This report contains the following sections:

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3. US Jr. Team Returns!
4. US Team Returns From The 3rd Pan American Championship With 3 Medals!
5. 2020 US Woman’s WWGC Team Selected
6. Champagne Cup (Pre-WGC) ~ Revisited
7. The US Soaring Teams: Blog, Facebook Page, and Twitter Updates Continue
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9. Creating Nelson Ittner US Junior Team Trust
10. US Team Financials
11. US Team Committee Focus
1. **Soaring Magazine Articles And Columns Written By US Team Members**

Current and former US Team members continue to share their knowledge and experiences via Soaring Magazine:

**February 2019**
Hybrid Soaring By Garret Willat

**March 2019**
Sealing The Canopy By Garret Willat

**April 2019**
Modeling Gear Shifting By Daniel Sazhin and John Bird
Want To Run a Contest Next Year? By Rich Owen
WGC – The 2018 Hosin Experience By Garret Willat and Mike Robison
Water Ballast Practice By Garret Willat

**June 2019**
Topping the Thermal By Garret Willat
2018 Standard Nationals By Mike Westbrook

**July 2019**
Trying to Climb By Garret Willat

**August 2019**
5 Lessons From Perry By Michael Marshall
Private CheckRide, Task E: Aeromedical Factors By Garret Willat

Additional articles and columns are in the works.
2. 2019 US Team Camps & Seminars ~ Revisited

One of the goals of the US Team is to continually give back to the US soaring community and share our knowledge and experiences during our preparations, training, and racing at FAI WGC contests beyond our social media presence.

The following camps and seminars were successfully completed:

**Soaring with the Champions - Higher, Farther, Faster, Longer! ::** February 2019
Daniel Sazhin was the spark plug who put together this seminar hosted by Aeroclub Albatross in February 2019 for two days at Blairstown, NJ with heavily attendance both days by upwards of 70 people. Presenters included: Hank Nixon, Doug Jacobs, Karl Striedieck, John Good, Mike Opitz, Erik Mann, Robert Cook, and Ron Schwartz.

Videos of presentations available at: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ9-K3pzyoEzIcCfbCSsUnA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ9-K3pzyoEzIcCfbCSsUnA)

**West Coast Jr. Camp & Contest ::** March 22 - 24, 2019
Ben Mayes and Thomas Greenhill and Alex Neigher put together the camp and contest at Williams Soaring Center, Williams, CA supported by Rex and Noelle Mayes (owners of the Williams Soaring Center). With 25 - 28 pilots flying per day in the contest or training in the ASK 21s for the Juniors which had not soloed. The operations were limited to only camp and contest pilots flying early spring soaring. Kathy Fosha came to the contest to get some early season practice and share her experiences at the pre-WWGC in Lake Keepit, Australia. Presenters included: Pete Alexander, Peter Deane, David Greenhill, Rex Mayes, and Walt Rogers.

Photos from the event can be found at: [https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipM7QymeaMO0o9bTdk3YpnQE-mJhotQ_N8Lmh5M5zAMqJhJ4utERM-Txh3NunpFqeQ?key=dkNEcFBFZWo2VkJyFYMzJvNFlylaZhqU2ZaaajViR1ZR](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipM7QymeaMO0o9bTdk3YpnQE-mJhotQ_N8Lmh5M5zAMqJhJ4utERM-Txh3NunpFqeQ?key=dkNEcFBFZWo2VkJyFYMzJvNFlylaZhqU2ZaaajViR1ZR)
3. US Jr. Team Returns!

2019 11th FAI Jr World Gliding Championships – Szeged, Hungary
22 July – 11 August, 2019

The 2019 Jr WGC Team have now all returned. They are now in the process of submitting their expense reports and preparing at least one article for an upcoming issue of Soaring Magazine this fall. The US Team Committee is also collecting feedback from the team to help future teams. During their preparations and contest flying, the pilots and Captain were providing reports and photos via our social medial outlets which are listed below.

The Team:
Club Class: Daniel Sazhin, Noah Reitter, and JP Stewart
Standard Class: Michael Marshall

Team Captain: John Good
Unfortunately, Richard Kellerman had to withdraw as the Assistant Team Captain to stay home and look after his wife; who is recovering from a fall off her horse. Her recovery is going well.

116 Thank You postcards were sent from Szeged. One would think it would not be a problem in buying the stamps for them at the local Post Office, but that was not the case on Contest Day 8 from John Good: “An interesting small adventure this morning involved a trip to the Post Office, to buy stamps for postcards. We undertake to send thanks to all who support our US Soaring Teams, and we’ve had great support this year: the list has 116 names on it. It’s now clear it was naïve to think that a small branch Post Office would have that many – they recommended the main post office, deep in the city. Even here (explained the woman behind the counter) my order was excessive: she could offer about half the requested number; the others could be handled by attaching 3 stamps to
It’s not easy to fit three full-sized stamps onto a postcard while leaving the text and address legible – you must attach them carefully, so they overlap but their denominations remain evident enough to pass the scrutiny of mail inspectors. Perhaps you are one of the lucky ones to whom a 3-stamp postcard is now on its way; if so, thanks for your support.”

**Team Captain’s Summary:**
Overall, we had varied but good soaring throughout the contest with 4 practice days and 11 of 14 contest days (well above average for a contest in eastern Europe). The pilots flying in Club Class were able to rent LS-4s from Glider-Rent BV in the Netherlands, which were well prepared and equipped; they including new Cobra trailers (very desirable at a contest where out landings were both expected, and reasonably common). Michael Marshall rented a private Discus 2A (also from the Netherlands) which required 3 days of prep before heading to the contest.

We rented a house about 10 minutes from the airport which served as the US Team headquarters. It was possible to set up the US Team radio antenna there, high enough to give excellent performance with the US Team radio – good radio comms were possible with pilots on task nearly all the time. Team dynamics were good throughout the contest – all pilots and crews focused well on the mission, contributed their best, and deserve praise for their efforts.

As a result of discussions at the March IGC meeting, the rules regarding the use of Flarm devices changed this season. It is no longer required that competitors register their devices (so that each is associated with a valid contest ID), and pilots are free to set the Do Not Track Me flag. The effect is that many pilots were un-tracked, and some were visible on OGN tracking only with anonymous IDs; in a few cases fake IDs were used (spoofing the valid IDs of other competitors). Though it’s not possible to prove, it was widely believed that some teams had access to tracking data from private ground stations that do not respect the Do Not Track Me flag. Thus, the “level playing field” for tactical tracking information that existed through 2018 is now gone, and it’s likely that some teams have access to information far superior to what others can get.

I have passed along my concerns to Rick Sheppe, the US IGC delegate.

John Good – US Team Captain

US Soaring Teams Blog: [https://ussoaringteams.org/](https://ussoaringteams.org/)
US Team Twitter Feed: [https://twitter.com/SoaringUSA](https://twitter.com/SoaringUSA)
US Team FaceBook Page: [https://www.facebook.com/ussoaringteams/](https://www.facebook.com/ussoaringteams/)
Daniel Sazhin Contest Reports: [https://soaringeconomist.com/category/contest-report/](https://soaringeconomist.com/category/contest-report/)

4. US Team Returns From The 3rd Pan American Championship With 3 Medals!

The 3rd FAI Pan American Gliding Championships are over. At the closing ceremony Team USA was presented the silver medal in the Team Cup which is proudly worn by captain, Colin Mead. Also medaling in the 15M/Standard Class competition are Tim Taylor with a silver and Sarah Arnold with the bronze. Results are here: https://www.soaringspot.com/en_gb/3rd-fai-pan-american-gliding-championship-ontario-muni-2019/results

All pilots and crew expenses were self funded. The pilots split the Captain’s Expenses. Every US pilot who wanted to fly on the team and was willing to work within the FAI Selection Calendar made the team.

The Team:
Club Class: Jason Arnold and Greg Shugg
Handicapped 15m/Standard Class: Tim Taylor, Sarah Arnold, Phil Gaisford, François Pin, Sylvia Grandstaff, Glenn Betzoldt
Team Captain: Colin Mead

Team Captain’s Summary:
We have had a great contest here at Southern Ontario Soaring Association (SOSA). The Canadians were fabulous hosts. The gliderport here is an excellent venue for competitions. There are wide runways with good access for prelaunch preparations (gridding, weighting etc.) There is a very nice club house with good facilities, bathrooms, internet access and meeting area. A very large tent was set up for pilot briefings and catered evening meals.

We had 9 good flying days out of 12. Flying has been challenging. Local sources say that the soaring weather has been weaker than usual for this time of year but more than the usual number consecutive days of flyable weather. The area received a significant amount of rain in the weeks leading up to the contest which saturated the ground. The top soil in this part of Ontario has a thin layer over rock so the water sits on top with no place to go, having the typical effect on soaring weather.

Pilot Event Marker-PEV. The pilots generally did not have an issue using PEV. The primary concern was with equipment choice and lack of manufacturer choices of equipment with PEV functions. New gliders (18M and most 15M) typically had newer Nav computers and flight recorders (FR) Clearnav, LX9000 etc. which had a PEV function that was easy to use and the user received some sort of response that PEV was initiated. Older gliders had older nav systems or Flight Recorders that did not have a PEV or in order to initiate PEV, older NANOs, PowerFlarm with FlarmView, the pilot had to go thru numerous steps to accomplish the task. This required head down time, which is dangerous and no feedback that the PEV had been initiated. Some pilots felt that proving that use of PEV prevents gaggling and leeching at this contest yielded nothing definitive. Except possibly on the last day when some of the class leaders covered each other to protect their position on the score sheet which is tactical.

CD suspended the requirement for PEV for club class after the third day to many equipment problems on the Argentine and Canadian teams. He suspended the requirement all together a few days later because the experimental nature of the contest and to see how things went without it.

**Rules for the Pilot Event Marker, rev 2019Jul30**
FR = Flight recorder – produces a flight log
PEV = Pilot Event, recorded in a flight log
X = PEV delay = 10 minutes, or as declared by CD
Y = PEV penalty points = 25, or as declared by CD

Each pilot shall carry an IGC-approved, PEV-capable Flight Recorder that has been designated as the primary flight recorder. Other FRs are considered secondary, and need not
be PEV-capable. Only PEVs that appear in a log produced by a primary FR are considered under this Rule.

A valid PEV is one that happens either before the first valid start or at least X minutes after the previous PEV-enabled valid start.

The next start after a valid PEV is penalty-free; other starts incur a penalty of Y points.

Any pilot events recorded in a log from the primary FR apply to all logs from other FRs. A failure of the primary FR after the start may preserve PEV data for evaluation of flight logs from other recorders; otherwise, logs are evaluated as if no PEV was recorded.

Flight evaluation chooses the best-scoring start for every flight, taking PEV penalties into account.

The US Team flew well together and had successful days where they made a concerted effort to communicate with their team mates within and across classes to help define the sky to help each other complete tasks. Feedback from the pilots was that they needed a vocabulary of words and phrases that limited the time actually on the radio allowing busy frequencies to be less busy. The use of team codes was used by several pilots.

Every day after the contest pilots briefing I asked Fernando Silva to brief the team on weather. Allowing him to bring his unique sense of the weather, greatly expanding the weather brief provided by the organizers. This “huddle” also allowed us to pass information tactical and otherwise without having track 17 pilots down to be sure we were all on the same page.

Due to an unfortunate oversight the organizers allowed into the Local Procedures, the handicap for Francois’ glider ASW-27 FES of 102.5 differing from the ASW-27 of 104.0, after the local procedure had been approved by the IGC Bureau. The Chief Steward Renato Tsukamoto discovered this and ruled that the handicap of 102.5 be disallowed due to the fact that it was in the “unofficial version” of the Local Procedures. I am hesitant discuss the subject of Francois Pins handicap used by the organizers as I fear that issue will continue until a proper handicaps for this class of glider (FES) be made official that contest organizers draw from in their preparations of soaring contests. Particularly the effect it had on the results for François.

Colin Mead – US Team Captain

US Team Twitter Feed: https://twitter.com/SoaringUSA
US Team FaceBook Page: https://www.facebook.com/ussoaringteams/

2019 3rd PAGC Web Site: http://silentflight.ca/panam/
SOSA Gliding Club Web Site: https://www.sosaglidingclub.com/
The 2020 Women’s WGC Team was selected after running the selection process this past May with the eligible women’s pilots and the previous Team Captain: John Good. The survey results were reviewed by the US Team Committee and were accepted without any changes.

**The Team:**
Standard Class: Sarah Arnold
Club Class: Kathy Fosha and Sylvia Grandstaff

**Team Captain:** John Good

**WWGC Fund Raising Campaign**
Doug Jacobs has been working with John Godfrey to put together a fund raising campaign which will go live no later than August 31 to not interfere with the annual Eagle Fund Campaign.

US Soaring Teams Blog: [https://ussoaringteams.org/](https://ussoaringteams.org/)
US Team FaceBook Page: [https://www.facebook.com/ussoaringteams/](https://www.facebook.com/ussoaringteams/)
Contest Website: [https://wwgc2019.com/](https://wwgc2019.com/)

Lake Keepit Soaring Club Website: [https://keepitsoaring.com/?fbclid=IwAR37AJEnKDEX2LjwKY8WgcSWeBxF9HCOAnqEJdVzryVvuF1LNEFJB2trZNQ](https://keepitsoaring.com/?fbclid=IwAR37AJEnKDEX2LjwKY8WgcSWeBxF9HCOAnqEJdVzryVvuF1LNEFJB2trZNQ)
Mike Westbrook attended the Champagne Cup (Standard, 15m, and 20m 2-place classes) at Châlons-Ecury sur Coole, France ~ August 4 - 10, 2019 (Pre-WGC) contest in preparation for the upcoming 2020 WGC which will be at the same site in August 2020. He was completely self funded flying without a crew in an ASG 29E.

Mike had a great experience and glad he was able to attend. While the weather wasn't strong, he flew 7 out of the 9 days. Mike flew: 5 contest and 2 practice days. He did win a practice day (where only 8 completed the task).

The Blog from Benjamin Neglais winner of the Champagne Cup provides a great overview of the contest: [https://claireandbenjamin.wixsite.com/aero/blog](https://claireandbenjamin.wixsite.com/aero/blog)

Mike is in the process of writing a site report about his experiences and insights which he will share with the 2020 US Team.

Contest Website: [https://www.chalons-planeur.net/node/205](https://www.chalons-planeur.net/node/205)
Contest FaceBook: [https://www.facebook.com/ACVVEcury/](https://www.facebook.com/ACVVEcury/)
7. The US Soaring Teams: Blog, Facebook Page, and Twitter Updates Continue
Melanie Nichols and Leigh Zimmerman continued their wonderful support for the US Soaring Teams website (http://ussoaringteams.org), US Team Twitter Feed (https://twitter.com/SoaringUSA) and US Team FaceBook Page: (https://www.facebook.com/ussoaringteams/) during the 11th FAI Jr World Gliding Championships – Szeged, Hungary, 3rd Pan American Championships, Rockton, ON, Canada, and Champagne Cup (Standard, 15m, and 20m 2-place classes) at Châlons-Ecury sur Coole, France.

Thanks Melanie and Leigh!

8. Updated Numerous Pages In US Team Section On The SSA Website
The following pages where updated: Documents, Reports, Current Team Bios, US Team News, International Calendar.

The documents page was restructured for easier navigation and adding sections for the following documents: Team Selection Results, Team Selection Process, US Team Committee Meeting Summaries, US Team Budget & Financial Reports, US Team Committee SSA Board Reports (link).

We have also added the US Team Committee Reference Calendar document which provides the timeline we expect to follow throughout the year.

9. Creating Nelson Ittner US Junior Team Trust
Gina Wilson and Gary Ittner approached Pete Alexander about setting up this trust in honor of their father to support future US Jr. Teams. The Ittner siblings: Gina Wilson, Gaelyn Ittner Beal, and Gary Ittner want to set up a named endowment in memory of their father Nelson Ittner with the earnings to be used at the discretion of the US Team Committee for the expenses of the US Junior Team pilots in future Junior World Gliding Championships. Pete will work with John Godfrey to complete the work needed to create the trust.
10. US Team Financials
Friends of the team have been incredibly generous with their support of both the Junior and Women’s WGC teams this fundraising season. With the 2019 JWGC just finished, team captain and pilot expense reports are coming in now. When all is finalized, we expect to send a significant surplus to the Junior Endowment fund at Vanguard.

Fundraising efforts for the upcoming WWGC in Australia are well underway. So far $21,968 has been raised through efforts at Perry and the Club Class Nationals. Additionally, as of 8/2/19, WSPA reported having raised $10,731 for the cause.

Special thanks to Sandra Danoff who went through multiple iterations and edits to create the 2020 US Team WWGC Budget. This budget will be used as a template for future US Teams.

2019 JWGC Fundraising
As of 07/26/2019

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<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>2018 JWGC Donations</td>
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<td>Donations sent directly to SSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019 JWGC Donations</td>
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<td>Donations sent directly to SSA, not associated with specific campaigns below</td>
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<td>Ride Program</td>
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<td>Flights with DJ &amp; 98 at the Seniors</td>
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<td>Facebook Campaign</td>
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<td>$2780 minus $1000 USTC match</td>
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<td>2017 Mozer Trust</td>
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<td>2017 Junior Endowment</td>
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<td>2018 Mozer Trust</td>
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<td>Available to Daniel Sazhin, but the fund lost money in 2018, so no interest available</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018 Junior Endowment</td>
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<td>$(10,697.55) Mozer - available to Michael Marshall ONLY</td>
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<td>$ 45,948.27 Available to all pilots and team captain</td>
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</table>
11. **US Team Committee Focus**

1. Complete the implementation of the Nelson Ittner US Junior Team Trust.

2. Run the US Team Committee election this fall for Bob Fletcher’s position expiring on December 31, 2019. Bob plans to run again.

3. Select the 2020 US Teams For:
   1. 36th FAI World Gliding Championships (18m, 20m 2-place, Open classes) at Stendal-Borstel, Germany ~ July 19 - 31, 2019
   2. 36th FAI World Gliding Championship Cup (Standard, 15m, and Club classes) at Châlons-Ecury sur Coole, France ~ August 8 - 22, 2020

4. Continue to keep the US Soaring Teams website (http://ussoaringteams.org/news/), Face Book Page (https://www.facebook.com/ussoaringteams/), Twitter (https://twitter.com/SoaringUSA), and US Team pages on the SSA Website fresh and up to date with the latest activities of the US Teams before, during, and after FAI contests.

5. Continue to assist in the writing of Soaring Magazine articles and columns from current and previous US Team members to share their knowledge and experiences.

6. Continue updating some sections of The US Team Handbook with the latest information which has been collected from the team pilots, captains and crews from the recent FAI Contests. The handbook has not been completely updated since 2004.

7. Finalize the planning for the 2020 US Team Training Camps and Seminars and presentations for the upcoming SSA Convention in Little Rock, AR.

8. Move all of the videos from the 2018 WGCs on FaceBook to the SSA YouTube channel working with Brienna Bick from the SSA Office.

Submitted By:
Pete Alexander
US Team Committee ~ Chair

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