

SSA Youth Committee

Report for the Fall 2015 SSA Board of Directors Meeting

Purpose: The SSA Youth Committee exists to: Recruit, organize and recognize youth in the US at all levels of the sport.

General Objectives:

Promote youth programs and opportunities

Assist individuals

Assist club programs

Review, revise and update web site content

2015 Activity:

Scholarships:

2015 Cadet Scholarship was awarded to Julie Riddle

2015 Bultman Scholarships were awarded to Joel Moriarty and Lee Slinger

2015 Kolstad Applications should be arriving soon. Decision in the Fall for presentation at the SSA Convention

Badges:

I have not been notified of any Youth Badge achievements this summer. I suspect it was a lack of notification and not a lack of achievement by Youth pilots.

Records:

Same as Badges.

Contests:

The SSA once again offered a rebate to young pilots this season, refunding 90% of contest costs to qualified youth pilots and removing the single contest restriction. Several pilots took advantage of this and there was a lot of youth activity at SSA Regional and National contests. The Contest Committee plans to continue this successful program. The 1-26 Association plans to supplement the rebate for young pilots at the 2016 Championships to cover all contest costs.

Boyd Willat, Daniel Sazhin, and JP Stewart are our Junior Team for the upcoming Junior World Championships in Narromine. They all flew Club Class Nationals in Hobbs

this year. Boyd placed third, on the podium with Garret Willat and Sean Franke, both former Junior Team members.

Once again, most of the Youth contest activity was possible due to very generous glider loans, either from clubs or private owners. For future development of youth competition soaring, it is critical that our young pilots have access to gliders.

Mihai at Seminole Lake expressed interest this Spring about hosting a Junior training camp this Summer and a Junior-only contest in 2016. I am unsure what, if any, plans have been made for a Junior contest in 2016.

Cadet Introductory Membership:

My effort this year continues to focus on the Cadet Introductory Membership. This is primarily aimed at leveraging our partnerships with AMA and CAP to generate more SSA members. Each new member receives a personal welcome letter from me outlining the benefits of their membership. With my participation in the 13.5 Meter World Championships, I've fallen behind on this.

The cornerstone of the Cadet Intro Membership was a monthly Youth oriented newsletter. Producing the monthly newsletter has proven to be a greater challenge than we initially expected. Frank Whiteley took over editing last spring but production has halted. We need to find another volunteer to take this over.

CAP Liaison Still Needed:

One outstanding need for the committee is a new Liaison with the Civil Air Patrol. Suggestions are welcome. The CAP is an important partner to the SSA from a Youth perspective.

Relief Requested:

I have enjoyed my time as Chair of the Youth Committee but feel that someone else out there may be more able to be more effective in my position. I'd be happy to step aside if a replacement is found.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Condon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tony Condon
Chair, SSA Youth Committee