

# Nominations for SSA Service Awards for 2015

## The Spratt Award

Rick Walters - Selected by the Spratt Award Committee

## SSA Exceptional Achievement Awards

None

## SSA Exceptional Service Awards

**Penn Smith** - For his years of leadership and guidance of the SSA Foundation. Mr. Smith's stewardship of the SSA Foundation has resulted in a professionally managed, low overhead, consolidated investment portfolio of today over \$3 million dollars that is governed consistent with best practices of foundation management. In addition, his unselfish assistance in guiding and assisting local soaring organizations in achieving 501(c)(3) public charity status has advanced the interests of the soaring community.

By John Godfrey

**Steve Northcraft** - I nominate Steve Northcraft for the SSA Exceptional Service award for his work in drafting SSA's response to the FAA Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ANPRM) regarding the proposed abrogation of the glider transponder exemption. Steve's unique expertise, historical knowledge and writing ability as the primary drafter of SSA's response was of the utmost value to SSA and to the gliding community in the United States and resulted in a powerful argument against any changes to the existing rules. By Phil Umphres

**Phil Umphres** - I hereby nominate Phil Umphres to receive the SSA's Exceptional Service Award for his work in helping to draft a response to the FAA Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ANPRM). This is a serious issue concerning the glider community and Phil's help in drafting the response on behalf of SSA was of the utmost importance. His expertise as a long time SSA Director as well as his law background, was a valuable asset to the committee working on this matter. By Richard Maleady

**John Godfrey** - John Godfrey exemplifies the type of service to the SSA that keeps our organization alive. John is currently Chairman of the SSA Foundation, as well as Chairman of the Contest Rules Committee.

He has served SSA contest pilots many times as Competition Director and as Scorer and has developed a system for remotely scoring contests. He served as a Scorer at the 2012 Uvalde World Gliding Championships and at the 2015 Pan American Gliding Championships. He has also served as the US Team Captain at international competitions. Thank you John for all you have done, and continue to do, for the SSA. By Ken Sorenson

## SSS Certificate of Appreciation

Region 1: **Daryl Smith** - Daryl joined Connecticut Soaring Association (CSA) in 2007. He began gliding in Washington state where he owned a Schweitzer 2-22 and was quite surprised to learn of a club in Connecticut. At the time he joined, CSA had only 5 members and the future was looking bleak since the club didn't even have an instructor at that time. Daryl was assigned the responsibility of CSA Chief Flight Instructor. He always joked how he was "interim" Chief Flight instructor but has continued on for all these year leading and managing our training program. He was a key player in developing a training program for CSA including a training syllabus, something we never had. Daryl established a Saturday morning ground school for the membership which takes place while remaining club members prepare gliders for the day. He has provided a disciplined approach to our training that has proved successful for our students. In 2014, we trained six new glider pilots and one glider instructor, something not achieved in over a two decades with the club. Daryl was the key person in making this happen including locating the FAA examiner that didn't exist in Connecticut. They ended up aero-towing our glider to Sterling, MA so the examiner could meet up there from MA and perform the exams. Not an easy thing to do but Daryl coordinated the whole event.

CSA has quite a few new students including some younger folks. This is attributed to all of Daryl's hard work. He's also helped CSA get involved with CAP flights including joining CAP so he could perform some of the flights. Daryl is also a balloon pilot, a powered pilot instructor, checks out our new tow pilots in his personal Citabria, packs parachutes and oversees the field operation safety requirements. He's the guy that keeps everyone honest with safety requirements and provides the annual safety brief to the organization at the spring meeting. The club never had anything like this before.

Daryl is also very involved in the week-long instructor training camp held in the fall at Springfield, Vermont. Daryl coordinates the delivery of our 2-33 to Vermont and participates in the ground and flight training. Last year we added one new instructor to our roster. This year CSA has two of their members attending the training camp, hoping to become instructors.

Daryl also serves on the Board for CSA and provides CSA with a teleconference service free of charge that is use on a monthly basis. This has allowed CSA to hold monthly Board meetings, something the organization never even did previously. This has been so important to the club as it allows the Board to get so much of the background business done over the phone without having to meet somewhere.

CSA has grown from 5 members to now over 40 members with an active flight training program. Much of the success of growth is based on Daryl Smith's relentless work and he continues to serve the organization above and beyond club expectations.

Ann Lafford

Director, Region 1

Region 10: **Tony Smolder** - I would like to nominate Tony Smolder for the 2015 Region 10 Certificate of Appreciation for his long-term efforts in promoting the SSA and the sport of soaring by developing new cross-country and racing pilots. At the Soaring Club of Houston, Tony has established an outstanding cross-county training program as well as a weekend "race days" program. One of the key methods of retaining SSA members and keeping new glider pilots interested in soaring once they have obtained their glider rating or pilot certificate is to develop their interest in cross-country soaring. With his unbounded enthusiasm for soaring, Tony has organized frequent social activities, pilot briefings, training sessions, races, and OLC flight postings in order to share and grow our great sport. Tony has made similar contributions at clubs in Arizona and Pennsylvania. Region 10 is the most recent beneficiary of his energies and hopes to make that claim permanent.

Steve Leonard

Director, SSA Region 10

Region 11: **Jim Wallis** - I hereby nominate Jim Wallis for the Region 11 SSA Certificate of Appreciation. Jim has been a strong voice on the Board of Directors of the Pacific Soaring Council (PASCO) for over 5 years now and has worked hard on nearly every project that PASCO has sponsored. Whether it was helping to raise money for a glider aerobatic performance at Oshkosh, making sure a deserving new glider pilot got the PASCO scholarship he deserved, or supporting PASCO's initiative to support cross country soaring at the mid-skill level in the 2015 season, Jim has participated fully and with great insights. Now that he is the PASCO President his level-headed approach to each task keeps PASCO running well and with a good reputation.

Jay McDaniel

Director, SSA Region 11