

2015 Fall Board of Directors' Meeting
Chairman's Report
RICHARD M. MALEADY

It's hard to believe that my three year tenure as Chairman of the SSA is nearing its end. Those years have been quite a learning experience and I can only hope that my time as Chairman has benefited the organization in a positive manner. I will continue to contribute my time and efforts to the SSA as needed.

While we continue to see a gradual decline in our membership, as have most air sport organizations, we continue to try and find ways to attract new members, as well as maintaining our current members. In the Badge and Record Committee report by Rollin Hasness you will see that a lot of effort has gone into simplifying the process of applying for badges and records. They will be posting the new FAI Sporting Code information on our website October 1st. In addition, pilots will soon have the ability to file claims electronically. This is a great step forward in encouraging pilots to fly for badges and records and I commend Rollin and all the committee members for their efforts.

Late last year I created two ad hoc committees to research and address some perceived issues related to Sanction Fees and Trophies/Awards. Little did I know at the time that we would be looking into documents going back to the early 90's.

The committee looking into the allocation of Sanction Fees has engaged in some spirited debate, and is scheduled to get together after the ExComm meeting on Friday afternoon. It is expected that an amicable agreement will be reached which reconciles both the needs of the SSA, as well as the expectations of the Competition pilots who actually pay those fees.

The ad hoc committee looking into Trophies/Awards were addressing some concerns expressed by members of the competition community. In 2012 there Board discussions regarding the "retirement" of trophies. It was discussed that all our trophies be sent to the NSM for maintenance and repairs, updating of plaques and display. The winners of those trophies were to receive an appropriate plaque or certificate recognizing their achievements. Unfortunately this was not done in any consistent manner.

The ad hoc committee made the decision earlier this year to have the actual trophies on display at the appropriate venues. Photos of the winners, with the trophies, were taken and will be published in Soaring. The trophies were then returned, either to the SSA office or to the NSM for safekeeping.

With Karl Striedeck's retirement from the Trophy Committee, I decided to disband the ad hoc committee and appoint those members to the Trophy Committee. John Godfrey as Rules Committee Chair will head this committee. Members will include Jay McDaniel as the Awards Committee Chair, Peter Smith as the Director of the NSM, Sarah Arnold and myself. When Peter retires from the NSM in July, the new Director will be asked to join this group.

I fully expect that the Trophy Committee will have a number of recommendations to present to the Board at its Spring Meeting.

As you all know, the SSA was made aware of an ANPRM (Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) concerning eliminating the exemption for transponders in gliders. Stephen Northcraft took on the responsibility of drafting a response to the FAA, based upon the direction of the ExComm. Phil Umphres worked with Stephen to edit the draft. The document sent to the FAA was extremely professional and exceptionally well written. Both Stephen and Phil are to be commended for all the time and effort that they put into this response. The SSA is fortunate to have members with this level of skill and expertise who are willing to work to support our organization.

It may be a lengthy time period before the FAA comes out with an NPRM. But when, or if, they do, I sincerely hope we can count on Stephen and Phil again.

At the Spring 2015 Board meeting, I welcomed our new editor for Soaring Magazine, Eric Bick. Since taking over the reins as Editor in March of this year, he has made great strides in improving the look and content of Soaring Magazine. He has been working closely with the Editorial Advisory Committee and has just successfully completed his first calendar for the SSA. I was able to preview the calendar and can honestly say that I was quite impressed. The calendar has gone to the printers and will be available by the end of next month.

Another event I am really looking forward to is the 2016 Convention in Greenville, SC. I believe the decision to have the local club more involved in the organization of the convention, and to benefit from this participation, will result in one of our best events yet.

I have enjoyed my tenure as Chairman for the last three years and I thank you for giving me that opportunity. A number of people provided a tremendous amount of support and help. I'd particularly like to thank Phil for all his efforts in simplifying our financial information, and making it more transparent. John Godfrey, Chair of the Foundation, as well as the Rules Committee, has been an invaluable sounding board.

And, of course, without the knowledge, cooperation and efforts of Denise Layton, our COO, very little could have been accomplished.

Sincerely,

Richard Maleady
Chairman SSA

