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U.S. Soaring Team Day Reports & Results

POLAND 2003
LESZNO
28th WORLD GLIDING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday, July 26

Report 5

Opening ceremonies are underway as John Good provides a spectators view of the opening of the 28th World Gliding Championships.

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WGC 2003 – Leszno, Poland, Report for 26 July - Opening Ceremonies By John Good



Three Polish team members raise the Polish flag at the Opening Ceremonies.

The opening ceremonies are now complete, and the airshow is underway. A flock of parachutists has landed carrying the flags of the 31 participating countries. Following this we were treated to several glider aerobatic acts. One featured a Tschmielak turbine-powered towplane and an aerobatic glider known as the Fox; they passed in front of the crowd with the Fox doing about a dozen rolls on tow.

Somewhat contrary to tradition, it was not an excellent soaring day, nor



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was it baking hot as we assembled by country and filed in front of the reviewing stands (set up 2 days ago -- with much banging and crashing -- for VIP seating). The speeches were the traditional sort, with many rounds of welcome for the distinguished visitors and wishes for a safe and fair contest with two weeks of excellent weather. I hope we have this, but it's by now fairly clear that we're not necessarily entitled to a quick return of the Uvalde-like conditions we saw during the early part of the practice period.



These Polish youth in traditional costumes are practicing for the opening ceremony, when they will lead the various teams.

After release, the Fox glider deployed wingtip smoke and did an excellent routine. As the grass here is rather dry, I hope the smoke bombs were fully out when he landed.



This broad view shows most of the huge Leżanów airfield (photo by Gary Steer)

The speeches went on for almost an hour, in part due to the need to translate. A clever interpreter did this, both for addresses delivered in Polish (most of them) and those in English (such as from the FAI representative, who is German). The language barrier is only moderate here – briefings are conducted in English and most of those who deliver them are easily understood, if not completely fluent. It will probably be a different story if/when retrieves are needed (and the rumor is that tasks will be long and thus retrieves relatively frequent): Many young Poles speak some English, but you certainly can't count on this. On the other hand, almost everyone we've met has been very friendly, and this counts for a lot.

A group of 7 turbine-powered single-engine military trainers are now cavorting around the sky. They seem about the size and shape of a P-51, and occasionally sound rather like one, too (though a modern, Discus-like wing profile mars the effect). Their act is good – a single plane and then a group of two have split away from the formation, so we have something like a 3-ring circus. Across the airfield, a group of 4 balloons have started to inflate. But the wind is around 10 knots and there is some dark-



WEB LINKS

[WGC Reports & Scores](#)

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[Photo Gallery](#)

[Meet this Team](#)

[Time in Poland](#)

[Official Web Site](#)

[Team News](#)

[Junior & World WGC Reports](#)

SCHEDULE

Official Training
22nd - 25th

Opening
26th

Contest Flying
27th - Aug 9th

Closing
10th August

looking sky to the west -- I'm skeptical that they will actually launch.



I give the contest organizers reasonably good marks so far. They seem to be able to focus on what matters and to keep the silly and unnecessary regulations to a minimum. I feel they are

a bit behind on such matters as daily weighings (these were not done at all during the practice period) and span measurement (also not yet seen). They have decided to stick with their rule that Flight Logs must be turned in within 30 minutes of landing; at a huge airfield like Leszno, this could be very challenging -- nearly all Team Captains feel this is unnecessary and unworkable. We will see how this develops.

The wind has persisted and in the end all the balloon pilots concluded that discretion was the better part of valor. (That the wind was more or less directly from the balloons toward the glider & trailer parking area may have contributed to their wisdom.)



A statue near the Leszno hotel station reminds persons by what is one of the popular activities in this area. (photo by Gary Ittner).

With the airshow over, we are now off to a picnic, held in the Leszno town square (about 4 km from the airfield) and sponsored by the town. The invitations promise beer and sausages (not surprising, as nearly all Polish meals seem to include these) and "Artistic Performances". We will see what that entails.

U.S. Soaring Team

Class	Pilot	Sailplane	Contest Number
Open	Ron Tabery	Nimbus 4T	YY
18-Meter	Gary Ittner	Ventus 2cx	ZQ
15-Meter	Karl Striedieck	ASW-27b	VW
	David Mockler	Ventus 2ax	W
Standard	Tom Beltz	ASW 28	PV
	Chip Garner	Discus 2a	CG

Points of Interest

OTHER TEAM WEB SITES

Visit other teams web sites for their prospective on the championships. And there are some great sites including the [British](#), [French](#), [Italian](#), [Danish](#), [Austrian](#), [Netherlands](#) and [German](#) team sites.

PRE-WORLDS REPORT AVAILABLE

Want the real scoop on the site and flying WCG? Click the [pre-worlds report here](#) provided by team pilot Chip Garner for a detailed pilots eye view of the site, weather and competition.

ABOUT DAY REPORTS

The U.S. Team Day Reports are brought to you by several hard working U.S. Team volunteers. The goal of these day reports are to provide the U.S. soaring community with improved coverage of World Soaring Championships and the U.S. Team's participation in these events.

YOUR SUPPORT - THANK YOU!

All US team members would like to thank those of you who have contributed to make participation in these international events possible. If you have not contributed to the team please consider helping the team financially through a contribution. To see how, visit the U.S.Team Funding page [here](#) and the [Robertson Trust Web](#) here.

U.S. TEAM COMMITTEE

The newly elected U.S. Team Committee has been working to establish a more stable management structure and better resources for our soaring teams. The objective are more transparent, accountable, sustainable and competitive United States soaring teams. See the full information on the new [U.S. Team Committee here](#).

U.S. TEAM E-NEWS

Sign up today for the U.S. Team E-NEWS. This electronic newsletter is sent out roughly quarterly and covers all the team news. The sign up process is simple - start by [clicking here](#).

TEAM NEWS, HISTORY & ARCHIVE

To catch up on all the news for the U.S. World Soaring Teams see the [U.S. Team News](#). See the U.S. [Team Archive](#) for team background since 1950. As part of the Archive tour see the [U.S. Team History](#) page for a complete listing of US Teams since 1950 or the [World Champions](#) page for a complete listing of champions since 1937.

Contest Site



Leszno is well situated in the western part of Poland in Wielkopolska (Great Poland) between Poznań and Wrocław. Three European capitals: Warsaw, Berlin and Prague are all situated approximately 300km away from Leszno. Since 1 January 1999 Leszno has been one of the 68 administrative districts.

Labor turmoil in 1980 led to the formation of the independent trade union "Solidarity" that over time became a political force and by 1990 had swept parliamentary elections and the presidency. A "shock therapy" program during the early 1990s enabled the country to transform its economy into one of the most robust in Central Europe, boosting hopes for acceptance to the EU. Poland joined the NATO alliance in 1999.

Map courtesy of the CIA. See the [CIA site](#) for a fact sheet on Poland. Click images to expand.

Web Links

- ▶ The official World Soaring Championship web site [Click Here](#)
- ▶ FAI Web coverage of the World Gliding Championships [Click Here](#)
- ▶ See the team photo gallery [Click Here](#)
- ▶ What time is it at the site? [Click Here](#)
- ▶ Visit the city of Leszno? [Click Here](#)
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