

THE SOARING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
HILTON HOTEL
GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
FEBRUARY 28, 2015**

The annual membership meeting of The Soaring Society of America, Inc., was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by Chairman of the Board, Richard Maleady.

Chairman Maleady opened the meeting by having all the attendees introduce themselves. Chairman Maleady dispensed the reading of the minutes from the 2014 membership meeting. Motion was made by Treasurer Umphres and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Umphres summarized the SSA's financial position, Revenues are down and our membership is declining. He encouraged everyone to be ambassadors of our sport. Treasurer Umphres stated his full report can be found online.

Chairman Maleady mentioned this being an "Off Convention Awards Banquet." How should we address the awards banquets that are not held during a convention? He has appointed a committee and charged them with looking at awards and changing any type of venue to present them.

Chairman Maleady announced that we normally present certain awards during the membership meeting, but since the gathering was small he suggested we conclude the membership meeting and present all awards together.

Treasurer Umphres motioned to adjourn the membership meeting, seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The annual awards were then presented as follows:

Top Regional Instructors:

Region 1 Gregory Delp
Region 2 Hank Nixon
Region 3 Justin McMaster
Region 4 Brian Collins
Region 5 Lane Bush and Phillip LaBerge
Region 6 James Vincze
Region 7 Devesh Pandit
Region 8 Donald Flinn
Region 9 Mark Matticola
Region 10 Barry Dunning
Region 11 Alexander Caldwell
Region 12 Michael Havener and Arthur Wallace

SSA Distance Awards:

Paul Seifriend on April 9, 2014 completed an out and return flight of 812.77 miles.
Brian Collins on April 23, 2014 flew a 890.37 miles distance up to three turn point task.
James Payne flew a triangle distance of 286.63 miles on April 22, 2014.

Barringer Trophy: This trophy is awarded for making the longest straight line distance soaring flight during the year not at a national soaring championship. For their flight in a Shempp-Hirth Duo Discus on May 4, 2014, from Minden, Nevada to Casper/Natrona County International Airport, Wyoming, a distance of 879.2 statute miles Gordon Boettger and Hugh Bennett are the winners of this year's Barringer Trophy.

The Henry Combs Perpetual Trophy: Awarded annually to the pilot or pilots completing the greatest number of straight out diamond distance flights in each of the three SSA contest zones during the previous year. Ramy Yanetz for the West Zone and Tony Condon in the Central Zone.

Certificates of Appreciation:

Ron Bellamy was nominated from Region 8 for his efforts to advance soaring in the Pacific Northwest. From Region 11 Robert Stone was nominated for his significant contributions to soaring in the Reno, Nevada area. Howard Banks for his involvement in supporting the publication of Soaring magazine.

The Schweizer Award: The Paul Schweizer Lifetime Service Award recognizes those SSA members who have made an exceptional, continuing contribution to fostering and promoting soaring over a period of at least three decades. This award was established in 1993 by the Directors of The Soaring Society of America. Hank Nixon received his award during the Snowbird Meet recently in Elmira.

Hall of Fame: John W. Glendening (Dr. Jack) was voted into the Hall of Fame. He will receive this award during the Hall of Fame banquet which will be held in May in Elmira.

Exceptional Achievement Award: Presented to recognize those whose service to the SSA has been of utmost value to the Soaring Society. Richard Kellerman for his accomplishments as a skilled contest weatherman and in leading the development of quality navigation instruments.

Ralph Kolstad Scholarship Award: Christopher Zaboji. Chris soloed the first time in July 2011 in an ASK-21 and soon achieved his “B” and “C” badges. On his 16th birthday, he passed the private glider check ride, and soloed a Cessna 172. He then moved up to the club’s Open Cirrus. He also flew a friend’s LS-3. Chris has started his cross-country training and working on further badges. He is building his glider and power hours continually. Since his scholarship application, he has completed his private power license. Recently there was an article about him in AOPA magazine.

His involvement in support of soaring and other activities is extensive. He is active in a local Boy Scout troop where he has moved up into more and more leadership positions. He organized a talent show that raised a significant amount of money for a local charity, organized a 20 mile bike ride for his troop and organized his troop to volunteer for the local triathlon. He is working toward his Eagle Scout. Chris is a member of, organized fundraisers for, and has made presentations for the prisoner of war/missing in action club. He is Vice President of Future Business Leaders of American and has won several awards for his activities.

He has been the soaring ambassador for many events, including “Be a pilot day” at the Smithsonian Udvar-Hazy in 2013, 2013 and 2014. He has also been a speaker many times since 2011 at the Front Royal airshow. Congratulations to Christopher.

Warren E. Eaton Memorial Trophy:

Stephen A. Northcraft. This is our highest honor to bestow.

This award is presented in grateful recognition of his more than 23 years of service to the SSA and to the soaring community. Steve has been an SSA Regional Director (Region 8) since 1991. He has been a Director of the Soaring Safety Foundation and has served on numerous other volunteer committees, including: Naming and Memorials Committee, Nominating Committee, Technical Committee, Representation Committee and the Government Liaison Committee. It is Steve’s continuous service on the SSA Government Liaison Committee, however, that has earned Steve the Eaton Award this year. As either a member or Chairman of the Committee for more than 23 years, Steve has either personally handled or directed the work of other SSA volunteers in many of the most important regulatory issues facing the sport of soaring. Steve’s ongoing efforts to maintain communications with the FAA, to insure that

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the voice of the soaring community is heard in regulatory issues, and to assist SSA members with regulatory concerns is in the finest traditions of the SSA. The SSA is proud to recognize his outstanding service through the presentation of this award. Our heartfelt congratulations to Stephen.