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Region 6 Report
by Chris Schrader, SSA Director Region 6

Overall, much of Region 6 appears to be healthy and growing ever so slightly but continues to struggle with attrition due to pilots aging out of the sport. The key to retaining them I believe is to keep them engaged even if they're no longer flying as PIC. Having said that, it appears many clubs are making improvements to their fleet and/or trying to promote themselves via the internet, social media (Facebook in particular), and updated websites. Here are a few examples (along with some other tidbits about said clubs):

Central Indiana Soaring Society acquired a new ASK-21 in 2017; the club posts regularly on their FB page; maintains a website that communicates essential information to visitors. The club seems to be experiencing an influx of new members and student pilots.

Caesar Creek Soaring Club posts regularly on their FB page and commissioned a "timeless" video in 2014 that was produced by Kevin Ford (who has since worked for GoPro and NBC Universal Sports), which they recently recirculated on their FB page promoting youth soaring and their annual youth camp titled Youth Education Week. CCSC also engages in paid advertising on FB to solicit ride business and recruit new members. Caesar Creek Soaring Club is hosting the 2018 1-26 Nationals (May 23-30, 2018).

Adrian Soaring Club updated its website in 2017 and has been more active on FB as of late. Adrian needs additional tow pilots and CFI-G, but just this year promoted a young Brandon Schultz (a 2014 recipient of the Bultman Award), to tow pilot, who shares in about ½ the club's aerotows for the year (I presume he will obtain a CFG rating before too long).

Kendalville Soaring Club utilizes FB as its sole business card to the world (it does not have a website). I visited KSC last spring. The club is situated in a rural farm-town and has a few active glider pilots but its growth seems to be hindered by the fact it's so small. I suggested they try to do more outreach in the community and find ways to invite the public to experience gliding at their hometown airport.

Northwest Soaring Club in Cadillac, MI, maintains a website and was featured in their local news for offering free Glider Ground School to the public. I am eager to hear how well these efforts worked in recruiting new member student pilots.

Louisville Soaring Club has both a website and FB page. The club relocated to a site in southern Indiana and has been promoting cross-country soaring as of late.

R6N in Adrian, Michigan

I have some good news to report. Adrian Soaring Club and Sandhill Soaring Club have teamed up with the SSA's Junior/Youth Committee to host the 2018 U.S. Junior Camp Contest in Adrian, Michigan; the dates are June 30 – July 7, 2018 (for more info about the 2017 event in Elmira, NY, see the November 2017 issue of Soaring magazine). Pilots are encouraged to register ASAP (see: **R6N.org**). Working together, the two clubs are reviving a once bustling contest site that was home to several National Championships and soaring legends A.J. Smith, Dick Schreder, Eric Mozer. Myself and about four other current and former contest pilots initiated the project in the hopes of promoting cross-country soaring and sailplane racing in the Midwest. Tony Condon will be the Contest Director and we've designed the contest to be a "rookie camp" for beginners flying in Sports Class. We're also holding a Club Class contest for those looking to fly a "warm-up" event prior to the Club Class Nationals in Dansville, NY. We think combining the three elements of this contest will result in a highly supportive and informative contest environment for beginners.