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U.S. Soaring Team Day
Reports & Results2006 FAI 29th Multi-Class WGC
Open, 18-Meter, 15-Meter, Standard

Eskilstuna, Sweden, June 4-17, 2006

**Tuesday, June 6th - NCD**

Evening report arrives with the news of an official no contest day. Morning report is in. Sweden Day, showers after 10:00am, good weather on the way? The latest team news will appear on this page every day. Bookmark this page.

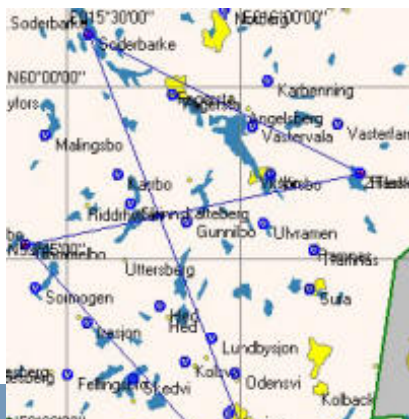
NEWS FLASH - DAY CANCELLED

After a wait and a good deal of hope the weather just did not arrive and the day was cancelled at 14:51. Web cam picture from 15:02 tells the tale.

TEAM REPORT - Tuesday, June 6th. Mid-Day Report

Today is Sweden's national day. We tend to compare this to our July 4, but it's actually lower-key – sort of a flag day. It seems there will be little in the way of parades and bands, and unfortunately no fireworks. It's no doubt the "youngest" national day anywhere – the first one was celebrated in 2004.

In truth, fireworks would be a problem in Sweden at this time of year: at this latitude (nearly 60 degrees north) it really never gets dark. The sun first peeks above the horizon at around 3am, just a short ways east of due north. During the day it makes its way past east, and at mid-day is due south, about 40 degrees above the horizon. It then proceeds to the west and northwest, setting slowly at around 11pm. At the darkest time of night, the northern sky is still reasonably bright and you could probably read a newspaper without great difficulty.



In consequence of a severe shortage of darkness, you find that really light-tight shades and curtains are common. The accepted technique for proper sleep is to draw the curtains a good hour before you plan to go to bed, to convince yourself that the day has actually ended.

It's rather sobering to consider the inverse of this: winter. Swedes must cope with a few hours of weak daylight with the

REPORTS**LATEST NEWS**

MAY 24
MAY 29
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JUN 01
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SCHEDULE

Official training
MAY 28- JUN 2

Opening
JUNE 3

Contest



sun quite low in the sky, followed by 20+ hours of deep darkness. Months of this are surely hard for the human psyche to bear gracefully.

It's now 12:30 and the weather is not in a mood for celebration. At 10am we had nice cumulus clouds, but by 11 these had overdeveloped and produced rain showers on the field. The launch, initially scheduled for 11:15, was postponed to noon and now is set for 1:30. There is apparently some good weather west of here and headed our way, but not moving at a brisk pace. If it does arrive, we may have a very good day – thermals to 8000' are said to be possible.

But at this point we're on hold. All gliders are gridded and thus getting wet in the occasional (and mercifully brief) showers. Pilots are restive. Crews are wishing their pilots could launch and thus grant them the few quite hours of a contest day. I'll file this report and follow up with the full story this evening.

EVENING REPORT REPORT WGC 2006 – 6 June

The weather did not cooperate today. The clearing that was promised did indeed approach from the west and northwest. But it was lamentably slow in doing so. After several launch postponements and one task change, competition flying was finally scrubbed at about 2:30pm today, with overdevelopment and small rain showers in the local area.

There was some grouching about this. It would have certainly been challenging to launch 117 gliders (takes just over an hour here) and then have fair tasks for all, but one or two classes might have been possible. By 4pm the sky had certainly improved, though it's fair to say that it never looked like a booming day. Yet there's a strong tradition at World contests that says that tasks are set whenever possible.

Certainly there are pilots who'd like to be given the chance to climb back into the arena after stumbling yesterday. In Open class, three big names suffered badly at the hands of the weather gods: Holger Karow (X), Jean-Marc Caillard (RG) and Laurent Aboulin (AF) all had good speeds until they arrived near home, ahead of the pack. Reportedly they'd achieved final glide height, only to be washed out of the sky by a rainshower. When their competitors came along some time later, the sky had cycled and many (though not all) had little trouble with the final 30km.

Part of the problem may lie in the perceived difficulty of task changes. These seem rare at World contests, for reasons that escape me. Every pilot must have a Team Captain (even teams that have just a single pilot), so it's a simple matter for contest organizers to summon the Captains, hand out new tasks, and say "Sign here" – from that point on, the responsibility for informing pilots of the change lies with the Captains. Yet this is rarely done, whereas it's not uncommon for pilots to set out on a task that looked good when designed at 9am, but which has been rendered desperate by weather developments.

With a rest day in hand, Doug Jacobs, wife Martha, daughter Molly and I soon had the glider in its box and were on our way to the Eskilstuna Zoo. The feature here is a pair of white tigers, and these were indeed in evidence. But they were enjoying a rest day of their own, lying in the sun with no more activity than an occasional ear twitch. We had better luck at the puma exhibit, where one cat put on a good display of puma snarls and growls, and at the flamingo area, where a flock of these unlikely looking birds were preening, displaying and generally showing off for holiday crowds. A very substantial Komodo dragon was visible at the back of his enclosure, but these are rather sedentary beasts even on their native turf, let alone in Sweden.

To mark today's holiday, a celebration is scheduled for 8pm here. The Swedish team is sponsoring food and reduced-price beer

JUNE 4 - 17

Closing
JUNE 18

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(normally around \$6 a whack). In about an hour I'll see what this involves. A weakness of this contest mentioned by many here is the lack of any real social center on the airfield. About the only time that pilots and crews mix and exchange stories and gossip is at the grid, and with a standard first launch time around 11am, there's not much opportunity there. We really need a warm and well-lit hangar with some features that draw crowds and allow some sociability.

We've been promised some warmer and less cloudy weather in the next couple of days. If this could manage also to provide some reasonable opportunities for motorless flight, there would be many happy faces here.

John Good

Captions for photos: *From top to bottom:*

1. Web cam picture shows poor weather
2. 15-M task for day 3 before day was cancelled.

U.S. Soaring Team - Standings

Class	Pilot	Sailplane	Contest Number	Day Place & Points	Overall Place & Points
Open	Dick Butler	ASW-22 DB	DB	-	4/1854
18-M	Sam Zimmerman	Ventus 2cx	SZ	-	15/1592
18-M	Rick Indrebo	ASG-29	99	-	17/892
15-M	David Mockler	ASW-27	VW	-	6/1690
15-M	Gary Ittner	Ventus 2	C	-	14/1554
STD	Doug Jacobs	Discus 2	D2	-	16/1526

See the official scores [here](#)

Points of Interest

ABOUT DAY REPORTS

The U.S. Team Day Reports are brought to you by the US Soaring Team and Team Committee. Veteran reporter John Good (also crewing for Doug Jacobs) will be bringing you up to the minute coverage from the U.S. Team as they go for the gold in Sweden. The daily reports are posted by Frank Whiteley and John Seaborn.

EMAIL TEAM

You can send the team in Sweden an email using the mail box set up for this purpose. Click [Team email](#). Communication will go direct to Team Captain John Godfrey and cannot normally be replied to.

U.S. TEAM COMMITTEE

The U.S. Team Committee has been working for over five years to establish 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 [U.S. Team Committee page](#).

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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 including scans of all the original articles as they appeared in Soaring magazine. Also see the [U.S. Team History](#) page for a complete listing of U.S. Teams since 1950 or the [World Champions](#) page for a complete listing of champions since 1937.

YOUR TEAM SUPPORT

Our participation at the international level depends on the generous contributions from the larger soaring community. Thanks to those of you who have contributed to make participation in these international events possible. If you have not contributed to the team please consider making one! To see how, visit the U.S. [Team Funding](#) and the [Robertson Trust Web](#).

Country and Contest Site



10/27/04 - SITE CHANGE FOR 2006 WGC

The 29th World Gliding Championships originally slated for Uppsala Sweden have been moved to Eskilstuna Sweden (Ekeby airfield). This site was where the 1993 US Team had a week of practice before Borlange (site of 1993 WGC). The two sites share very similar terrain.

Sweden and Eskilstuna will be the host of the World Gliding Championship 2006. Approximately 120 pilots from all around the world will gather at the Ekeby airfield 5 km west of Eskilstuna to compete in four classes, Standard, 15 meter, 18 meter and Open class, on June 5-17 2006. The management for WGC 2006 have decided to move the competition site from Uppsala to Eskilstuna.



The reason for this is that the original competition site in Uppsala no longer has the possibility to adequately serve the needs of the competition due to a much higher degree of other activity at the airfield than originally anticipated. Eskilstuna is an excellent alternative with all necessary facilities already in place. Eskilstuna also has a tradition in large international competitions.