WINTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MEETING

February 27 and 28, 1998

SOARING SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Portland, Oregon

Chairman Ed Byars called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Directors and Officers present were: Ed Byars, Kerry Huffstutler, Hannes Linke, Tim McAllister, Bob Nady, Bob Greenblatt, Ron Clarke, Bill Ivans, Charlie Spratt, Billy Singleton, Gene Hammond, Tim Welles, John Good, Jim Payne, John Murray, Doug Jacobs, Stephen Northcraft, Sharon Smith, Bob Ball, Brian Utley, Karol Hines, Sterling Starr, Jim Short, Bill Sproull and John Campbell. Also attending was Larry Sanderson, President. [Note: the roll shows 22 voting directors present. All motions requiring a majority to pass will thus need 12 affirmative votes according to SSA By-laws.]

Directors and Officers absent were: Chip Bearden, Frank Reid, Don Engen and David Volkman. Byars noted that Reid and Engen would be joining the meeting the next day as their work commitments prevented them attending on the first day.

Byars introduced new directors Kerry Huffstutler, Brian Utley, Karol Hines, Jim Payne, Billy Singleton and John Murray.

Sanderson introduced Phil Bachman, Executive Director of the USHGA.

Bachman addressed the Board briefly. He mentioned a recent lawsuit involving USHGA and the applicability of pilot waivers for flight operations. He said that the outcome of this suit, which was favorable to USHGA, was important for all air sport groups. Bachman then introduced G.W. Meadows who is the current President of USHGA. Meadows thanked the SSA directors for their invitation to Portland and commented positively on the nature of the working relationship between SSA and USHGA.

Sanderson then introduced Steve Brown, President of the NAA. Brown thanked the directors for the opportunity to be introduced and mentioned his perception that the air sport groups need to work closer together to raise the public profile of air sport activities.
Minutes of the Fall Board Meeting, Washington, DC

Utley moved for approval of the Minutes of the Fall Meeting held in Washington, DC.

Greenblatt noted that his name was missing from the list of attendees and asked that this be noted. Nady seconded the motion as amended and it passed unanimously.

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, Chicago, Illinois

Short moved for approval of the Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting that was held in Chicago in January 1998. Clarke seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Strategic Update

Sanderson reviewed the current status of key indicators identified in the Strategic Plan. He specifically called attention to the slight growth trend in SSA membership levels, the positive financial condition of the SSA, the lack of growth in participation in SSA events (with the exception of the convention, which is growing in attendance) and the current level of reported accidents.

Following the Strategic Update, Sanderson asked for permission to introduce two additional guests at the meeting. Sanderson then introduced Mike Kiesov of the FAA's Small Airplane Directorate in Kansas City. Kiesov made brief remarks concerning the status of current airworthiness issues as well as the status of the certification process related to sailplanes. Kiesov then introduced Helmut Fendt who is the current Chairman of the JAR-22 Sailplane and Powered Sailplane Study Group of JAA. Fendt, from the LBA in Germany, thanked the directors for their invitation to speak at the convention. He also commented positively on the nature of the working relationship between LBA, FAA and SSA.

Eagle sub-committee - Sproull

Sproull reminded the directors of the previous discussion and vote in Washington, DC concerning plans to form the SSA Foundation. He said that the working group had prepared specific recommendations for consideration at this meeting. Sproull said that the group would review the basic proposal and then ask for board action at this meeting.
Sproull asked Utley to outline the general concept. Utley said that the desire is to create the SSA Foundation, which will be the vehicle for conducting resource development for the SSA. Utley said that the working group is asking for approval to incorporate the SSA Foundation. He said that an additional proposal to adjust the SSA By-laws will be presented to the directors at the next meeting. He then introduced SSA counsel Jim Maddox who was responsible for creating the legal framework for the Foundation.

Maddox offered some general comments about the proposed legal structure. In response to a question from S. Smith, Maddox said that the term 'restricted', when applied to funds, indicated that the funds are limited to the use intended by the donor. He said that the corpus of the funds remains in an endowment subject to management in accordance with Foundation policy and requirements.

S. Smith then moved that the Board accept the Articles of Incorporation for the SSA Foundation (copy attached to these Minutes) and that the directors accept the list of organizing trustees as set forth in the documents. The motion was seconded by Hammond and after brief discussion it passed unanimously.

Utley thanked the directors for their support of the concept and expressed his appreciation to the members of the organizing committee.

Membership Growth sub-committee - Wander

Bob Wander gave a brief report to the Board concerning the status of various programs to promote growth of SSA membership. He said that the sub-committee had formed a new annual award that recognizes the SSA Region with the best rate of membership growth. He called the trophy the "Billy Bob" and said that the first recipient of the award was Region 10 for the year 1997.

Chairman's Report - Byars

Byars said that he had nothing to add to his report as presented in the Briefing Book.

Administrative committee - Sproull
Sproull reported that the chairmanship of this committee has been passed on to Jim Short. He said that he would be working with Short to effect a smooth transition.

Planning sub-committee - Starr

Starr reported that the Executive Committee is taking on many of the planning responsibilities. He said that this step is part of the continued evolution of the planning process from an ad hoc system to creating better integration of the planning and management functions.

Starr asked for acceptance of the updated Strategic Plan. Huffstutler moved that the Board accept the revised Plan. Nady seconded the motion.

Hammond complimented the members of the Executive Committee on their commitment to an increasing level of participation in the planning and management process. Byars noted that each Vice Chair of the Executive Committee along with the Chairman and the President have been assigned specific areas of responsibility within the Plan. The purpose of such assignments is to facilitate continued implementation of various programs.

Campbell suggested that future versions of the Plan include a reference to 'welcoming younger generations' of pilots as part of the Mission Statement.

After further discussion the motion to approve the Plan passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Jacobs

Jacobs said that he had nothing to add to his report. He noted that each director has received a copy of the Review prepared by SSA's accounting firm of Johnson, Miller & Co. Jacobs did comment positively on SSA's method of budget and financial control. He said that the Society's finances are being well managed.

Trustee's Report - Starr

Starr said that he had nothing specific to add to his report as presented in the Briefing Book.
Byars asked for clarification of the investment philosophy currently being followed by the Trustees. Starr explained that the Trustees are following a plan to create a diversified investment portfolio that includes a mix of approximately 60% equities, 30% fixed income instruments and 10% cash. Utley mentioned that in the future it is anticipated that the SSA Foundation will have significant responsibility for creating the investment program.

President's Report - Sanderson

Sanderson said that he had nothing to add to the report as presented in the Briefing Book.

Murray asked for clarification of Sanderson's comments concerning growth of the SSA. Specifically, Murray was curious if the term growth applied to "growth of the sport" or "growth of SSA." Sanderson said that his references are to growth of the SSA as an organization.

World Soaring Championship Bid Proposals

The directors then heard proposals from representatives of the Seattle Glider Council in Washington and the National Soaring Foundation in New Mexico. Each group presented a proposal in response to an RFP sent by the SSA asking for interested sites to bid on hosting the World Soaring Championships in 2003.

After a flip of a coin to determine who presented first, Steve Northcraft presented the proposal for the Seattle Glider Council. The Council proposed to host the WSC2003 event in Ephrata, Washington. Joanne Dietert then presented a proposal from the National Soaring Foundation to host the event in Hobbs, New Mexico.

Both groups responded to questions from the directors and then Chairman Byars announced that the actual vote selecting a proposal would be held the next day.

Government Liaison committee - Short

Short reported that Sharon Smith has been heading an effort to amend the proposal to create a new MOA structure in West Texas and Eastern New Mexico. S. Smith said that the SSA has been able to negotiate a higher "floor" of the proposed MOA's and that the SSA, FAA and USAF are working together to implement operational agreements concerning the new airspace.
Good expressed concern that the FAA is not providing sufficient notice of these kinds of proposed changes in military operating airspace. Short agreed that the system is difficult and that the SSA depends, in many instances, on local groups and individuals finding the notices buried in local newspapers. Short said that the SSA will work to establish a more consistent system for locating these proposals when they occur.

Bemald Smith reported on the plan by FAI to suggest an environmental policy for air sport groups. He explained that the policy statement is suggested as a pro-active response to anticipated actions by environmental groups. The concern, he said, is that these groups will try to control airspace through imposition of environmental regulations that would limit air sport activity. After discussion, Short said that he would establish a special working group to evaluate the FAI proposal and to make recommendations, as appropriate, to the SSA Board.

Soaring Safety Foundation - Singleton

Singleton said that his report is included in the Briefing Book. He said that the only item he had to add was that he would be working with the SSA staff to expand the SSF offerings on the SSA Home Page.

Vice Chair/Services - Linke

Contest committee - Good

Good said that he had nothing specific to add to his report as presented in the Briefing Book.

Site Selection sub-committee - Welles

Welles said that the sub-committee had been working on a proposal to identify a location for the 1999 Open Class Nationals. He reported that the sub-committee is recommending that the directors approve the proposal from Mifflin, PA to host the 1999 event.

Welles moved that the Board approve Mifflin, PA as the site of the 1999 Open Class National contest. Jacobs seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Rules sub-committee - Striedieck (absent)
Good asked for approval of the proposed rule changes for 1998. Before making the motion, he clarified that the proposal is to require Flight Recorders in the Open Class beginning in 1998. Any reference to changes for 1999 will not be the subject of this proposal. He said that the vote at this meeting would be only for rules affecting 1998 and that changes for future years will be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

Good moved for approval of the Contest Rules as presented for 1998. The motion was seconded by Murray.

Good commented that Rule 6.6.1 would be suspended in 1998 for the Open Class if the current proposals are accepted. After further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Given the lateness of the morning, Byars said that he would take some agenda items out of order so that they would not take time from important discussion during the next session of the meeting.

Date and Location of Next Board Meeting

Hammond moved that the next meeting of the Board of Directors be set for September 12, 1998 in Elmira, New York to coincide with the annual meeting of the Sailplane Development Panel. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Composition of Executive Committee

Jacobs moved that the directors appoint the Chair and Vice Chairs to serve as the Executive Committee until the next scheduled meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded by Good and passed unanimously.

The Board then recessed until February 28, 1998.

The Board reconvened in Executive Session at 8:00 AM on Saturday, February 28, 1998.

At 8:25 AM, the Board reconvened in Open Session.
Directors and Officers present were: Ed Byars, Hannes Linke, Kerry Huffstutler, Tim McAllister, John Campbell, Gene Hammond, Bob Greenblatt, Bob Nady, Bill Ivans, Charlie Spratt, Billy Singleton, Frank Reid, Tim Welles, John Good, Jim Payne, John Murray, Ron Clarke, Stephen Northcraft, Doug Jacobs, Bob Ball, Sharon Smith, Karol Hines, Don Engen, Sterling Starr, Bill Sproull, Brian Utley and Jim Short. Also present was Larry Sanderson, President. [Note: the roll shows 24 voting directors present. All motions requiring a majority to pass will thus need 13 affirmative votes according to SSA By-laws.]

Directors and Officers absent were: David Volkman and Chip Bearden.

International Gliding Commission - Mozer

Mozer reported on various proposals to adjust the structure of international competition. He mentioned the Australian suggestion to add Club Class as a championship category. He also mentioned efforts to limit team flying and other suggestions to create five standing classes with a limit of one pilot per country per class.

Mozer asked for a discussion of the issues so that he might have a sense of the Board when he represented SSA at the upcoming meeting of the IGC in Paris.

Good suggested that the IGC should "digest" the current class structure before adding more classes. Jacobs suggested that the IGC should address the issue of team flying in a more direct manner than simply adjusting the class structure. After further discussion, Mozer said that he understands that the Board is in opposition to team flying and rapid expansion of the class structure. Several directors suggested that their feelings are very strong on this subject.

Jacobs moved that the Board direct Mozer to take a position against team flying in all forms. Linke seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Jacobs then moved that the directors ask Bill Ivans to draft and convey a resolution expressing SSA's gratitude for Peter Ryder's leadership of IGC. The motion was seconded by Clarke and passed unanimously.

FAI Badge and Record sub-committee - Jackie Payne
Good said that Bob Semans has retired from the sub-committee after many years of service. He said that David Cole has been appointed to take Semans’ place and that Jackie Payne is the new Chair of the sub-committee.

US Team sub-committee - M. Huffstutler

Huffstutler said that he had nothing to add to the report already presented. Payne noted that of the pilots already identified only one has chosen to attend the pre-world contest in Germany. Huffstutler and Good said that they are no plans under consideration to make pre-world attendance mandatory.

Technical Committee - Northcraft

Northcraft said that he had nothing to add to his report.

B. Smith said that he had some comments concerning GPS interference. He gave a briefing to the Board on issues arising from his participation on various RTCA committees.

Insurance sub-committee - Volkmann (absent)

Sanderson said that Volkmann had reported no additional information beyond what is presented in the Briefing Book.

Convention sub-committee - Kawal (absent)

Sanderson and Phil Bachman reported on their proposal to hold the year 2000 convention in Southern California. John Walker, representing the Albuquerque Soaring Club, gave comments concerning the club proposal to host the year 2000 event in Albuquerque.

Ball moved to accept the proposal from the Albuquerque Soaring Club to host the convention in 2000. S. Smith seconded the motion.

The directors then engaged in extended debate of the motion. Several offered comments that the SSA should accept the Albuquerque proposal. Others acknowledged that the partnership between
SSA and USHGA is important and that the directors should support the Southern California proposal.

[The directors then held a series of procedural votes concerning amendments and closure of debate. For the sake of clarity and brevity, those specific votes are not noted in these Minutes. A complete record is maintained in permanent SSA files in Hobbs. The end result of the series of votes was that Ball's original motion then came to the floor.]

The vote on Ball's motion was 10 aye, 10 nay and 4 abstentions. The motion failed.

Sanderson then suggested to Byars that the directors take a brief break while Sanderson met with Bachman and the representatives of the Albuquerque Club to see if a compromise proposal could be put forth. Byars agreed and announced a short break. After the break, Sanderson reported that SSA staff, the USHGA and the Albuquerque Soaring Club had agreed to present a joint recommendation to hold the convention in Albuquerque in 2000. Sanderson said that the event will be jointly coordinated by the SSA, the Club and the USHGA. He said that SSA staff and the USHGA staff will present a formal recommendation to hold the 2002 event in Southern California.

Ulley moved that the Board accept the joint proposal to hold the convention in Albuquerque in 2000. The motion was seconded by Hammond and passed unanimously.

Welles moved that the Board approve 2002 in Southern California as a test of SSA staff management of the convention. Engen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Sanderson then reported that the Board is being asked to approve the proposal of the Caesar Creek Soaring Club to host the 2003 convention in Dayton. He said that this is normally very early for such an approval but that the fact that 2003 is the centennial year of the Wright flight makes Dayton a difficult venue unless booked early. Sanderson noted that the USHGA supports this recommendation.

Ball moved that the Board approve the proposal from the Caesar Creek Soaring Club to host the convention in Dayton in 2003. The approval is contingent upon the organizers ability to secure appropriate facilities. Further it is recognized that SSA staff may be more involved in the direct management of the event by the time of the 2003 convention. Short seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
Sanderson then reported that Don Kawal is asking for Board approval of amendments to the SSA Convention Guidelines. These amendments, Sanderson said, are intended to provide a greater level of accountability and staff assistance to organizers.

Hammond moved that the Board accept the amendments as proposed. Short seconded the motion.

S. Smith suggested that the guidelines should include reference to creation of special Youth Day activities at the convention. She asked if this could be considered as an amendment to the motion. Hammond said that he would not accept the amendment and that this is really work that should be done at the committee level before coming to the Board.

The directors voted on Hammond's motion to approve the amendments to the Convention Guidelines and the motion passed unanimously (a copy of the amendments is attached to these minutes).

WSC2003 Bid

Northcraft moved that the Board approve the Seattle Glider Council proposal to host the WSC2003 event in Ephrata, Washington. Jacobs seconded the motion.

The directors then debated the motion. As a point of clarification, Huffstutler asked if the vote would be for presenting the bid only for the 2003 contest. She said that she felt that if the IGC does not accept the proposal for 2003 then the Board should have the option of opening the bidding process again for future contest dates. Byars said that the motion on the table concerned approval of the bid only for the WSC2003 event and that bids for a future contest beyond 2003 would have to be dealt with as a separate issue.

After further discussion the directors voted 17 aye, 3 nay and 4 abstentions. The motion to approve the bid from the Seattle Glider Council passed.

Vice Chair/Growth - Reid

Reid reported on development and distribution of the activity syllabus for State Governors. He encouraged directors to make use of the syllabus in planning activities within their region.
Publicity sub-committee - Rappaport (absent)

Reid noted that the sub-committee has requested $1,500 funding for development of a promotional video. Reid said that he has some concern about how best to coordinate this effort with similar programs. Reid moved that the request for funding be referred to the Executive Committee for disposition. Hammond seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Membership Growth sub-committee - Wander

Wander reported that the top six operators and top six chapters recruited over 300 new SSA members last year. He said that his goal is to get more chapters and operators directly involved in the process of recruiting new members.

Youth sub-committee - Campbell

Campbell reported that the SSA is experiencing an upward trend in youth memberships. He reported that the SSA and CAP are continuing to expand the program of glider encampments. He said that the SSA and CAP had held an organizational meeting during the convention. Campbell said that CAP is reporting that there are 3 applicants for every spot in glide camps. He said that CAP is very enthusiastic about the positive response to the camps.

Vice Chair/Community - Clarke

Publications committee - Clarke

Clarke reported on activities within the publications area including expansion of the SSA Home Page operations on the Internet. He said that the staff is planning to distribute a survey concerning publications issues and asked that directors encourage members within their regions to respond to the survey. Clarke said that he is moving to create an advisory committee for publications.

Electronic Communications sub-committee - Welles

Welles asked Nancy Graham to provide an update concerning the developments on the SSA Home Page. Graham presented several slides depicting layouts and types of information that can
be found on the page. She said that staff is recommending purchase of a dedicated server that can operate the SSA Home Page.

Sanderson reviewed the proposal for the server and said that staff is requesting authorization to expend up to $20,000 for the server and related software. He said that the amount can be capitalized for 3-5 years.

Jacobs moved that the Board authorize a capital expenditure of up to $20,000 to purchase the server and software. S. Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Vice Chair/Community - Short

Awards sub-committee - Spratt

Spratt moved that the Board adopt his proposal to limit the number of award honorees for various SSA awards (agenda item VII-A-1). Huffstutler seconded the motion.

The directors discussed the proposal and after a period of comments Ball moved to table the motion. Spratt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The original motion was tabled.

Spratt reported that plans are being made between the NSM staff and the organizers of the Knoxville convention to hold the 1999 Hall of Fame induction ceremonies at the convention.

Spratt moved that the Board approve his proposal to limit the number of Hall of Fame inductees to one per year (agenda item VII-A-2). Utley seconded the motion.

The directors discussed the proposal. Sanderson said that he understands Spratt's motivation but that he believes that the current limit of two honorees per year is reasonable. Welles suggested that Spratt continue to research the proposal and present a revised plan at the next meeting.

The directors voted 8 aye, 13 nay and 3 abstentions on the motion. The motion failed.

Affiliates and Divisions committee - Reid
Reid confirmed that plans are underway to re-locate the Hall of Fame induction to the Knoxville convention.

Reid then mentioned the VSA request that the Board direct convention organizers to provide discount exhibition space to SSA Affiliates and Divisions. Reid said that he is sympathetic to the request but that the issue be reviewed by the Convention sub-committee before being considered by the Board.

Other business

Byars said that he would appoint a Nominating Committee to review recommendations for officers for 1999. The committee will be asked to report at the next Board meeting.

Byars asked if the special committee assigned to review possible naming of the SSA Headquarters had any report. B. Smith said that the committee has no specific recommendation other than to suggest that the group remain in repose until such time as the naming issue arises. Northcraft moved that committee responsible for suggesting names for the SSA Headquarters operate as a committee in repose until such time as the issue comes before the Board. The motion was seconded by Hammond and passed unanimously.

Utley moved that the Board offer special recognition to John Campbell for his efforts to promote increased youth participation and, especially, for his work to establish the SSA/CAP partnership. The motion was seconded by Short and passed unanimously.

Linke moved that the Board adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Engen and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.