I have personally reserved the domain www.R6N.org and will continue publishing a website to announce future contests, camps, fun-fly’s, symposiums, etc., that may be held in Michigan or elsewhere throughout Region 6. I intend to speak with John Lubon of Caesar Creek Soaring Club about securing R6S.org to do the same, as traditionally Caesar Creek Soaring Club hosted regional and national level contests. The next most active chapter of the SSA, in terms of contest registration, is Central Indiana Soaring Society, and I will include them as well in conversations about planning future camps and weekend mini-contests.

Northwest Soaring Club, located in Cadillac, Michigan, offered a free Glider Ground School clinic last summer; the story was picked up by a local newspaper, which drove prospective members to their classes. It’s my understanding their efforts resulted in a handful of new memberships. From a Growth & Retention standpoint, I cannot stress the importance of community outreach and inviting local press to visit your club or cover an event such as this. Moreover, a club’s use of social media to promote itself and the SSA’s YouTube Channel to display soaring videos either at a community function or a special event, such as an EAA Fly-in or local airshow (see below), as part of a presentation or a concerted marketing effort to grow your club, may help stave off the effects of member attrition from an aging pilot population. Any net positive in club member activity will surely be helpful to your club’s bottom-line. See: www.youtube.com/c/SoaringSocietyofAmerica

Caesar Creek Soaring Club will be hosting the 2018 Sports Class and Standard Class Nationals – June 20 through July 1, 2019. Register here: https://www.ssa.org/Contests?cid=2429

Sandhill Soaring Club may host an informal XC Camp at Richmond Field (69G), in early July. Details TBD.

Central Ohio Soaring Association has been identified as an active club in Region 6 that does not participate in the SSA’s group insurance program, and therefore they’re not a Chapter of the SSA. I hope to visit COSA this summer and persuade them to reconsider the benefits of SSA membership. In years past COSA used to hold non-sanctioned, friendly weekend soaring contests, which I will inquire about as well.

The SSA was invited to participate in the Toledo Weak Signals “R/C Show” but unfortunately I could not round up enough support from nearby Adrian Soaring Club this year to set-up and run a booth. I expect the SSA will be invited again to have a display, and if I can recruit just a few volunteers from local clubs I will do so again in 2020.

**Airshows in 2019**
- Fort Wayne Airshow – June 8-9
- Thunder over Michigan – August 3-4
- Dayton Airshow – June 22-23
- Red Bull Air Race (Indianapolis) – October 19-20
- Thunder over Louisville – April 13
- Oakland County Airport Open House (Airshow) – August 11

*Please check with your local EAA Chapters as to when they’re hosting a Fly-in or Young Eagle rally; these events are good recruiting opportunities for glider clubs. https://www.eaa.org/eaa/eaa-chapters/find-an-eaa-chapter