

SSA Youth Committee

Report for the Spring 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

2014/15 Activity:

Scholarships:

2014 Cadet Scholarships were awarded to Austin Bowers, Erik Petshauer, Honerette Remling, and Jeremiah Medina

2014 Kolstad was awarded to Chris Zaboji

Badges:

The Kolstad Century Award program has been expanded to include a Century V and X badges to recognize 500 km and 1000 km flights by pilots under 25.

Chris Zaboji earned his Silver Distance and Duration and Century I Award

Rachel Conklin, 2011 Kolstad Awardee, earned Silver Altitude and Distance

Daniel Sazhin, 2013 Kolstad Awardee, earned Gold Altitude finishing his Gold Badge

JP Stewart, 2014 Kolstad Awardee, earned Gold Altitude finishing his Gold Badge

Matt Gonitzke earned his Silver Badge

Air Force Academy Cadets earned the following at Moriarty:

Curtis Larkey, Silver Altitude

Sarah Sill, Silver Altitude and Silver Distance

Benjamin Pagano, All Silver legs-Silver Badge 6959

Kristian Knuths, Silver Altitude and Silver Distance

Alexander Fotheringham, Silver and Gold Altitude

Records:

Robert Tarnoczy earned several New York Youth Multiplace Records at Harris Hill

JP Stewart claimed several Virginia Records for his Gold Altitude flight

Contests:

The SSA once again offered a rebate to young pilots this season, refunding 90% of contest costs to qualified youth pilots. Several pilots took advantage of this and there was a lot of youth activity at SSA Regional and National contests.

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. I believe this is best organized at the local level, but needs to be encouraged by the SSA and the Youth Committee.

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.

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.

Respectfully,



Tony Condon
Chair, SSA Youth Committee