



# **US Team Committee Winter 2018 SSA Board Report v1.0**

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# 1. US Team Returns With A Bronze Team Medal From The 2nd Pan American Gliding Championships (PAGC) in Argentina

The 2nd Pan American Gliding Championships was held at Adolfo Gonzalez Chaves from November 30 to December 16, 2017 with the following classes:

15 Meter (all entrants flew an ASW-20)

Standard (all entrants flew a Standard Jantar)

Rick Sheppe was the US Team Captain. Rick provided daily team reports (<https://ussoaringteam2017chaves.blogspot.com/>) and tweets (<https://twitter.com/SoaringUSA>) during the contest.

Late changes to the US Team: Josef Bostik and Eric Redweik left the team and Fernando Silva joined the 15-M Team.

The pilots on the US Team:

15m Class:

1. Phil Gaisford (1st PAGC Club Class Champion)
2. Robin Clark
3. Juan Mandelbaum
4. Fernando Silva

Standard Class:

1. Ryszard Krolkowski
2. Al Simmons



Juan Mandelbaum worked with his local connections in Argentina to arrange rental sailplanes for the entire US Team.

All US entrants were entirely self-funded.

Fernando Silva had his first daily PAGC **win** on Task 11 (14 December 2017). Congrats to Fernando!

There were 8 countries and 31 pilots (16 in 15m Class and 15 in Standard Class) competing. The US Team came home with the Bronze Team Cup Medal:



The March 2018 issue of Soaring Magazine will contain an article about the experience of the team.

Rick Sheppe's Contest Blog: <https://ussoaringteam2017chaves.blogspot.com/>

US Team Twitter Feed: <https://twitter.com/SoaringUSA>

Contest Scores: [https://www.soaringspot.com/en\\_gb/2-fai-panamerican-championship-gonzalez-chaves-2017/](https://www.soaringspot.com/en_gb/2-fai-panamerican-championship-gonzalez-chaves-2017/)

US Team FaceBook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ussoaringteams/>

Contest Website: <http://www.pg2017.org>

The 3rd PAGC will be held at [SOSA Gliding Club](#) in Ontario, Canada in late July - early August, 2019.

## 2. 2018 US Team Selection

The 2018 US Team was selected as follows:

**Club, Standard and 15-Meter classes: July 8 - 21, 2018 in Ostrow, Poland** (<https://ostrowglide.com/en/wgc2018/>)

Club Class: Boyd Willat and Mike Westbrook

Standard Class: Bif Huss and Jim Lee

15m Class: Fernando Silva and Tim Taylor

Team Captain: Colin Mead

**18-Meter, Open, and 20-Meter 2-place classes: July 28 - August 11, 2018 in Pribram, Czech Republic** (<https://www.wgc2018.cz/>)

18m Class: Bob Fletcher and Erik Nelson

Open Class: Mike Robison and Dave Coggins

20m 2-place: Heinz Weissenbuehler

Team Captain: Pete Alexander

The [Pennsylvania College of Technology](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ey3WvA3zGmA&feature=youtu.be) made a wonderful video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ey3WvA3zGmA&feature=youtu.be>) about Mike Robison's aviation job at Pennsylvania College of Technology and his preparations for his 3rd WGC this coming summer.

The following pilots declined their selection to the 2018 US Team:

Standard Class: Phillip Gaisford, Henry Nixon, Walt Rogers

15m Class: Gary Ittner, Sean Fidler, Sean Murphy

Open Class: Dick Butler, Doug Jacobs, Keith Essex

18m Class: Gary Ittner

The [2018 US Team Selection Results v1.0.3](#) report is posted to the US Team News Section.

The USTC created and posted the [Updated US Team Selection Process Summary](#) document to the US Team News section of the SSA Website to provide a summary of the updated US Team Selection process with some background information.

Both 2018 teams have started preparations for the upcoming WGCs this past December via conference calls.

### **3. Tweaking The US Team Selection Process**

The USTC had received some comments about tweaking the US Team selection process during the 2017 US Team Selection cycle in the following areas:

1. Using your WGC Score Across All Classes ~ Really?
2. Weighting Of European Continental Championships, PAGC, WGC, pre-WGC, Jr. WGC, and WWGC Too Big for US Team Selection Points?
3. 20m 2-place Team Selection
  1. Add the ability to use 20m 2-place Nationals if there is one
  2. Do both pilot desire US Team selection points?

Please see the document titled: USTC Recommend Tweaks To The US Team Selection Process v1.2.

### **4. US Team Plans For Upcoming SSA Convention**

The US Team will have a booth on the convention floor. Bob Fletcher is the US Team booth captain arranging booth coverage of current or former US Team members in 1.5 hours blocks.

The Ride for the US Team will be going again this coming soaring season to help send 11 pilots to the 2018 World Championships with a \$300 minimum donation for each day you fly.

Doug Jacobs (DJ) and Dave Nadler (YO) will be providing rides at the Senior National Championship at Seminole Lake Gliderport near Orlando, FL. Doug Jacobs in a Duo Discus and Dave Nadler in his Arcus M. Doug and Dave are donating all proceeds.

Eric Mozer (EM) and Roger Buchanan (R9) will also be providing Rides for the US Team.

Pete Alexander (98) will be providing a coaching flight in his ASG 32 Mi from Williams, CA, Minden, NV or Montague, CA with a \$300 minimum donation. Pete will be donating all proceeds.

## **5. The US Soaring Teams: Blog, Facebook Page, and Twitter**

Melanie Nichols and her team at her Peak Digital Media company (<https://www.peakdigitalmedia.com>) and Leigh Zimmerman continued their fantastic on going support for the US Soaring Teams Blog (<http://ussoaringteams.org>), and US Team Twitter Feed (<https://twitter.com/SoaringUSA>) and US Team FaceBook Page: (<https://www.facebook.com/ussoaringteams/>) during the 2nd PAGC in Argentina. Thanks to everyone for helping to keep our social media fresh and up to date throughout the season.

The US Soaring Teams website (<http://ussoaringteams.org/>) has been updated for the 2018 US Teams going to Ostrow, Poland and Příbram, Czech Republic.

We are also in the process of updating the Current US Team sections of the SSA website.

We will continue to keep the blog up and running throughout the year to enable supporters of the US Soaring Teams to track the activities of the team before, during, and after a WGC and other training events and activities. This blog will be the single blog for all of the US Soaring Teams.

The US Team Committee would like to especially thank Melanie Nichols and Leigh Zimmerman for their on going support and assistance of the US Soaring Teams Blog and Facebook Pages.

## **6. Soaring Magazine Articles From US Team Members**

One of the goals of the US Team is to give back to the US soaring community and share our knowledge and experiences during our preparations, training, and racing at WGC contests with our social media presence described above. We are also giving back via the Soaring Magazine by writing the following articles by the pilots, crew, and captain thereby providing different views of the experiences:

March 2018:

The 2nd Pan American Gliding Championships By Rick Sheppe

April 2018:

13.5 M Class: Second World Championship (tentative title)

By François Pin & Tony Condon

We plan on continuing this practice of writing articles for future issues of Soaring Magazine for all WGC and PAGC events. We already have tentative plans for articles in the September 2018 issue from the 2018 WGCs in Ostrow, Poland and Příbram, Czech, Republic.

## **7. US Team Financials**

The current US Team checking account balance is \$12,101.36, with no outstanding debts other than yearly NAA dues. The 30% payable by the US Team was \$3270 last year, and paid in the first quarter.

Thanks to a January release of the SSA Foundation tracker, we've calculated the YE 2017 amounts available for US Team spending from the Robertson, Woods, General, and Club endowment funds. Each year 4.5% of each fund's year-end total becomes available for team use, and since the WGC is on a biannual cycle, we generally withdraw every two years. The \$23,516.71 available from YE 2016, added to the YE 2017 amount of \$25,923.92, equals \$49,440.63 available for 2018 WGC spending. When we consider registration fees of over \$1000 per pilot, plus funding for both team captains, there is not much left for pilot expenses, about \$2000 each. A strong fundraising push will be necessary to reach a more palatable level of support for our 12 pilots.

Due to brilliant efforts by Junior team supporters, and careful management by their team captain, fundraising for the 2017 JWGC exceeded the budget by \$4719. This amount was deposited to the Junior endowment fund for support of future teams.

For his outstanding 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at the Club Class Nationals in Hobbs, Michael Marshall has been named the 2017 Junior National Champion, and winner of the Rudolf Mozer trophy. The 2017 Mozer Trust earnings of \$10,697.55 will support Michael's participation in the 2019 JWGC.

## **8. 2018 US Team Committee Focus**

1. Share some of the US Team knowledge with the soaring community during the upcoming SSA Convention in Reno, NV. 7 current and former US Team members will be providing presentations on various topics from early x-country through WGC level of racing. Some of these presentations will come from the presentations from the 2017 US Team Camp.
2. Tweak the US Team Selection Process to reflect some of the comments received from pilots during the Fall 2017 US Team Selection Process
3. Support the 2018 US Teams going to Ostrow, Poland (15m, Club, and Standard Classes) and Přebíram, Czech Republic (18m, Open, and 20m 2-place Classes).
4. Continue to keep the US Soaring Teams website (<http://ussoaringteams.org/news/>) and Face Book Page (<https://www.facebook.com/ussoaringteams/>), and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/SoaringUSA>) fresh and up to date with the latest activities of the US Teams before during and after the contest.
5. 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 WGCs. The handbook has not been completely updated since 2004.
6. Planning for the next US Team Training Camp.