trust. As of August, 2003 contributors continued to support our teams with over \$19,500 in contributions to the Trust. The success of the 2002 campaign, followed by a successful 2003 are critical steps on the road to adequately funding U.S. soaring teams to compete and win in future World Gliding Championships. See the [Robertson Trust web site](#) for more...

09/15/03 U.S. TEAM COMMITTEE POSTS DOCUMENTS

In keeping with the U.S. Team Committee's commitment to operate in an accountable and operationally transparent manner, several disclosure documents have been posted on the Internet for public review by the soaring community. Included in this reporting cycle are, Minutes of U.S. Team Committee meeting in Dallas (see below), accounting of team expenses from the recently concluded 28th World Gliding Championships in Poland, U.S. Team Financial statement through August 03, U.S. Team Committee Chairman Doug Jacobs Fall 2003 Activity report given to the SSA Board of Directors. Click the various documents to bring them up in Adobe PDF format. See the information [here](#)...

09/12/03 U.S. TEAM COMMITTEE MEETS IN DALLAS

The U.S. Team Committee held its first meeting on Friday, September 12 in Dallas, TX a day prior to the Fall SSA Board meeting. All Committee members were present and a wide variety of topics were discussed. All travel, lodging and meal expenses were covered by each committee member. See the minutes posted here in Adobe PDF format.

09/01/03 2003 WAS LONG ON TEAM PARTICIPATION AND SHORT ON EXPENSES

Included is a summary expense sheet showing total US Team Fund expenditures of \$26,291.02, a remarkably low number for a six man team participating on European soil, and far lower than the last several contests, particularly Mafikeng. My congratulations to John for great record keeping and parsimonious management, and to all the pilots who worked so hard to arrange cost free gliders and tow cars, as well as bear significant expense to participate. This clearly indicates to all who worked hard at fundraising, and to all those who gave, that money contributed to the US Team is very carefully spent. Together with the World and Juniors Classes in Nitra, the US Team total spending for the 2003 contest season is \$36,291.02 - *Doug Jacobs, U.S. Team Treasurer*. See the [Funding page here](#)...To see all the team and SSA financial information use your SSA number to access the finance page [here](#)...

09/01/03 U.S. TEAM PILOT LENDS ASSISTANCE TO WSPA

In a great example of U.S. Team Members making a difference hear at home within the soaring community, team pilot Chip Garner was recognized in the September 2003 issue of Soaring Magazine about the Woman's Soaring Pilots Association (WSPA) Seminar in Moriarty. Chip gave valuable information on local flying conditions and cross-country techniques and served as a cross-country mentor. US Team members have been encouraged to give generously of their time and talent in support of soaring.

09/01/03 PERFORMANCE SOARING TRAINING BRINGS IN CONTRIBUTION SUCCESS

Early in the year Karl Striedieck announced that he would offer dual performance soaring in his Duo Discus to those interested in improving their contest and cross country skills, or are simply interested in riding along on contests tasks. The cost was \$200 per day donation to the US Team Fund. Of course these flights were very popular and Karl raised over \$7,000 for U. S. Soaring teams. Doug Jacobs also used this format during the Senior Championships to great success.

09/01/03



U.S. TEAM COMMITTEE FUNDRAISER DIANNE BLACK NIXON ORGANIZES VOLUNTEERS

This year marked a departure from traditional team fundraising with team members and other volunteers organizing and in many cases funding team dinners and talks at regional and national contests. The effort was very successful both in educating the competition community on recent changes to team management with the U.S. Team Committee, building bridges to supporters and of course bringing in contributions to the team. Here is a listing of the hardworking volunteers who put these programs together under U.S. Team Committee fundraiser Dianne Black Nixon.

Doug and Martha Jacobs organized the team fundraising event at 2003 Seniors in Florida. Doug did double duty by demonstrating the secrets of performance soaring with many of the participants in a two place at this event, as did Karl Striedieck who flew Sweepstakes winner Marty Optiz for the event in Karl's Duo Discus. Ken and Michelle Sorenson along with Tim Welles did Perry, North Carolina. Junior team pilot Garret Willat and Gary Ittner organized the event in Cordeal, Georgia. Hank and Dianne Nixon and Tom and Carole Beltz plus Tommy and Taylor Beltz, and Mike and Laurie McCarran did Mifflin. The Sports Class at Elmira was organized by Mike and Becky Newgard, Mike and Laurie McCarran plus Hank and Dianne Nixon. John and Brenda Seaborn did both the Regionals and Nationals in Hobbs while Ruth and Ray Gimmey organized the event at Montague. Hank and Dianne Nixon are planning on organizing the event in New Castle. Tim Welles has been drafted to give commentary at Seniors, Perry, Mifflin, Elmira, and will be drafted likely for New Castle. At New Castle Dianne and Hank Nixon along with 15-meter winner Tim Welles and Doug and Martha Jacobs all pitched in to sell team merchandise and collect contributions brought in just over \$2,500 in merchandise and contributions. Many thanks to all the hard working volunteers who made the extra effort to raise team funds and especially to the members of the soaring community who contributed or purchased team merchandise.

09/01/03 GIMMEY'S PULL OUT THE STOPS FOR TEAM FUNDRAISER IN MONTAGUE

Participants in the Standard Class Nationals, held at Montague, California in early August, showed their strong support for the US Team at a fundraising dinner. The highlight of the evening, organized by Ruth Gimmey, was a Coho salmon barbecue starring fish she and Ray caught. Ray did the honors as chef, and the result was a meal beyond compare. Because of the Gimmey's generous donation of all dinner items, wine and beer, 100% of the proceeds of ticket sales went to the Team. Merchandise sales were also brisk, and a huge cake, decorated with the U.S. Team colors topped off the evening. Despite the small turnout at the contest, the event raised almost \$1,000 for the Team, and a good time was had by all. - *Martha Jacobs*

08/10/03 U.S. TEAM COVERAGE CONCLUDES IN POLAND

The 28th World Gliding Champions are Andy Davis (Great Britain - Standard Class), John Coutts (New Zealand - 15-Meter Class), Wolfgang Janowitsch (Austria - 18-Meter Class) and Holger Karow (Germany - Open Class).

There is no one at Leszno with even the smallest doubt that these pilots deserve their titles. For the US, Ron Tabery finished in 5th place overall, Gary Ittner 17th overall in 18-Meter class, Dave Mockler 17th overall, Karl Striedieck 27th overall in 15-Meter class. In the Standard class, Tom Beltz was 9th overall with Chip Garner 13th overall. See the [Day Reports](#) here...

**YOU-ARE-THERE COVERAGE OF 28th WORLD GLIDING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

On July 27, with support from the SSA, the U.S. Team Committee and especially John Good and Rick Sheppe blow-by-blow coverage of the 28th World Gliding Championship went live on the web. In Poland, John and Rick are spending many hours writing these reports, taking the pictures and sending them to John Seaborn in Colorado, who assembles that parts and published the daily reports to the SSA server, updating several times a day. See the results [here](#)...

07/27/03 U.S. CLUB CLASS PILOT TO NORWAY

After a win in Elmira Club Class pilot Tim McAllister "EY" will be traveling to Norway for some flying at Elverum, the site of the 3rd FAI Club Class World Soaring Championships in 2004. The trip is scheduled for August 8th-18th. Tim and Susan will be doing a complete pre-worlds report with detailed notes and observations for the U.S. Team that is selected to this contest in 2004.

07/25/03 U.S. TEAM COVERAGE CONCLUDES IN NITRA

Thanks to the brilliant work of Team Captain Conrad Suechting and Web Poster Frank Whiteley coverage of the Combined World and Junior championships went without a hitch. The excellent reporting and pictures give you a very good feel for the event. Special thanks to Frank who is a long time glider enthusiast and supporter of the Junior Team. Final results place Junior Standard Class pilot Jez Hood of Great Britain and Club Class Michael STREIT of Germany in first. U.S. Junior Team pilot Garret WILLAT flying a Discus 2a (Y1) was 24th overall. The Final World Class Standings are first place Sebastian KAWA (Poland) with Francois PIN in 11th, Patrick TUCKEY 13th and Bill SNEAD in 17th.

07/11/03 U.S. SOARING TEAM TO POLAND

United States soaring team members are starting their final preparations for the 28th World Gliding Championships in Leszno, Poland. Opening ceremonies will be held on July 26. Competition flying will be from July 27th to August 9 and Closing Ceremonies on the 10th. The 28th WGC promises to be the largest and most competitive world championships ever held with 134 pilots from 31 countries competing in four classes. Follow all the action on the U. S. Team Web site [Day Reports \(click here\)](#) starting on July 25th. To get a feel for what the team can expect read the [Pre-Worlds report](#) for a pilots view of the site, weather and flying provided by team pilot Chip Garner.



07/11/03 SSA Foundation & ROBERSON TRUST Supports Teams

SSA Foundation Trustees authorize and disperse to the 2003 U.S. Soaring Teams, \$24,000 in funding from the Robertson and Woods Trusts. The total for the 2002/2003 period was \$29,000 with \$5,000 going to the 2002 Club Class effort. This brings the total support provided over the lifetime of the Robertson and Woods Trusts to United States Soaring Teams to over \$195,000.

06/25/03 TEAM E-NEWS BULLETIN 11

The eleventh U.S. Soaring Team e-Bulletin was sent to subscribers. Team Bulletins are provided to bring you the latest team and international championships news. To receive future team E-News Bulletins subscribe by clicking [here](#). They are free!

06/21/03 U.S. JUNIOR TEAM PILOT WITHDRAWS

Junior Team pilot Chris Saunders has made the very difficult decision to withdraw from participation in the upcoming 3rd Junior World Soaring Championships. Several factors were key in Chris's lengthy consideration, not the least of which was the timing of the contest shortly after graduation and limited time after returning from Nitra to prepare for his first year of college. Chris placed a brilliant second place in the recent Standard Class nationals. At 18 years old this undoubtedly will not be the last time Chris has the option of team participation. Junior Team pilot Garret Willat will be representing the USA at the upcoming championships to be held from July 7-13. See the Day Reports for all the championship reports here.

06/21/03 U.S. TEAM COMMITTEE INCREASES SUPPORT TO JUNIOR TEAM

Faced with higher than expected expenses the U.S. Junior soaring team petitioned the U.S. Team Committee for increased financial support. While Team funds are extremely tight this championship cycle, the U.S. Team Committee, after some deliberation, has made additional funds available to the 2003 Junior Team on an as needed basis not to exceed \$5,000 in recognition of the special circumstance of both the championships and the Junior team.



06/21/03 U.S. TEAM COMMITTEE TO MEET IN SEPTEMBER

U.S. Team Committee members, Dianne Black-Nixon, Doug Jacobs, Tim Welles, Ken Sorenson and John Seaborn will be meeting on Friday, September 12th in Dallas. This is just before the SSA fall board meeting. Agenda items include team funding, fundraising programs, junior team management, team documents and the annual policy and procedure review to name a few. All committee members are self funding and no team funds will be used for this annual meeting.

06/04/03 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DAY REPORTS ARE ON THE WAY

This year the **4th World Class** and **3rd Junior World Gliding Championships** will be held in the Slovak Republic near the beautiful hamlet of Nitra. Hosted by the SLOVENSKY NARODNY AEROKLUB and the AEROKLUB NITRA this years event has over 100 competitors signed up. Preliminary entries show 39 pilots in the Club Class, 37 in the Standard Class and 25 in the World Class. The action will begin with the Pre Contest & Official Practice - July 3-5. The official championship flying starts on July 7 and ends on the 19th. See the [Day Report](#) page for full coverage.

05/19/03 FINAL TEAM FUNDRAISING

The Teams are leaving soon to represent the US Soaring Community at the World Class Competition in the Slovak Republic, The Junior World Soaring Championship in the Slovak Republic, and the multiclass World Soaring Championship in Poland. They need your financial support. Please watch your mailbox for a letter asking that you make a tax deductible donation either directly to the US Team Fund, or to the Robertson Trust which provides perpetual support for the team. If you don't want to wait for the letter, you can send a donation now to the US Team, PO Box 2100 Hobbs, NM 88241 or call Jim Kashner at 505-392-1177 to put a donation on your credit card.

05/06/03 U.S. TEAM FINANCIALS AVAILABLE

As part of the on going effort to make teams more financially accountable and transparent the SSA, in conjunction with U.S. Team Chairman Doug Jacobs, have posted a complete financial accounting of team contributions and expenses. The new page includes full disclosure on the SSA and is available to SSA members. To see this new SSA Web page [here](#) and follow the links.

05/06/03 TEAM SWEEPSTAKES WINNER RECEIVES PRIZE

As part of the continuing effort on the part of U. S. team members to build the sport and make a difference here at home, 18-Meter team pilot Gary Ittner and Junior team member Garret Willat presented a Cross-Country Flying and Racing Seminar for beginning through advanced glider pilots. The second prize winner Steve Pachura and 22 of his club mates participated in the US Soaring Team XC seminar at a school near Warner Springs gliderport on the evening of May 3. While there were 22 attendees, the opportunity to get a picture of everyone did not present itself. Click the picture of Garret Willat, winner Steve Pachura, and Gary Ittner.

**04/11/03 TEAM E-NEWS BULLETIN 10**

The tenth U.S. Soaring Team e-Bulletin will be sent to subscribers in a few days. Team Bulletins are provided to bring you the latest team and international championships news. To receive future team E-News Bulletins subscribe by clicking [here](#). They are free!

04/10/03**JUNIOR TEAM SHIRTS AVAILABLE**

The 2003 Junior Team has newly printed tee shirts available. The idea is to make a contribution to the Junior Team of \$100 or more and receive both the pride of sponsorship and a handsome Junior Team shirt with artwork by 3-time Junior pilot Joe Walter. Send your contribution payable to SSA to John H. Campbell, SSA Youth Chairman, 4671 Kipling St. #68, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 or send e-mail by

[clicking here](#). Currently available in XXL, XL, L in "ash" (grey) and "natural" (tan).

04/07/03 NEW WEB SITE FOR JUNIOR & WORLD CLASS WGC

This summer the Slovak Republic will host the combined World Gliding Championships for the 3rd FAI Junior and 4th World Class Championships from July 7 to the 19th. The organizers have created an excellent new web site for these championships. Go direct <http://www.nitra2003.sk/> or visit the U.S. [World](#) and [Junior](#) teams. See all the team links [here](#).

04/06/03 U.S. TEAM CROSS COUNTRY SEMINAR

As part of the continuing effort on the part of U.S. team members to build the sport and make a difference here at home, 18-Meter team pilot Gary Ittner and Junior team member Garret Willat will be presenting a Cross-Country Flying and Racing Seminar for beginning through advanced glider pilots. The location will be in Warner Springs, California on Saturday May 3 from 6 - 9pm. The informative seminar is being presented as the second place Team Sweepstakes prize to winner, Steve Pachura and his fellow club members based at the Warner Springs gliderport. Admission is free and all are welcome. Contact [Gary Ittner](#) for more.

04/02/03 U.S. TEAM COMMITTEE SELECTED

On April 2, U.S. Contest Chairman Ken Sorenson, announced the results of the recently concluded U.S. Team Committee elections. Running unopposed were Dianne Black Nixon, Tim Welles and John Seaborn. Seaborn was selected for the three year term, Black-Nixon for the two year term and Welles for the one year term. Rounding out the U.S. Team Committee are Doug Jacobs, U.S. Team Chairman, Ken Sorenson, U.S. Contest Chairman, and a yet to be named member as President of the SSA. For more on the U.S. Team Committee [click here](#).

04/02/03 TEAM SIZE FOR POLAND RESOLVED

An unusually large number of competitors had shown initial interest in the 28th World Gliding Championships to be held in Leszno, Poland from July 27 to August 9. This raised the possibility that teams would be cut to five pilots from the customary six possible. When the final entries were counted, 131 competitors had officially registered allowing for the original six pilots per country based authorization from the IGC for a higher maximum number of competitors. All six of the U.S. team members have been accepted and will be traveling to Leszno. See the news on the organizers web site <http://www.wgc2003.pl/>

03/16/03 U.S. TEAM MEMBERS IN FLORIDA

The Seniors Contest included many pilots who were on past and current World Teams: Dick Butler, Ed Byars, Chip Garner, John Good, Doris Grove, Doug Jacobs, Alfonzo Jurado, Tom Knauff, Dick Mockler, George Moffat, Alberto Negro, Martin Opitz, and Karl Striedieck. Competition Director, Charlie Spratt, has been a crew member of several US Teams. Although he wasn't in the picture, Rudy Mozer, many times Captain of the U.S. Soaring Team watched the launch several days. We were all delighted that Rudy and his wife Renata attended the banquet Saturday night.



U.S. Team Members - Paul and Prescott

03/16/03

Martin Opitz & Karl Striedieck

TEAM SUCCESS AT SENIORS

Karl Striedieck and Doug Jacobs are just returning from the Senior Championships in Seminole Florida. These team pilots took passengers on each flight during the contest to experience cross country racing. Karl flew with Marty Opitz, who won the U.S. Team Sweepstakes, and Doug Jacobs flew with a different pilot each day. Karl originated this

concept last year, and has booked passengers full up for four or five contests he'll be at this year. The suggested donation of \$200 for the afternoon, in fact, in several instances people gave more. The benefits are obvious, raise badly needed team funds while providing an opportunity for pilots to learn the finer points of performance cross-country from two of the worlds best soaring pilots. Special thanks to Knut Kjenslie and co-owner John Helenthal, to fly DG-505/1000's. **See all the pictures from Florida**

[here](#). This is the best example of team members building the sport while making a difference in soaring here at home.

One evening there was a U.S. Team wine and cheese party and a good time was had by all. In total, the team received Merchandise Orders of \$2,650 and other donations of \$2,317.

03/07/03 SSA MEMBERS VOTE NOW! U.S. TEAM COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

On January 25th, by unanimous vote of the SSA Board of Directors, the U.S. Team Committee was modernized as recommended by the U.S. Team Task Force. The new Team Committee, using the successful Rules Committee as a model, will include three appointed and three elected members. Nominations for the elected positions closed on February 25 and the first ever Team Committee elections are now underway. The election is being conducted on-line from March 1 to the 31st. All SSA members are eligible to vote. Visit the SSA U.S. Team Web to learn more or cast your vote. This an invitation for all SSA members to vote by visiting the voting [link here](#). See more on the U.S. [Team Committee page here...](#)



03/07/03 IGC ESTABLISHES ENTRY POLICY FOR POLAND 2003

As of March 1, 2003 the organizers for the Multi-Class WGC at Leszno, Poland had received 90 paid entries for the championships to be held in the summer of 2003. They have received interest from countries that represent a possible 147 entrants, which would be in excess of the number allowed by Annex A of the Sporting Code. IGC decided that as of March 15, 2003, if the number of paid entries is under 130 pilots, all pilots (up to 6 per national aero club) will be permitted to fly. However, if the number exceeds 130, each national aero club will be limited to a maximum of 5 pilots, except for those nations with reigning World Champions.

03/04/03 U.S. 2003 CONTEST RULES AVAILABLE NOW

The 2003 Contest Rules have now been posted to the SSA website for easy access by contest pilots. Click on "Contests" in the red bar at the top of this page and follow the path to the rules or simply click here [2003 Contest Rules](#) for more information and immediate access.

03/01/03 JOHN LEIBACHER LISTS U.S. PILOTS IN IGC RANKING SYSTEM

The International Gliding Committee has created and begun to refine a pilot ranking system for all soaring pilots flying in National and Internationals from around the world. See the results of this ranking here. See this IGC U. S. pilots page [here...](#)

03/02/03



IGC SELECTS SWEDEN FOR MULTI-CLASS IN 2006

The International Gliding Commission has selected Sweden for 2006 World Gliding Championships. "Sweden and Uppsala have been chosen as the host of the 29th World Gliding Championship in 2006. Approximately 120 pilots from all around the world will gather at the Årna airfield 5 km north of Uppsala to compete in four classes, Standard, 15 meter, 18 meter and Open class, on June 5-17 2006. A Pre-Worlds competition, "Viking Glide", will be held in June 2005 to give the best pilots in the world an opportunity to try the World Championship tracks." See the official Web Site [here...](#)

OTHER IGC CHAMPIONSHIP NEWS

The IGC Bureau will decide the location of the 2005 World Class competitions. The Bureau will consider a bid for the 3rd Women's World Gliding Championship from Lithuania and a combined Women's and World Class bid from Klix, Germany. Provisional approval was given to 4th Junior World Gliding Championships to be hosted by the United Kingdom pending an entry fee reduction.

02/22/03 TRIBUTE TO U.S TEAM MEMBER WALLY SCOTT

Famed soaring pilot Wally Scott passed away on February 8. Wally flew many outstanding distance records from his home field of Odessa Texas. He was a two time U.S. Team member, first in 1965 flying a Ka-6CR to 6th place in the 10th World Gliding Championships in England and again in 1970 at the 12th World Gliding Championships in Marfa Texas flying an AS-W 12 to 9th place. Read the actual accounts of these contests as they appeared in Soaring Magazine located in the [Team Archive](#).

**02/21/03 TEAM E-NEWS BULLETIN 9**

The ninth U.S. Soaring Team e-Bulletin has been sent to subscribers. To receive future team E-News Bulletins subscribe by clicking [here](#).

02/21/03 WORLD CLASS TEAM GAINS SUPPORT FROM MANUFACTURER

Bielsko1, the second manufacturer of the PW-5 based in Poland, has agreed to supply the US World Class Team with rental PW-5 sailplanes for the World Championship in Nitra. Contest entries now exceed 27 and finding ships and getting them to Nitra could have been a challenge, so their support of the US team makes things that much easier for the team as they prepare. The team especially recognizes the efforts of Rafal Mikke, President of Bielsko1.

02/17/03 ROBERTSON TRUST CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

The Robertson Trust's recent *Funding The Future* campaign was successful with over \$110,000 in contributions received. The Robert Robertson Memorial Team Fund has an established track record of growth and service to the U.S. Soaring Teams since its establishment in 1988. The trust's charter limits the use of the income from the trust to funding U.S. Soaring Teams participation in sanctioned World Soaring Championships. The Trustees are dedicated to seeing that the charter is honored. See the Robertson Trust web site [here...](#)

**02/17/03 U.S. JUNIORS TO FLY DISCUS 2a's**

Through the efforts of Tilo Holighaus, the U.S. Junior Team of Garret Willat and Chris Saunders will be flying Discus 2a's in this summers 3rd Junior World Soaring Championships to be held in Nitra, Slovak Republic from July 7 to July 19. Both Garret and Chris have all the credentials to win at what will be a hotly contested competition. Meet the Junior Team [here...](#) The U.S. Junior team would like to thank Reinhard Schramme and Goetz Odenthal as well as Tilo Holighaus for making these gliders available.

02/12/03 POLAND PROVES TO BE POPULAR

The 28th World Soaring Championships scheduled to be held in Leszno, Poland from July 27 to August 9 are proving to be very popular with the worlds best sailplane pilots. Over 140 competitors have indicated their intention to compete in the event but only 120 will be allowed to compete due to safety and contest resources. The IGC (International Gliding Commission) is examining ways to bring the number of would-be competitors more in line with the number competitors that can be accommodated.

02/12/03 03 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TO GAIN MEDIA COVERAGE

The FAI and IGC report that there is good potential to have extensive TV coverage of the World Gliding Championships at Leszno (Poland) and Nitra (Slovakia) later this year. Competing pilots have been asked to sign appearance releases and in some cases to allow tiny cameras to be installed in their gliders. This exciting potential development is done in the interests of promoting the sport of gliding and all contestants are encouraged to participate.

02/05/03 AND THE WINNERS ARE... U.S. TEAM SWEEPSTAKES

The U.S. Team Sweepstakes drawing was held in SSA headquarters at noon on January 31 under the supervision of the accounting firm Johnson, Miller and Company. To see all the fabulous prizes and winners [here](#). All lucky winners will be notified in writing. The U.S. Team would like to thank all the participants, especially those who sent in a contribution with their entry. Through your support your soaring teams will have the opportunity to represent the nation at 2003 World Soaring Championships. Special thanks to Martha Jacobs and Jim Kashner for their work on the sweepstakes.

01/27/03 U.S. TEAM TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY SSA BOARD

On January 25th, by unanimous vote of the SSA Board of Directors, the U.S. Team Committee was modernized along the blueprint developed by the U.S. Team Task Force. An exploratory meeting was held after the Competition Pilots Breakfast and many topics were discussed. Expect to hear more on the progress of the new U.S. Team Committee including the election of members. For more on the Task Force process [click here](#).

01/27/03**U.S. TEAM BOOTH & PRESENTATION A SUCCESS AT SSA CONVENTION**

The recently concluded SSA Convention in Dayton was extremely successful. The team booth was staffed by past and present team members including Tom Beltz, Dick Butler, Ken Sorenson, Doug Jacobs, Karl Striedieck, John Seaborn, Charlie Spratt, John Good,

Ron Tabery, Chip Garner and Gary Ittner to name a few. There was an in booth video presentation, very attractive team apparel and of course team sweepstakes entry forms. Kerry Huffstutler and Noreen Buchanan, while not present, did a great job ordering and delivering the [stylish U.S. Team apparel](#) to the convention floor. The action in the booth was fast and furious based on the great attendance at the convention. Sweepstakes entries generated \$2,110 and merchandise sales generated another \$4,160. Congratulations to all. In addition to the booth a speakers slot was filled with a team presentation highlighting the history of U.S. Soaring teams featuring many historical team photographs in addition to an explanation of how the U.S. Team functions followed by team members talking about their respective championship experiences.

01/17/03 TEAM E-NEWS BULLETIN 8

The eighth U.S. Soaring Team e-Bulletin has been sent to subscribers. The seventh issue carried all the international and team news. To receive future team E-News Bulletins subscribe by clicking [here](#).

01/14/03 JUNIOR TEAM PILOT GARRET WILLAT TRAINS WITH GEORGE LEE DOWN UNDER

Junior team pilot Garret Willat has been training with three time World Champion George Lee in Australia. Flying a Nimbus 4DM, Garret is learning to handle those big wings and developing his cross country and racing skills, plus having a grand time as his recent note indicates, "The flying is a blast, its great being back in summer again. The Nimbus handles like a dream. At first the glider was beating me; yaw string was cleaning the canopy quite well sweeping back and forth. The ailerons are very light, all the controls are easy. I am very grateful that I was able to get 7hours with Claudio in the ASH. It did make life a little more predictable, but the Nimbus does handle different. After some local flying we head out on a 200K in the blue doing 76mph" Late reports indicate the weather has improved and distances are getting bigger and speeds faster...



01/14/03 TIPS FROM THE TEAM NOW ONLINE

This is a collection of tips for beginning contest and cross-country pilots developed by past and present U.S. team members. Team members have learned many tips and techniques along their path to becoming champions. No matter if your a student pilot or a seasoned contest pro there is something here for everyone. See the [tips page](#).

01/14/03 U.S. JUNIOR TEAM SELECTED

The 2003 U.S. Junior Team has been selected. Garret Willat in the Club Class and Chris Saunders in the Standard Class will represent the U.S. at the 3rd Junior World Soaring Championships in Nitra this summer. Some junior pilots who qualified for the team could not participate this year. See the Junior Team page for [more](#)...

01/14/03 U.S. TEAM TASKFORCE TO PRESENT TO SSA BOARD

After an exhaustive year long process the U.S. Team task force will present their findings to the SSA Board. The central finding of the task force process is to develop the U.S. Team Committee to provide our soaring teams with a management structure capable of managing U.S. Teams, developing team resources, providing continuity in team management and prevent teams from reinventing the wheel with each event. See [Task Force Page](#)

01/14/03 U.S. TEAM AT 2003 SSA CONVENTION

The U.S. Team will have a booth at the upcoming SSA Convention. In the booth you will find team members, sweepstakes entry forms and team hats, shirts and jackets. In addition the team will be giving an action packed presentation in the speakers slot. If your visiting the SSA Convention plan to visit the team booth and attend the U.S. Team presentation.

2002 U.S. Team News

12/15/02 U.S. TEAM TASK FORCE PROPOSAL & REPORT

The final SSA Team Task Force report and proposal have been published to the task force web page available for public comment and review. **The public comment period will end on January 1.** The U.S. Team Task Force was established by the SSA Board of Directors to review current U.S. Soaring Team policy and operation then make recommendations for improvement. After an exhaustive process these recommendations will be presented to the SSA Board at the upcoming meeting in Dayton. Task Force members include Doug Jacobs, Ken Sorenson, Jim Payne, John Seaborn, Tim Welles and Jim Short. See the task force web page here for the complete listing of team topics covered and to download the various sections [here](#).

12/03/02 WORLD CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS TO NITRA

From Max Bishop, Secretary General, Fédération Aéronautique Internationale

"Following the unfortunate, but fully justified, decision taken by the New Zealand organizers to cancel - owing to lack of entrants - the World Class World Gliding Championship originally scheduled to take place early next year in Matamata, the International Gliding Commission (IGC) Bureau has now decided how to proceed. After taking soundings regarding the likely participation in a re-arranged World Championship in the 2003 Northern Hemisphere summer, the IGC Bureau has decided to accept the offer of the NAC of the Slovak Republic to hold the 2003 World Class WGC at the same time and place as the 3rd Junior WGC in Nitra, Slovakia." See the U.S. World Class team [here](#) or visit the official Junior/Worlds WSC web site [here](#).

**12/02/02 TEAM E-NEWS BULLETIN 7**

The seventh U.S. Soaring Team e-Bulletin has been send to subscribers. The seventh issue carried all the international and team news. To receive future team E-News Bulletins subscribe by clicking [here](#).

11/20/02 WORLD CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP MAY MOVE TO EUROPE

With the cancellation of the PW-5 World Championships in New Zealand the IGC and the organizers of the 3rd FAI Junior World Soaring Championships scheduled to be held in Nitra in the Slovak Republic (July 7-19) have been discussing the feasibility of holding the PW-5 championships concurrent with the Junior event. While these discussions are in their preliminary stages the idea looks possible.

11/20/02 PRE-WORLD TRAINING OPPORTUNITY IN POLAND

From the organizers in Poland comes word that the Polish Nationals in the Open Class will be held in Leszno from the 17th May to 1st June 2003. Information Bulletin with an Entry Form will be available on the website www.aeroleszno.org before the end of November 2002. Participation in the Polish Nationals will be the best occasion for training before the World Championships.

11/15/02 NEW TEAM APPAREL - ON THE WAY FOR CHRISTMAS

Team Apparel is a great way to show your support for U.S. soaring teams. By wearing high quality shirts, hats, jackets and polos with the U. S. Soaring Team Logo you not only look great but are helping to insure our soaring teams have a chance to compete and win internationally. Net proceeds from the sale of team merchandise goes to help fund U.S. soaring participation in World Soaring Championships. This apparel has been hand selected for its quality and durability, perfect for those hot days on the ramp or a sporty addition to the dinner table after the days flying. See the team apparel web site [here](#)

**11/15/02 ONLINE SSA CATALOG MAKES TEAM CONTRIBUTIONS A BREEZE**

The SSA has just released its online merchandise catalog which has been completely redesigned to provide a more satisfying shopping experience. One of the exciting features is the catalog can be used to make contributions to U.S. soaring teams online using a credit card. Just select the U.S. Team from the donations list, put in the amount of your contribution and your on your way. See the new catalog here and select the donations link an the top of the page [here](#).

11/05/02 U.S. TEAM SWEEPSTAKES TO OFFER TOP PRIZES

The team sweepstakes will be bigger than ever this year with the lucky winner receiving an soaring dream vacation to the Senior Championships in Florida to fly with the legendary Karl Striedieck in his new Duo Discus. For details on this opportunity see the 11/02/02 information below. Other prizes include a U.S. Soaring Team Performance Soaring Seminar for you or your club, a Dittell 720-channel radio base station, a Cambridge GPS-NAV, a Ridge Sewing canopy cover and many more. This years Sweepstakes will be run a little differently than the past direct mail effort. The January issue of Soaring Magazine will have a two page Sweepstakes spread with an envelope to enter. This is more cost effective than direct mail and avoids the conflict with the holiday mail. Watch for the Sweepstakes starting in January. All sweepstakes entries go to help fund U.S. soaring teams. See all the Sweepstakes details on the U.S. Team Sweepstakes page [here](#).

**11/05/02 NZ WORLD CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS - CANCELLED**

Regrettably the 4th World Class Championships scheduled to start February 8, 2003 in New Zealand have been cancelled. The organizers report this difficult decision was the result of the low number of entries. Roy Edwards, the director, said the organizers had to make the tough decision because the low number of entries didn't make the competition financially viable or competitively broad. The New Zealand National PWS competition has now been moved from November to February 6-15. See the excellent Gliding & Motorgliding magazine for full details or the US Team news. <http://www.glidingmagazine.com/> Condolences to the U.S. pilots Francois Pin, Pat Tuckey, reserve pilot Bill Snead and team Captain Conrad Suechting who were looking forward to the championships.

11/05/02 TEAM TASK FORCE PUBLISHES FINAL SECTIONS

The final sections of the U.S. team task force project have been published to the task force web page and are now available for public comment and review. The newly published sections include, 7 Team Pilot Obligations, 8 Team Communication, 10 Pilot Selection and 11 Contest Preparation. Also included on the task force web page is a full report on the team's recent online survey. This report is available in three parts including an executive summary. The U.S. Team Task Force was established by the SSA Board of Directors to review current team policy and make

recommendations for improvement. After an exhaustive process these recommendations will be presented to the SSA Board at the upcoming meeting in Dayton. Taskforce members include Doug Jacobs, Ken Sorenson, Jim Payne, John Seaborn, Tim Welles and Jim Short. See the task force web page here for the complete listing of team topics covered and to download the various sections [here](#).

11/02/02 KS OFFERS Competition Training in Duo Discus - COURSES ARE FULL!

Pilots interested in one-on-one competition and performance cross-country training in a high performance two-seat glider will have the opportunity at four contest sites in 2003. Karl Striedieck will offer dual performance soaring in his Duo Discus to those interested in improving their contest and cross country skills, or are simply interested in riding along on contests tasks. The format is flexible depending on the desire of each participant. Pilots will have their choice of front or back seat, flying or watching, receiving commentary or not, alternating legs flown and so forth. A debriefing session will be included when appropriate. The cost will be a \$200 per day donation to the US Team Fund (tax deductible). All other costs will

be borne by Karl. The 2003 Contest Schedule: Region 5 North Perry, SC
Late April, Region 2 Mifflin, PA May 18-24, Sports Nationals Elmira, NY June
17-26, Region 4 South New Castle, VA Late September. **All courses have
been filled as of 11/13/02.**

See all the 2002 U.S. Team News [Here](#)

Copyright 1997-2003 Soaring Society of America