



The past few months have been quite busy. Although an SSA member for the last 25 years, my role as Chairman over the last two years has been quite a learning experience. I sincerely thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve for another year and I am looking forward to the challenges ahead.

➤ I am thankful for the input and expertise of the many volunteers who spend so much of their time making the SSA work. In particular, I would like to thank our Treasurer, Phil Umphres as well as our COO, Denise Layton for the many hours they spend every day attending to the affairs of the SSA.

I would also like to thank John Godfrey, Chairman of the SSA Foundation, and the Contest Rules Committee for everything he has done to promote our organization. As you will see in John's report, the Foundation is looking for a new Treasurer who will replace Pete Brown at the end of this year. Pete has been a tremendous asset to the Foundation as he and the other Trustees have managed our investments. He will be difficult to replace, but if you know of any qualified candidates, please contact John Godfrey.

Another individual who continues to serve the SSA is Pat Costello. Pat has worked with the SSA for a number of years and is continually looking for ways to improve the SSA Group Insurance Program. Most recently Pat was able to obtain glider club and commercial operator negligent instruction and the CFI professional liability enhancement to the Group Insurance Plan. Additionally Pat was able to obtain increased medical payment limits for the SSA Plan.

➤ At the ExComm meeting in December it was decided that we needed to form two ad hoc Committees:

1. The Sanction Fees Committee will be addressing the way sanction fees are accounted for, as well as the disposition of the accrued sanction fees. The method determined by the Board in 2008 does not seem to be accomplishing it's intended goal. I am Chair of this Committee, and Ken Sorenson, John Good, Phil Umphres and John Godfrey have agreed to serve. The Committee will make its recommendations to the full Board at the September 2015 meeting.

2. The Trophy/Awards Committee will be addressing a number of issues that have arisen over the last few years. It appears as if a significant number of the competition community are not satisfied with the decision that was made to keep all the Trophies at the Museum. While a true "travelling" trophy may not be in the SSA's best interest, I believe we need to address the issue of what the recipient of an award actually receives. We have been inconsistent in this practice over the last few years. We also need to address the creation of a new Club Class trophy. In addition, the committee needs to look at how we present awards. Since the Board decided to hold a Convention every two years, rather than yearly, the presentation of awards in off years has presented some difficulties. Serving on that Committee will be John Godfrey, Karl Striedeck, Sarah Arnold, Jay McDaniel, Peter Smith and myself. The committee will elect its Chairperson.



- A new Nominating Committee has been appointed. John Godfrey has agreed to chair the Committee. Tony Condon and Stephen Northcraft have agreed to serve, and I will be asking one additional member to serve.
- Work is underway on the 2016 SSA Convention to be held here in Greenville next February. The ExComm will be presenting to you, for your approval, a revised Convention contract which will be entered into by the SSA and Carolina Soaring Association. Our hope is that this contract will help incentivize the local club to expend additional efforts to increase Convention attendance. The contract is revenue neutral for the SSA if our revenue does not exceed the average for the last two years. Denise Layton and Scott Fletcher will be working closely over the next 12 months to ensure a very successful event. There are two reports from Scott Fletcher concerning the Convention included as part of this report.
- The 1st FAI Pan American Gliding Championships will be held in Benton, TN at the Chilhowee Gliderport. Sarah Arnold of Chilhowee Gliderport is hosting the Competition which begins April 5, 2015 and ends April 18, 2015. Sarah's most recent update shows that preparations are well underway and proceeding according to plan. There are 29 participants divided between the Handicapped Class and the 15-Meter Class. If you would like more information on this event, or would like to attend, please visit the Competition website at <http://pagc.chilhowee.com>. We wish Sarah, and all the people involved in putting on this event, all the best.
- Lastly I would like to welcome Frederic "Eric" Bick as the new editor of *Soaring Magazine*. Eric is recently retired from the aerospace industry where he held positions in program and project management. He ran operations as a senior manager to the vice president level. Upon taking the job as editor of *Soaring*, one of his sons remarked, "Pop, you can't even hold down retirement." Becoming editor of *Soaring* meets one of his goals of continuing to contribute to the sport of soaring. Eric previously wrote five articles for the magazine related to a novice flying in his first contest. His aerospace career included research and development, new business development, contributing to technical publications and writing and publishing periodic status reports. On sabbatical from his aerospace career he spent 1½ years as editor and publisher of *Technologies Tomorrow*, a bimonthly technical publication. He gained an international readership, and his editorials were cited by aerospace industry professionals. He and his wife Danielle recently relocated to Boulder, CO from Southern California. He is a member of the Soaring Society of Boulder and a sustaining member of Cypress Soaring, Inc.
- I would like to thank Chuck Coyne, our previous editor, for his many years of excellent service, and wish him all the best in his new venture. I would also like to thank Chuck, as well as Denise Layton and Jay Campbell for all the efforts they put into the hiring of our new editor.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Maleady
Chairman, SSA