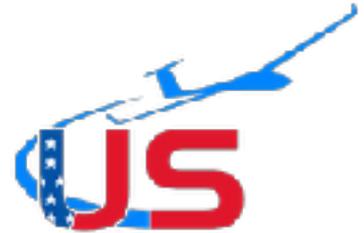


SSA Youth/Junior Committee Report

February 16, 2018

Submitted by: JP Stewart



Committee Updates

New Business

- 1) The committee made a big push to prepare articles for a Junior centric November issue of Soaring magazine covering the US Junior Contest, the Junior Worlds, and the new scholarships. If you haven't seen it - check out the attachment!
- 2) The committee worked with Growth and Retention to prepare a video filmed at the junior camp/contest to promote soaring to the general public and to solicit funding for SSA activities. These videos will premiere at the award banquet (before public dissemination) and are planned to be on a video loop at the SSA booth.
- 3) I Looked into bidding a JWGC for 2021 in the US and reviewed past bid documents. This could be an awesome motivator for the current up and coming junior pilots. From these, the event would have an approx. 100k budget and attract around 80 pilots. I looked into several sites and eventually decided to do an in-depth look at Nephi as it offers some contrast to the typical European soaring of the JWGC. Bruno Vassel and I worked on a plan but found a few key challenges that would make it very difficult in the timeframe. If some of these can be resolved, it would be worth trying again for 2023. Challenges:
 - 1) FLARM is required in the JWGC and the European FLARM cannot be used in the US (different frequency). This would require the organizing committee to find ~80 PowerFLARM units (even for those who bring their own glider). There may be some creative ways to make that work, i.e., buy them and sell at a slight discount to the US soaring population after the contest but it's very labor intensive.
 - 2) The need for a venue that can handle 80 gliders with ~10-12 towplanes and ideally two parallel launch grids. Nephi could handle that many gliders but it would not be able to operate parallel grids and with the high density altitude, Bruno estimated ~1.5-2 hrs for a launch (with 6 towplanes) which would likely be too long (typically 45-60 min for 80 gliders). Additionally, there aren't many gliders in the state and it would be a challenge to find available gliders within reasonable driving distances (5-8 hrs). Additionally, many teams expect camping on-site and the facility wasn't well suited to that.
 - 3) Aside from the FLARM and glider issue, Hobbs could be an excellent site to host a 2023 JWGC with good soaring, a nearby Junior College, camp site, and large runway/ramp but a lot of logistics would be needed to pull this off.
- 4) The scholarships themselves are discussed below, one lesson learned is that the emails were submitted to an email address that could only be accessed by Hobbs and all of the applications or questions had to be forwarded to me. In the future, a shared email account that can be accessed by the whole committee would make it possible in the future to spread the workload out more. Google suites for non-profits is free and would make it possible to have a shared email with an @ssa.org or other sub-domain. It would also allow for a shared

drive to store committee (for YJC and others) documents all while keeping them under the control of the SSA. There are a few other things like a professional youtube account and donation pages available too - Frank is looking into this.

<https://www.google.com/nonprofits/products/apps-for-nonprofits.html>

- 5) Frank is also working on having a donate button available on the junior site to allow us to simplify the the donation process and make it easier for individuals to support activities. The website will soon be updated with the 2017 contest info.

- 6) In cooperation with the Blue Ridge Soaring Society's "Cloud Fund", I'm working on putting together a weeks worth of STEM soaring modules for middle school classes. The Cloud Fund has allocated ~\$15,000 to the effort which will produce videos and lab activities. The vision is that a middle school teacher implements this program to cover physical sciences topics and local SSA members are contacted to bring a glider to classes and give a talk. It may be possible to offer intro flights depending on the circumstance. I did something similar while at a conference in FL and spoke to a class taught by Kaye Ebelt (a glider pilot and SSA member <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2017/05/prweb14293601.htm>) - the students really enjoyed the experience and the days following the talk, we gave intro rides to them at Treasure Coast Soaring. We're working with professional educators to develop this and welcome feedback or introductions to others interested in similar projects, in particular people who can do animations and production work.



Updates based on past "Future Plans"

- 1) The new scholarships will be completed by mid September, announced through soaring magazine in October, selected in Jan-Feb, and awarded at the convention.
 - 1) Even with the short timeframe, we promoted aggressively and had a record number of applicants - 38 total and 36 that ended up being complete and on-time.
 - 2) I held call with the head of AOPA training scholarships to discuss their process and how we might improve ours. They use an online application portal (we could replicate with google forms or other) and have a rubric that assigns points for things like how recently they have had a lesson. The rubric is being drafted, will be reviewed with her for comments and selection will be complete for the convention.
 - 3) A bit of an aside, but we should consider live-streaming the awards banquet. This way, the juniors could watch live as the winners are announced.
 - 4) Since the initial six scholarships, a few donors have come forward to offer a few more for the 2017-2018 cycle. The details of this are still being ironed out and it will be announced when complete.

- 2) The 2017 JR Contest report will be completed and the 2018 event sanction application will be filed and the first advertisements will be released.
 - 1) Complete - except for soaring magazine advertisements.
- 3) We're looking into hosting a series of webinars through the winter that would be targeted to juniors of various levels (solo to XC) as well as an informal get together over a weekend at a ridge site.
 - 1) We were able to host an informal junior meet-up at the wave seminars hosted by Aero Club Albatross with ~8 juniors.
 - 2) The webinars are getting going now thanks to the help of David Lessnick and Mitch Hudson. We've held a few calls to outline the program, lay out initial topics and are working on finding speakers. Know anyone who might be interested? More detail can be found in the XC development committees report on this. I envision these webinars being offered (and an archive made available) as a service of the SSA to it's members.
- 4) The establishment of "Junior Gliding Centers" (<https://members.gliding.co.uk/club-development/jgc-resources/becoming-a-junior-gliding-centre/>)
 - 1) Put on the back burner for other things right now - I'm still interested in comments.

Junior Camp/Contest Updates

The 2018 event is GO for July 2-7 and will be co-hosted with R6N where most of the details are currently posted. The event will be run the same as the previous ones with a two-seat mentored class and single-seat racing class. However, there have been a number of requests for a single-seat camp class for those who have bronze with no silver. I'm planning to see if we can add this before the convention. Additionally, the event has begun to outgrow the intent of the existing junior rebate (90% of tows and registration) and is funded through additional donors, as such I plan to present a budget to board/excom to fund the event outside of the rebate. I expect it will cost about the same, the funding will just be structured differently and the expenses will be more clear and transparent from the beginning.

Recap of the 2017 event from the last report:

The 2017 event at Harris Hill was extremely successful with **24** junior pilots thanks to the support of many volunteers, the Rick Walters Junior Scholarship Fund, and the SSA Contest Committee! I've attached a draft of the soaring article written about the event by CD Tim Welles (and others) in the appendix and hope you'll take a minute to read it. Here are a few highlights:

- 1) A quote from one of the participants that was sent to the whole group:

"This has been one of the best weeks in a long long time and thank you all for being a part of it."
- 2) A quote from the post contest survey:

"The Junior Camp was a phenomenal experience for me. It introduced me to glider competitions and allowed me to learn what competing in a glider cross country race entails. It also gave me the opportunity to meet and get to know other glider pilots my age, who became invaluable friends in just a week. My heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this week possible! "

Page 4

- 3) Of the 15 post contest survey responses:
- How likely are you to recommend this event to a friend?
Ranked 1-10, Average: 9.86
 - Based on this year, how likely are you to attend next summer's camp?
Ranked 1-5, Average: 4.93
 - How much did you enjoy yourself?
Ranked 1-5, Average: 4.93

Future Plans Summary

Between now and the next board meeting, the following items are planned:

- 1) Follow through with current programs (this will take most of the time)
- 2) Begin plan to expand to solo, private, commercial, CFI-G training camps
- 3) Launch first webinars this spring
- 4) The 2018 Junior Camp and Contest will happen in this next period. Registration is open: <http://www.ssa.org/Contests?cid=2420> so please encourage juniors to sign-up. We're also short on mentors so please let me know if there are any possible mentors or gliders (single and two seat) that may be available.

Further out...

- 5) Research plans for establishing junior gliding centers.
- 6) Work on connecting with many juniors who I see in soaring magazine (particularly milestones) but don't seem to be a part of the broader community.
- 7) Looking into 2023 JWGC bid options

Appendix - 2017 Junior Camp/Contest Soaring Article