



SOARING SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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

USA SOARING
TEAMS

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2005 USA Soaring Team News

Latest Team News



World Soaring Championships & Team News

► **Multi Class Team***

29th Championships
Eskilstuna, Sweden
June 5-17, 2006

► **World Team**

5th Championships
Vinson, France
July 14-30, 2006

► **Club Team**

4th Championships
Vinson, France
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NEWS[2006](#)[2005](#)[2004](#)[2003](#)[2002](#)[2001](#)[Calendar](#)► **Junior Team**

4th Championships
Pre-Worlds, 2006

► **Women's Team**

4th Championships
Pre-Worlds, 2006

* Multi-Class = Open, 18-Meter, 15-Meter, Standard Some images can be expanded by clicking

2005 U.S. Soaring Team News

12/01/05 - TEAM COMMITTEE MEETING

The next US Team Committee Meeting will be held in conjunction with the upcoming 2006 SSA Soaring Convention February 2-4, 2006 Wyndham Arlington DFW Airport South Hotel. On the agenda are FAI rankings, Grand Prix racing and team police revisions, Financial update, team financials and reporting, team fundraising, team camps, team eBulletins, selection issues 2005 Junior Team debrief and funding flow from sanction fees.

10/20/05 - CONGRATULATIONS TO DAN COLE!

Dan Cole has taken over for Dianne Black Nixon on the team committee. See his bio at the end of this page. See the Committee web page [here](#).

19/05 - TEAM PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT CHILHOWEE

The U.S. Team put on a fundraising breakfast at this year's 3-day Octoberfest at Chilhowee Gliderport in Benton, Tennessee. Supporters enjoyed cheese grits, scrambled eggs, pancakes, mixed fruit, with orange juice & coffee. Over \$500 was raised for the U. S. Team Fund. Special thanks to Sarah Kelly for making the clubhouse facilities available to us. We hope to make this a yearly event. - David Stevenson

10/01/05 - TEAM eBULLETIN 23 ON THE WAY

The new US Team eBulletin 23 will be on its way in a few days. The new look of the team's eBulletins include new functionality that meet the email requirements including unsubscribe and account management features. **You are invited to sign up today and join the over 270 team supporters...** [Click Here](#) for the sign up page.



10/01/05 - NEW CASTLE REGION 4 FUNDRAISING

Jennifer Mulligan - a local potter - donated a bowl to be silent auctioned off at the contest. Tim Donovan (X8) was the winning bid at \$200. Jennifer has sold local potters efforts at the Blue Ridge Soaring Society contests for many years - and many crews anxiously await her display each and every year. Jennifer also makes the trophies for the contest and these too are treasured. Doug Jacobs flew the Frantz Duo collecting \$600 in contributions. Col. Ray Kleber donated a Camelback water bag for the Team, and Patty Smith submitted the winning bid of \$50.00. Thank you to both contributors, and we hope you enjoy your new additions to the high bidders.

09/27/05 - NEW ZEALAND GRAND PRIX JANUARY 2006

Following on the highly successful initial staging of the IGC's new "regatta style" Grand Prix racing format at St. Auban this past summer, Gliding New Zealand has announced the organization of a similar event at Omarama, NZ for the period January 21-29, 2006. As recent IGC deliberations indicate that the Grand Prix format will become permanent, this will be a qualifying event for the 2nd World Sailplane Grand Prix in 2007. Chip Garner and Tim McAllister participated in the St. Auban event, and their experiences with the new format were ably chronicled by the [official web site](#), as well as Susan McAllister's excellent [blog site](#). **One pilot**

per nation will be accepted, and the organizers intend to supply Standard Class gliders to foreign participants. John Coutts, reigning World 15 Meter Champion, will represent New Zealand. The organizers intend to cover the cost of return airfare, lodging, and meals, making this exceedingly affordable for participants. A copy of the invitation is [available here](#) in PDF format. The official New Zealand Gliding Web site is [here](#). The US Team Committee has indicated to Gliding New Zealand that we would like to send a pilot to this event, but that we have not yet developed formal selection policies for this new racing format. Instead, as with the St. Auban contest, the Team Committee is issuing an open invitation to pilots seeded ranked in the US Open, 15 Meter, 18 Meter, Standard, and Sports classes who wish to participate. Selection will be based on the 2005 US Rankings for International Team Selection. In case of ties, the participant will be selected from the class with the largest number of participants in the Nationals during the ranking years. See the Grand Prix ranking list [here](#). The deadline for expressions of interest will be October 31, 2005. See the [Grand Prix ranking list here](#). Kindly let John Seaborn ([email here](#)) know **as soon as possible** of your interest.



09/27/05 - REVISION TO 2006 MULTI-CLASS TEAM SELECTION

The US Team Committee was recently advised by IGC representative Eric Mozer that an error had been made by the organizers of the 2006 29th World Gliding Championship in their communications to the Committee and to other national teams. Previously the Committee had been advised that the IGC had approved a national team size of 5 pilots with one reserve pilot, an overall limit of 120 pilots, and a limitation of 1 pilot per class in Open and 18 Meter. In response to an inquiry made by the Organizers, the IGC minutes of the 2003 meeting in Prague were reexamined. It was determined that no restrictions on the Open and 18 Meter were set, other than a maximum of two pilots per country in any class. As noted above, the Team Committee therefore made a good faith error in selecting **Chip Garner** from the Standard Class as 6th/Reserve pilot despite US team selection rules which call for the sixth pilot to be selected from the 18-Meter Class. In light of this erroneous information the Committee agreed that we had no alternative but to follow US selection rules in this case, despite the embarrassment of rescinding Chip's selection. He has been so advised, and agreed that our decision was the correct one. At this point the organizers are being very careful about the question of a sixth pilot so that they are sure the 120 pilot limit will not be exceeded. Next in the 18 Meter Class are **Sam Zimmerman** and **Rick Indrebo**. The Team Committee will likely hold off on formal

selection at this point until receiving a formal confirmation that a sixth pilot will be accepted. The Committee regrets this error, thanks Chip for his understanding and apologizes to all concerned. - *Doug Jacobs, US Team Committee Chairman*

09/27/05 - PGC GOES THE EXTRA MILE

The US Team has received a very generous donation of \$3,000 from the Philadelphia Glider Council (PGC) in recognition of the fine work done by Jacobs, Striedieck, Good and Kellerman and the PGC camp in May. Even better is the great news on the impact the Camp had on PGC'ers cross country performance. Bob Lacovara recently reported the following (with apologies to the Pudknockers, whoever they are), "In terms of results - For the first time ever PGC is leading in the Governors Cup standings! In this recent stretch of good weather, our X-C Team has completed as many as six G-Cup runs in a day! Enthusiasm is running high as the Pudknockers scramble to catch up with the PGC Slovenly Horde. We've never had so much interest in distance flying." For those not familiar with the Governors Cup race, it's a great Turn Area Task that can be started from any club in the area and hits turnpoints all around the Allentown Class C airspace, and a great way to foster interest in cross country flying - see the [link](#) for more information. The Committee thanks PGC for its contribution and continued support.



09/27/05 - CONTEST PILOTS PLEASE VOTE!

The annual **SSA Contest Rules Committee election** and **SRA Rules Poll** are available [here](#). Both are open to pilots on the US Pilot Ranking List. Both close October 14. Please help support the Contest Rules-making process and take the few minutes it will take to vote and answer the poll questions. Have your SSA membership number and password available to sign on. Thanks. *Ken Sorenson, Contest Committee Chairman*

09/27/05 - TEAM SPONSORED JUNIOR NEWS NUMBER 3

United States Soaring Teams, the Team Committee and the U.S. Junior Soaring Association (USJSA) have developed a publication just for Junior pilots under age 26 interested in cross country and competition soaring. If this is you are invited to [subscribe to the Junior News eBulletin](#) and start receiving periodic issues of the free publication by email. The Junior News eBulletin features special opportunities and news for soaring pilots under age 26 including cross country, camp, competition and team related items.



09/09/05 - TEAM CAPTAINS SELECTED FOR 2006

The US Team Committee has selected **Susan McAllister** and **Sam Zimmerman** for Team Captains in 2006. Susan will be graciously repeating in her role as team captain heading the 2006 Club/World Class team in Vinon France. Sam, a long time competitor, will be leading the Multi-Class effort at the 29th World Gliding Championships in Eskiltuna Sweden. Best wishes and many thanks to both these fine team leaders. Meet the teams and see the pilot and captain biographies for each class at [Club](#), [World](#), [Multi-Class](#) Inks

08/29/05 - SUSAN McALLISTER HOSTS GRAND PRIX BLOG

Susan McAllister will be sending updates and news from the Grand Prix via a special blog. See [Susan's World of Sailplane Racing Blog](#) [here](#). Chip Garner and Tim McAllister will be representing the United States at the upcoming Grand Prix in France. The Sailplane Grand Prix is a new type of gliding competition, more easy to understand for the public and more attractive for the media. With the regatta starts, turn-points over the field, the tracking and high-speed arrivals, there is no doubting the spectacle that Saint Auban will offer all week. Both Chip and Tim are self funding their participation as there is no team funding available for this event.

08/16/05 - TEAM eBULLETIN 22 ON THE WAY

The new US Team eBulletin 22 will be on its way in a few days. The new look of the team's eBulletins include new functionality that meet the email requirements including unsubscribe and account management features. **You are invited to sign up today and join the over 250 team supporters...** [Click Here](#) for the sign up page.

08/15/05 - TEAM COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The US Team Committee will be accepting nominations from Regional Directors for a three year term as member of Committee, which consists of three elected members and three appointed members. The Committee is responsible for the Team selection, organization, and promotion of all aspects of our participation in international soaring competition. For more information on the US Team Committee, its mission and activities, please see the link below. We encourage all interested parties to contact their Regional Director in pursuit of a nomination. The deadline for nominations is October 30, 2005, and an election will be held during the month of November. Special thanks to Dianne Black Nixon as a founding member of the US Team Committee and for her support and hard work on team matters over the last several years. See the Committee page [here](#).

08/14/05 - TEAMS SELECTED FOR 2006

With the conclusion of the 15-Meter nationals in Uvalde Texas team selection has been finalized for the 2006 World Championship U.S. Soaring Teams. Highly ranked pilots **David Mockler** and **Gary Ittner** finished one and two in Uvalde and have been selected to represent the United States in the 15-Meter Class at the 2006 World Gliding Championships in Sweden. Rounding out the team will be **Doug Jacobs** and **Chip Garner** in the Standard Class, **Rick Walters** in the 18-Meter Class and **Dick Butler** in the Open Class. Club Class pilot **Tim McAllister** will join **David Stevenson** on the 2006 Club Class team while **Pat Tucky** will be **François Pin's** teammate on the 2006 World Class team. Stand by for another exciting season of World Championship competition. See the U.S. [Multi Class team here](#), [Club Class here](#) and [World Class here](#).

08/14/05 - SIX TO SWEDEN IN 06, IGC SAYS STANDARD CLASS

The US Team Committee received an important update to the local rules for WGC'06 in Eskilstuna, Sweden from organizer and past World Champion Goran Ax. Subject to an overall maximum limit of 120 pilots, the contest will now accept up to six, rather than five pilots as previously published. However, under the specifications promulgated by the IGC in its approval for the venue, only single entries per country will be accepted in the 18 meter and Open Classes, with multiple entries allowed in Standard and 15 meter Classes. The US Team Selection Rules specify that a pilot for each class is selected first, and second pilots are selected in order from the most to the least populous class until all slots are filled. Based on current participation rates in the past several years, this would indicate that our fifth pilot should be selected from 15 meter class, and our sixth from 18 meter. While we requested that we be allowed to substitute an 18 meter slot for a second Standard slot, the organizers can not accommodate us under current IGC rules. This was confirmed to us by our representative to the IGC, Eric Mozer. The US Team Committee met in Uvalde on August 7 and decided to send a sixth pilot to Sweden, and in compliance with the IGC position, select that pilot from Standard Class. Our Team will there for consist of 2 - Standard, 2 - 15 meter, 1 - 18 meter, and 1 - Open Class. Based on finalized scores from the 2005 Standard Class Nationals and previous years, Chip Garner is therefore selected to the World Team. Congratulations to Chip. - *Doug Jacobs, Chairman U.S. Team Committee.*



08/14/05 - JUNIOR TEAM WINS DAY IN UK, FULL DAY REPORTS ONLINE

The U.S. Junior Team of Mike Westbrook and Garrett Willat are making a good showing at the 4th Junior WGC (World Gliding Championships) in the UK. Having placed 1st and 2nd on day Four. **Full day reports are being posted [here](#).** **NEWS FLASH - Garret Willat wins day seven at Junior WGC!** The U.S. Team Day Reports are brought to you by the US Soaring Team and hard working volunteer Frank Whiteley. Thank you

Frank! Also see the team photo gallery [here](#). Photo: ASW-28 and Mike Westbrook in the UK.

08/14/05 - 3RD WOMAN'S WORLD GLIDING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Forty Seven pilots competed in three classes at the recent 3rd Woman's WGC held in Klux Germany. Congratulations new World Champions: Hana Vokrinkova, Czech Republic Club

Class, Jana Veprekova, Czech Republic Standard Class, Mette Schmeltz Pedersen, Denmark 15m Class. See the official web site [here](#).

08/14/05 - US TEAM MEMBER RESOURCE BINDERS

Success at the world level requires a degree of logistical and organizational sophistication a world apart from most soaring contests. This undertaking can seem rather daunting at first. Developed by the Team Committee with the input of the most experienced prior team members, the purpose of this binder is to transfer the best and most successful practices between teams and to provide a starting place for an enjoyable and winning team effort. With the final selection of the 2006 US teams the binders are in the mail to team members.



08/14/05 - TEAM COMMITTEE MEETING IN UVALDE

The US Team Committee met in Uvalde Texas during the 15-Meter Nationals to discuss team business including fundraising, team selection, financials, team captains, and several other topics of concern. In attendance were Doug Jacobs, Ken Sorenson, Tim Welles, and John Seaborn. Meeting minutes will be posted shortly on the team committee page [here](#).

08/14/05 - CLUB AND WORLD TEAM MEMBERS WARM UP IN FRANCE

David Stevenson (2006 Club Class) and **François Pin** (2006 World Class) are back from the pre-worlds in France. Francois's note tells its all. "Vinson was an invaluable experience. Our emphasis this year was on discovery of the very, very technical area, and its (oh, so many) idiosyncrasies. And that we did!! Long tasks and long flights in the PW5, but definitely discovery of routes that are uniquely suited to lower-performance machines. I am very happy with the info we brought back."



07/20/05 - TEAM eBULLETIN 21 ON THE WAY

The new US Team eBulletin 21 will be on its way in a few days. The new look of the team's eBulletins include new functionality that meet the email requirements including unsubscribe and account management features. **You are invited to sign up today and join the over 200 team supporters...** [Click Here](#) for the sign up page.

07/19/05 - JUNIOR WGC NEAR, DAY REPORTS ONLINE!

With the 4th Junior World Championships slated for Husbands Bosworth in the United Kingdom (August 6-20, 2005) near the US Junior Team has published the first Day Report. This year Frank Whiteley will be posting the Junior team coverage supplied by Team Captain Bob Leve and others to this team web page. Bob will send reports from the flight line in the UK to Frank in Colorado who will do the posting here. See the [Junior Day Reports here](#) and the Junior Team page [here](#).

07/19/05 - CLUB AND PW-5 PRE WORLDS UNDERWAY

This year team members David Stevenson (Club Class) and Francois Pin (World Class) will be traveling to France to participate in the warm up or Pre Worlds to the 2006 WGC to be held jointly next year. Club Class team member David Stevenson will be departing for Vinon, France in early July to fly in the Club Class Pre-World Championship, July 20 - 29. He will learn the contest area by flying at the French National Training Center at St.



both 2005 and 2006 for me, and an LS4 for Dave this year. Dottie and I will arrive in Vinon on July 15. We should have plenty of days to explore the very challenging and very technical task area in the Southern Alps. Because of tight budgets Pre Worlds are not funded by the US Team. See the Club Class team page [here](#), the World Class team page [here](#) and the official organizers page [here](#). See the Australian Club Team's web site [here](#) for more on this event.

07/19/05 - US TEAM PGC CAMP SUCCESSFUL

In conjunction with the Philadelphia Glider Council, the US Team sponsored Cross – Country Camp in early June. Led by Team members Doug Jacobs, Karl Striedieck, and John Good, the Camp targeted qualified pilots ready to cut the cord to the home field, or those who wanted to extend their reach to longer distances. With several Duo Discus and Twin Grob's, all participants had an opportunity to fly dual with accomplished cross country racers and see how a typical cross country flight unfolds in action, as well as fly their own ships with seasoned pilots in small groups on hounds-and-fox missions. While the weather was a challenge the daily routine included lectures, weather and task briefings, lots of flying, and GPS-trace debriefings at the end of the day. Also available is ground-school only participation.

07/19/05 - GRAND PRIX UPDATE

Champions Chip Garner and Tim McAllister will be representing the United States at the upcoming Grand Prix in France. From the organizers... "The Sailplane Grand Prix is a new type of gliding competition, more easy to understand for the public and more attractive for the media. It is based on rules, which are simpler than those of conventional competitions. All sailplanes start simultaneously (regatta start, have to complete relatively short tasks with turn points set over the airfield or over easily accessible mountains and the winner will be the first pilot completing the task. The overall ranking will be made using place scoring like in Formula 1 Car Racing. The sailplanes will carry tracking units broadcasting their GPS position down to the ground so that the spectators will be able to watch the race in real time. The First World Sailplane Grand Prix, which will take place on the Saint Auban airfield place from 2 to 11 September 2005, will be the first World Championship run according to these new rules. It will gather the 20 best glider pilots in the World and every day there will be spectacular races with high speed finishes at the airfield." No team funding is available for this event. Visit the official Grand Prix web site [here](#) or <http://www.cnvv.net/wsgp/>

07/19/05 - HARRIS HILL TEAM CAMP CONCLUDES

On July 5, 2005, eight Junior soaring pilots gathered at Harris Hill, Elmira, NY to learn the secrets of flying gliders cross country. We had four single seat gliders, and three two seaters, including two Duo Discii. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate with high humidity, low ceilings, and even rain one day. Consequently, the focus was on ground presentations and discussion. Kai Gertsen was a mainstay, sharing his extensive experience of cross country soaring. Other presenters included Tim Welles and Mike Robison, who shared his experience representing the US on the Junior Soaring Team in France. There was a lot of discussion, as alternative approaches to the nuances of flying fast cross country were debated. Despite the weather, we did get some flying in. There were attempts at staying up in weak ridge and short forays away from the field, some of which ended up in the Harris Hill Emergency Strip, 700 feet below the hill where our airfield is located. Two of the XC Camp attendees, Ryan Vihlen and Devin Bargainer, stayed to participate in the Region Three Contest which was held at Harris Hill

immediately following the Junior XC Camp, and finished second and third, respectively in Sports Class. Not bad for a first contest for two Junior Pilots!

06/22/05 - 2005/2006 TEAM FUNDRAISING COMES TO THE PAGES OF SOARING

The July issue of Soaring magazine will feature a team ad and easy response envelope developed on a volunteer basis by Linda Olender, Art Director at renowned advertising company Keiler & Company and wife of Junior Team Captain Bob Leve. **This will be one of the only organized opportunities to contribute to the team in the 2005/2006 season and the ONLY chance to take advantage of matching funds for contributions over \$100.** Contributors over \$150 will receive a team patch and have their contributions matched up to the \$13,000. **Use the handy envelope to help our teams compete in England, France, and the 29th World Gliding Championships in Sweden.** Help keep the dream alive.



06/17/05 - TEAM SPONSORED JUNIOR NM CAMP CONCLUDES

Junior Cross Country Camps are becoming a tradition! With the very great help of the Albuquerque Soaring Club (ASC) and Rick Kohler of Sundance Aviation the second team sponsored Junior Camp held in Moriarty, New Mexico was a great success. This is the second year for this venue to encourage and train junior pilots for cross country and competition soaring. This camp grew out of the work and influence Orion Kingman (24)

as camp 2005 organizer and Mitch Hudson (29), Director of Region 9 and ASC liaison. This year Orion Kingman took on the job of camp organizer and manager. Without Orion's help and guidance, plus the help of the ASC this years Junior Camp would not have been possible. The team views these camps as ways to encourage interest in cross country and competitive soaring amongst pilots under 25 years in age. The next camp will be the Junior Cross Country Soaring Camp sponsored by the Harris Hill Soaring Corp. and the US Team is scheduled for July 6th - 9th. See a full report on the 2005 camp in New Mexico [here](#). See the team camp pages [here](#). See the team photo gallery [here](#) for camp pictures. See the 05 Junior Team [here](#).

06/10/05 - VIKING GLIDE IS ON

The warm up for the 29th Worlds in Sweden is called Viking Glide and runs June 12 through the 23rd. Rick Walters and Dick Butler are flying this contest. There are 12 pilots in the open class including World Champion Holger Karow flying his Nimbus 4 and two Eta gliders flown by Uli Schwenk and Hans-Werner Grosse. Dick Butler will be flying an ASW-22. There are nine pilots in the 18-M Class, 25 in the 15-M Class and 16 in the Standard Class for 62 contestants. Rick Walters will be flying a Discus in the Standard Class at these pre-worlds. See the team page [here](#) or go direct to the organizers web site [here](#).



06/10/05 - TEAM eBULLETIN 20! ON THE WAY

The new US Team eBulletin 20 will be on its way in a few days. The new look of the team's eBulletins include new functionality that meet the email requirements including unsubscribe and account management features. **You are invited to sign up today and join the over 200 team supporters...** [Click Here](#) for the sign up page.

06/07/05 - TEAM PILOTS TO PRE WORLDS

US Team pilots will be attending the 2005 Pre-World contests in France and Sweden. These events provide essential experience for both the organizers and pilots before the 2006 Championships.



Eighteen meter team member Rick Walters writes, "I am about to catch a flight to Stockholm but here is an update. Dick Butler left on June 4 and will be driving up to Sweden with Gerhard Waibel and an ASW22 in tow. I will be flying



the local club's Discusb, (ZO) in the Standard class. I have practiced at Eskilstuna before with the US team in 1993, so I will be the team manager. My crew is Dick and Diane Horn from California. They graciously volunteered to spend their vacation helping out another Air Sailing member. Our ski

parkas are packed!"

Club Class team member David Stevenson will be departing for Vinon, France in early July to fly in the Club Class Pre-World Championship, July 20 - 29. He will learn the contest area by flying at the French National Training Center at St. Auban for a week before the contest. The Pre-World contest will be combined with the French National Club Class for a total of close to 40 ships. David will be renting an LS- 4 this year. Preparation for this technical site consists of studying flight logs of the primary routes through the mountains in conjunction with detailed relief maps (thanks to Doug Jacobs).

From François Pin, World Class team member, "Dave and I coordinated all our logistics for this year's pre-World in Vinon. (Club and Worlds Class will share the venue in 2006). We found gliders for rent, a PW5 promised for both 2005 and 2006 for me, and an LS4 for Dave this year. Dottie and I will arrive in Vinon on July 15. We should have plenty of days to explore the very challenging and very technical task area in the Southern Alps. Not packing suitcases yet, but definitely deep into lists of things not to forget....

06/07/05 - TEAM JUNIOR CAMPS ARE ON!

The Junior Cross Country Soaring Camp sponsored by the Harris Hill Soaring Corp. and the US Team is scheduled for July 6th - 9th is shaping up to be a great event. So far 10 participants have enrolled, including 5 who are bringing their own ships. Lead and follow as well as dual instruction will be offered. A few positions are still available. Veteran cross country competitors Tim Welles (W3), Kai Gertsen (KI), Monty Sullivan (97), Roy McMaster (1), Sean Murphy (XC), Justin McMaster (JM), Richard Kellerman (QV), and former US Junior Team members Liz Schwenkler and Jason Howard (LH) will mentor young people in the art and science of cross country soaring. Those who are ready will be introduced to racing gliders in the region 3 competition which follows the camp.

The 2nd US Team Junior Cross Country Camp, June 13 - 16, 2005 at Moriarty, New Mexico. as many as 15 junior pilots under age 25 will attend this event with the Registration and a safety meeting to be held the evening of June 12. Flying and ground instruction is planned for June 13-16. Ground and flying cross-country instruction will be offered to Junior soaring pilots who are ready to begin, or in the initial stages of, cross country soaring. For more on team camps click [here](#).

06/06/05 - TEAM WEB REVISION

The US Team web site has been through another update in keeping with the ongoing improvements to the SSA web site. Specifically a new page banner has been added along with the new team logo on all pages.



06/05/05 - TEAM CAMP AT PHILADELPHIA GLIDER COUNCIL GOING WELL

Early reports from Doug Jacobs indicate the Philadelphia Glider Council (PGC) Team Camp was a real success despite dreadful weather, although Sunday, the last day was good. There were more than 20 participants, and several more enjoyed the ground portion only. Karl Striedieck, John Good and Richard Kellerman did outstanding jobs as lecturers, flying two place mentoring missions (in two Duo's and three Twin Grobs), and mixing it up with a very enthusiastic group of aspiring XC pilots. Truly inspirational XC was done by KS on some very marginal days. Special thanks to the Philadelphia Glider Council for their support, the mentors and Team Committee Chair Doug Jacobs for his hard work on the program. See the camp pictures [here](#).

06/01/05 - TEAM 2005/2006 FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

The 2005/2006 Team fundraising program kicks off with a team article in Soaring Magazine. Some of you will be receiving personal letters while most will see the team ad in the pages of the July Soaring magazine. This will be one of the only organized opportunities to contribute to the team in the 2005/2006 season and the ONLY chance to take advantage of matching funds for contributions over \$100. For contributions over \$150 contributors will receive a team patch and have their contributions matched up to the \$13,000 limit. **So take a minute and help our teams compete in England, France, and the big event of the 29th World Gliding Championships in Sweden.** Help keep the dream alive.



06/01/05 - JUNIOR TEAM READY FOR WORLDS IN AUGUST - THANK SPONSORS

The 4th Junior World Championships will be held at the Husbands Bosworth, in the United Kingdom from August 6-20. The Junior Team of Garret Willat and Mike Westbrook will be representing the USA at this event. These two pilots are practicing together in Texas in preparation. Mike writes, "Garret and I flew today and will be flying together through Wednesday for practice. The weather has been weak and will help prepare us for the UK."

The Junior Team would like to thank their sponsors who are providing products for the team's use. Roy McMaster, as the US distributor for SeeYou, the flight planning, analysis and in-flight software is personally sponsoring copies of SeeYou for the Junior Team. Contact Roy directly via email by clicking [here](#). Kevin Brooker of Peetot Pants is supplying the team uniforms and several pairs of his innovative pants. See Kevin's web site for more on these pants that allow you to watch your P's and Cu's [here](#). See more on the Junior team [here](#).

5/31/05 - REGION 7 TEAM RIDE PROGRAM SUCCESS

Through the generosity of DG-1000 owners Dick Andrews and Fred Hewitt and the great help of Paul Remde, team pilot Chip Garner was able to fly pilots on contest tasks ranging up to 200 miles during the recent Region 7 Championships held in Albert Lea Minnesota with proceeds going to the US team. "Amazing", "Incredible" and "Wow!" were often heard from the participants after the flights. The extra pilot did not slow Chip down as he won the Sports Class handily. \$1,250 was raised for the team. This was a fun filled event and the team appreciates the generosity of Dick and Fred who made their beautiful DG-1000 available and to Chip for doing the flying, plus to the critical efforts of Paul Remde.



Team Ride Program - Paul Remde, Chip Garner with Dick Andrews and Fred Hewitt's DG-1000. Thank You!

04/05/05 - AMERICA'S CUP OF JUNIOR SOARING

The idea for a Junior Nationals has been done internationally for years and now this venue may be coming to the USA. Planning is well underway for the first America's Cup of Junior Soaring. This will be the first it's kind event. The dates are set for July 24-28, 2006 just before the Standard Class nationals in Uvalde. Bill Bartell has graciously committed to be our Contest Director with Kerry Huffstutler, most likely the Contest Manager. In the next year Junior pilots Mike Westbrook and Garret Willat and others will be drumming up support and finding ships for youth to fly at the contest. You can learn more about the 2006 America's Cup of Junior Soaring at their web site listed below... www.juniorsoaring.us/juniorcup

04/05/05 - 2005/2006 US TEAMS GET NEW LOGO



Developed on a volunteer basis by Linda Olender, Art Director at renowned advertising company Keiler & Company and wife of Junior Team Captain Bob Leve, the new US team logo for the 2005/2006 teams will be used while representing the USA in France, the United Kingdom and Sweden.



03/24/05 - TEAM eBULLETIN 19 ON THE WAY

The new US Team eBulletin 19 will be on its way in a few days.

The new look of the team's eBulletins include new functionality that meet the email requirements including unsubscribe and account management features. **You are invited to sign up today...** [Click Here](#) for the sign up page.



03/24/05 - BID ON A STEMME FOR A DAY ON EBAY, JUNIOR TEAM FUNDRAISER, FOUR CHANCES!

Garret Willat's Junior Soaring Team "Stemme for a Day Program" Fly with two time team pilot Garret Willat in a high performance motor glider Stemme S10VT for the day in beautiful Warner Springs California. While the experience will be tailored to your personal needs this is your chance to experience cross country and practice competition techniques from a highly ranked 4000 hour

certified flight instructor and team pilot. Lodging at a memorable Resort or highly rated Bed & Breakfast is included. Your tax-deductible donation will help fund the US Junior Soaring Team in World Gliding Championships. A great way to prepare for the summer. A re-fresher for not having flown most of the winter, to sharpen your skills and improve your Cross Country soaring skills. An enjoyable day and evening for your spouse at a memorable resort or Bed and Breakfast. All this while making a donation to the US Junior Soaring team to help Garret Willat and Mike Westbrook compete in the Junior World Soaring Championships this summer in the United Kingdom. There are four days being auctioned off, it will be a great experience and the money goes to help the Junior Team.

ONLY A FEW DAYS UNTIL THE BIDDING CLOSSES. [Click here to bid for this super experience on eBay.](#)

03/23/05 - TEAM FUNDRAISING PROGRAM FOR 2005/2006

The main focus of team fundraising over the last several years has been wine and cheese events and team merchandise sales primarily at contests. This program, while successful, has gotten a little long in the tooth and will be eliminated for the 2005/2006 seasons. There will be a team representative at many contests but no push for contributions. The 2005/2006 program will be a more general fundraising effort which will include direct mail and direct response in the pages of Soaring magazine. The U.S. Team Committee has personally pledged matching funds up to a \$13,000 limit. The team program has made a good deal of progress over the last several years and with a busy 2005 and 2006 World Championship schedule we hope you will help when the time comes.

03/23/05 - ASA HOSTS CROSS COUNTRY COURSE, TEAM PILOT SUPPORT



While the weather did not fully cooperate for the early March Arizona Soaring Association's (ASA) recent Cross Country Camp a good deal of information was shared and many firsts were achieved. Participants included many ASA members with new ASA member Orion Kingman and Junior Team pilot Garret Willat participating. Team Pilot Garret Willat gave an informative lecture on topics ranging from beginning cross-country theory, through more advanced concepts. Everyone got a chance to learn from Garret's first hand experiences, and an opportunity to bombard him with questions related to soaring. In the end all who

attended had nothing but praise about the course, even if it was water logged. Ultimately the US Junior Soaring Team raised over \$750 through direct contributions, including a \$100 donation from the Arizona Soaring Association. Additionally many thanks are due

for the generosity of the ASA for their support and the Saturday evening BBQ. See the full report from Orion Kingman [here in PDF format](#). See the team camp page [here](#).

03/23/05 - CHIP GARNER AND TIM McALLISTER TO COMPETE IN GRAND PRIX

As the highest ranked pilot who applied national champion Chip Garner will be representing the United States at the upcoming Grand Prix in France. Club Class Champion Tim McAllister has signed on as reserve pilot. No team funding is available for this event. From the organizers... "The Sailplane Grand Prix is a new type of gliding competition, more easy to understand for the public and more attractive for the media. It is based on rules, which are simpler than those of conventional competitions. All sailplanes start simultaneously (regatta start, have to complete relatively short tasks with turn points set over the airfield or over easily accessible mountains and the winner will be the first pilot completing the task. The overall ranking will be made using place scoring like in Formula 1 Car Racing. The sailplanes will carry tracking units broadcasting their GPS position down to the ground so that the spectators will be able to watch the race in real time. The First World Sailplane Grand Prix, which will take place on the Saint Auban airfield place from 2 to 11 September 2005, will be the first World Championship run according to these new rules. It will gather the 20 best glider pilots in the World and every day there will be spectacular races with high speed finishes at the airfield." Visit the official Grand Prix web site [here](#) or <http://www.cnvv.net/wsgp/>



03/17/05 - US TEAM MEDIA ROOM UPDATED ONLINE

The team's online Press Room has been updated with news of Junior Team members Mike Westbrook (Age 20, Midlothian, Texas) and Garret Willat (23, Warner Springs, California) participation in the upcoming 4th Junior World Gliding Championships. The NEWS section of the Press Room covers latest team Press Releases. In BACKGROUND find in-depth reference information on the sport and competitive soaring. The CALENDAR provides a listing of upcoming international events while the PRESS CLIPPING ARCHIVE provides examples of successful print media coverage. Beyond directing media to this new resource for background on soaring the PRESS KIT TEMPLATES section provides examples of media materials than can be downloaded by the soaring community for use in promoting the sport locally. See the online press room [here](#).



03/13/05 - FUN IN THE SUN AT SEMINOLE!

A terrific race was run at the Seniors again this year and the field was full of geezers, all 55 years or more young. US Team members in the race were almost too numerous to mention but included winner Karl Striedieck aboard his Duo, Dick Butler, George Moffat, Dave Stevenson, Tom Knauff, and Doug Jacobs. As in previous years, DJ had the opportunity to fly a beautiful

DG-1000 kindly supplied by Knute Kjenslie, proprietor of host Seminole Soaring and dealer for DG sailplanes. Both he and KS were filled for every flying day with back seat riders, most of whom were lower time pilots seeking to see racing first hand, but the group also included a few old foxes like Ed Byers – who coached Karl to a particularly dramatic win on tough weak day. These missions accomplish several objectives – they raise badly needed funding for the US Team, they put new folks together with some of our most experienced Team pilots for what is invariably a steep-curve learning experience, show Team members giving back to the soaring community, and result in lots of fun for everyone. DJ also had the opportunity to address pilots and crews on current efforts by the US Team Committee

on rides, encampments, fundraising, and much more. It's hard to say enough good things about this event, which has become an early season classic in its 15 year experience. It's almost worth getting old for!

03/07/05 - IGC NEWS

International Gliding Committee (IGC) 1st Vice-President Eric Mozer has provided an excellent set of notes on the latest meeting. Highlights include clarification of the maximum gross weights in the open class, consideration of a 20-Meter two place class, review items for world records, WGC site selection (2007 Juniors (Italy), Women, -(France), 2008 Open/18/15 (Germany), Std/Club/World (Italy) and many other topics. The IGC is responsible for FAI's gliding activities, in particular World Records and International Competitions. See Eric's full set of notes on the Team Committee page [here...](#)



03/02/05 - TEAM CAMP SET FOR PGC

In conjunction with the Philadelphia Glider Council, the US Team is planning to sponsor a Cross – Country Camp in early June. Led by Team members Doug Jacobs, Karl Steidleck, and John Good, the Camp will target qualified pilots who want to cut the cord to the home field, or those who want to extend their reach to longer distances. With several Duo Discus and Twin Grob's, all participants will have an opportunity to fly dual with accomplished cross country racers and see how a typical cross country flight unfolds in action, as well as fly their own ships with seasoned pilots in small groups on hounds-and-fox missions. The daily routine will include lectures, weather and task briefings, lots of flying, and GPS-trace debriefings at the end of the day. Also available is ground-school only participation. PGC members will have priority for registration, but the Camp may have openings for visitors, so watch this space. Dates are 5/31 evening registration and welcome to 6/5 end of flying. See the team camp page [here...](#)

02/20/05 - TEAM SPONSORED JUNIOR NEWS GOES ELECTRONIC

The team sponsored Junior News is moving to an all electronic format delivered by email and renamed the Junior News eBulletin. This format will be similar to the team's eBulletin but will retain the focus on pilots under age 26 interested in cross country and competition soaring featuring news and special opportunities in cross country, camp, competition and the team. Over 130 junior pilots signed up for the printed version of the team's junior news and these will be invited to sign up to receive the new Junior News eBulletin when the printed version is discontinued with the next issue. In addition the newly created U.S. Junior Soaring Association will be contributing the editorial content of the team sponsored Junior News eBulletin.



You are invited to sign up to receive both the team sponsored new [Junior News eBulletin](#) and the [U.S. Team eBulletin](#) by clicking [here](#). The U.S. Team eBulletin, which after three years and eighteen editions, will continue to bring members of the soaring community the latest news on U.S. soaring teams and international championships. Sign up now!



02/20/05 - JUNIOR TEAM MEMBER PRESIDENT OF NEW U.S. JUNIOR SOARING ASSOCIATION

The new U.S. Junior Soaring Association (USJSA) is an organization for Junior Soaring Pilots in the United States. Junior membership is open anyone under the age of 25. Senior membership is open to all. The USJSA has been incorporated under the laws of New York State and has applied for IRS 501(c)(3) status. The goals for the new organization are Provide scholarships to Junior Pilots at all levels, purchase and maintain gliders for Junior Pilots to use and promote fellowship among Juniors. The President of the new organization is Junior Team pilot

Mike Westbrook who flies his SZD-55 "UN" at the national level.

Mike soloed at the age of 14 and now has over 400 soaring hours and is working

towards his CFG. See the new U.S. Junior Soaring Association web site [here](#).

02/16/05 - 2006 CLUB & WORLD CLASS WEB SITE OPEN

The French organizers for the 2006 Club and World class WGC have launched a web site for the championships. See <http://www.wgc2006.fr/>

02/15/05 - TEAM eBULLETIN 18 ON THE WAY

The new US Team eBulletin 18 will be on its way in a few days. The new look of the team's eBulletins include new functionality that meet the email requirements including unsubscribe and account management features. **You are invited to sign up today...** [Click Here](#) for the sign up page.

02/13/05 - TEAM SUCCESS AT SSA CONVENTION

The recently concluded SSA Convention in Ontario California was a success for the team. The team booth was able to raise \$6,032.20 in contributions from the the hourly team raffle and brisk sales of team merchandise. The hourly team drawing was made possible through the generosity of the 2005 team convention sponsors including the Soaring Society of America, National Soaring Museum, Cumulus Soaring, Bob Wander's Soaring Books and Supplies, Knauff & Grove Soaring Supplies, Cobra Skin, M&H Soaring, Mountain High Oxygen Systems, Wings & Wheels, Dragonnorth, SeeYou USA and Eastern Sailplane. The booth was staffed largely by team members including, Ray and Ruth Gimney, Mike Newgard, Tim Welles, Francois Pin, Gary Ittner, David Stevenson, Garret Willat, Ken Sorenson, Kerry Huffstutler, Conrad Suechting, Brenda Seaborn and ace ticket sales person Liz Schwenkler. Special thanks to Rick Walters and Dianne Black Nixon for setting up the booth. Congratulations and thank you to all the sponsors and team volunteers who made the 2005 event so successful. See more on this years successful team booth and a posting of winning tickets [here](#)...



02/12/05 - JUNIOR PILOT ELECTS NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN 2005 JUNIOR WGC

Junior team pilot Chris Saunders has elected not to participate in the 4th Junior Championships to be held in the United Kingdom this summer. (August 6-20, 2005). This opens the door for Junior Pilot Mike Westbrook who will now be Garret Willats teammate at the championships. See the Junior Team news [here](#)...



02/09/05 - VIKING GLIDE PRE-WORLDS HEATING UP

While the snow is still deep on the airfield in Eskilstuna the warm up for the 29th World Gliding Championships in Sweden are starting to heat up. Robert Danewid the Championship Director of Viking Glide and WGC 2006 has notified the Team Committee that the entries of Dick Butler (Open) and Rick Walters (18-Meter) have been accepted. Both pilots will be attending the Viking Glide pre-worlds to develop experience in the area ahead of the 2006 World Championships. See more on the 2006 Multi-Class team [here](#)...

02/03/05 - 2004 TEAM ACCOUNTING POSTED

Thanks to U.S. Team Treasurer Doug Jacobs and SSA CFO Alan Gleason the U.S. Team 2004 financials are now online. This is the forth year that team financials have been publicly posted online. See the link on the [Team Committee page](#) or click [here](#) (PDF)...

01/29/04 - ARIZONA SOARING ASSOCIATION HOSTS XC CAMP, TEAM PILOT XC LECTURE

Starting with a lecture and Q&A session on beginning cross-country soaring, presented by current US Team member Garret Willat, the ASA's XC Camp will include several flying days beginning with a review of pertinent cross-country topics and ideas followed by lead and follow cross-country soaring



training. Dates are Friday March 4th, flying Saturday, March 5th and Sunday, March 6th. The location will be the Pleasant Valley Airport, 20 min north of Phoenix, Arizona. See the [US Team Camp page](#) for more on this and other camps.



01/20/05 - LAWRENCE WOOD LONG TIME TEAM SUPPORTER DIES

Lawrence Wood was born December 7, 1918 at Refugio, Texas. He passed away on January 5, 2005 after a short illness. His father Richard Henry Wood, and his mother, Carrie Lambert Wood, were of Texas families with deep Irish roots. Interested in engineering and business administration, Wood joined Braniff Airways of Dallas, Texas after College. In 1940, he began a short but varied two years as co-pilot instructor, and administrator and became involved in the engineering aspects of airport design and construction. In 1942, his experience with the airlines led to the rank of Captain and Pilot. Following the entry of the United States into World War II he became associated with the Contract Carrier division - Air Transport Command. Transferred in 1943, Mr. Wood became instructor of Army/Air Force transportation crews. In 1947, after the War and another brief stint with Braniff, he returned to Refugio. Lawrence Wood continued his association with flying through the years. He was one of the organizers of the Refugio Soaring Circle and served several years as a Director of the Soaring Society of America as a past President. In 1986 he received the Soaring Society of America's highest award - The Warren E. Eaton Memorial. The Lawrence Wood Fund was established in 1997 by donating his personal Nimbus 3DT to the US Team Soaring Committee to show his support of this effort. The U.S. Team Soaring Committee elected to sell the aircraft on the open market and to apply all proceeds over \$100,000 for the benefit of the 1997 U.S. Team. The corpus of \$100,000 was used to establish an honorary fund in the name of Lawrence Wood. Interest accrued by the Lawrence Wood Fund will be made available to the U.S. Soaring Team. He attended the Nationals in Uvalde last August spoke with Mark Huffstutler about doing some flights in a Ximingo motorglider. He loved soaring and dreamt of it until his death. For more on Mr. Woods see the link [here](#)...



01/19/05 - US TEAM ONLINE ARCHIVE COMPLETED

Our nations soaring community has been represented internationally for over 50 years by the pilots, crews and managers of US Soaring Teams. This proud tradition has been cataloged in the pages of Soaring magazine since Paul MacCready first competed in 1950 at the 3rd World Gliding Championships held in Sweden. The Team Archive, now online after a four year effort, includes the actual championship articles digitally scanned from the original Soaring magazines. Team members, champions, logos and patches are represented. Many of today's best pilots found motivation in these accounts written by the likes of Ralph Barnaby, Joe Lincoln, Doug Lamont, Paul Schweizer and Chuck O'Mahony. For the first time you can read about the team pilots, fly the tasks, suffer the set backs and savor the victories for the over

fifty year history of U.S. Teams. Some files are large and may be slow to load without a fast connection to the Internet. See the online team [archive here](#)... Long live competitive soaring and our teams!

01/18/05 - SAILPLANE GRAND PRIX IN ST. AUBAN

The IGC has announced a new style of racing to be tried at France's famous St. Auban national gliding center in early September 2005. A single entry will be allowed per country and all participants will race in the 15 Meter class. Included in the new racing format as departures from the classic approach are a regatta start, multiple circuits of a course close to the field, maximum turnpoint altitudes for spectator enjoyment, and many more. The objective is to raise media and spectator awareness of sailplane racing. Since this is a new style of event, the US Team Committee



has no ready rules for selection of participants, and in any case will be unable to provide any financial support. Instead, the Team Committee is issuing an open invitation to pilots seeded in the US Open, 15 Meter, 18 Meter, Standard, and Sports classes who may wish to participate. Selection will be based on the [2005 US Rankings for International Team Selection](#). In case of ties, the participant will be selected from the class with the largest number of participants in the Nationals during the ranking years. Kindly let John Seaborn ([email here](#)) know as soon as possible of your interest by early March to make the March 31, 2005 deadline for preliminary entries. Pilots ranked using the US Team Selection ranking are eligible and invited to apply.



01/12/05 - ROBERTSON TRUST WEB UPDATE

The Robertson Trust web site has been updated. New information and financial results from 1988 to 2004 will be posted soon. The Robert Robertson Memorial Team Fund, often referred to as the Robertson Trust, was established in 1988 by Donald Robertson and the Soaring Society of America to memorialize his son and top pilot, Robert "Robbie" Robertson. The trust charter provides a dedicated source of funding to United States Soaring Teams participating in World Soaring Championships. U.S. Soaring Teams are funded by a combination of personal contributions from the soaring community and the Robertson and Woods trusts. See the newly updated Robertson Trust web site [here](#)...

01/05/05 - TEAM COMMITTEE TO MEET IN ONTARIO

The US Team Committee members Dianne Black-Nixon, Doug Jacobs, Tim Welles, Ken Sorenson, John Seaborn and SSA Executive Director Dennis Wright will be meeting in conjunction with the SSA Convention in Ontario, California.



01/03/05 - 2005 JUNIOR TEAM TO THE UK

The 4th Junior World Gliding Championships will be held in Husbands Bosworth, United Kingdom from August 6-20, 2005. This years team of Chris Saunders and Garret Willat under the leadership of Team Captain Bob Leve is the strongest in years. See the US team junior page [here](#)...

12/30/04 - TEAM eBULLETIN 17 ON THE WAY

The new US Team eBulletin 17 will be on its way in a few days. The new look of the team's eBulletins include new functionality that meet the email requirements including unsubscribe and account management features. Team management hopes you will enjoy the new format of the teams eBulletins. **You are invited to sign up today...** [Click here](#) for the sign up page.

[See 2004 U.S. Team News Here](#)