US Team Committee
Fall 2017 SSA Board Report v1.0

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1. 2017 US Team Training Camp
The 2017 US Team Training Camp was held in Cordele, GA the week before the 2017 Open, 15m, and Standard Class Nationals. It was a successful event on all fronts with 23 pilots in attendance.

Unfortunately, the weather did not quite cooperate. We only had 4 flying days out of a possible 8 days. We used the non-flying time for additional discussions and presentations.

The following topics were presented and discussed: Low Risk Flying: when to explore and when to hang back, Pair Flying Techniques: 200m glider, thermal entry exit, Pair Communications and Joint Decisions, Elastic Flying: How to Pull your Mate (Location, Altitude, Conditions), Strategy and Tactics: Starting, Strategy and Tactics: the Racing MacCready, and Speed-to-Fly, Pair Communications and Joint Decisions: The Partnership Matrix, Review of WGC Flight Traces by recent team members, Tips from Coaches I Have Flown With, Sports Psychology, Reading the Sky: Horizontal Convective Rolls, Convergence, Hexagons, Lift Bands, Technology Requirements and Developments, US Team Selection Process.

Some of the above topics will be presented during the upcoming 2018 SSA Convention in Reno.

SurveyMonkey(https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-WQTRzHV6/) was used to collect feedback from the participants. 15 pilots had responded all with very positive comments. All pilots and the US Team Committee want the US Team Camps to continue on an annual basis in some form.

The camp was also a financial success for the US Team and Cordele Racing LLC splitting $2850.00 between the 2 groups.

A BIG Thank You to the Cordele Racing LLC Team, especially Andreea Alexandrescu, Hartley Falbaum, Mitch Deutsch, Dennis Linnekin, Chris Carter, Gary Carter, Fernando Silva, and our Camp CD Rick Sheppe.
2. US Team Returns With A Silver Medal From The 9th Women’s WGC

The 9th WWGC was held at Zbraslavice, Czech Republic from May 17 - June 4, 2017. Sarah Arnold flew as the US Team pilot and John Good crewed for her and was the captain for the team.

Sarah had a very successful contest finishing 2nd Place with a Silver medal:
Sarah has written an article for the September issue of Soaring Magazine titled: In the meadow describing her experiences and approach to flying her 3rd WGC along with various photos from the event.

For additional information from the contest, use the following links:
US Team FaceBook Page: [https://www.facebook.com/ussoaringteams/](https://www.facebook.com/ussoaringteams/)
US Team Twitter Feed: [https://twitter.com/SoaringUSA](https://twitter.com/SoaringUSA)

Contest Website: [https://www.wwgc2017.cz](https://www.wwgc2017.cz)

### 3. 2nd 13.5m Class WGC

The 2nd 13.5m Class WGC was held at Szatymas, Hungary from June 29 - July 16, 2017. François Pin and Tony Condon were the representing the US Team. François Pin was the team captain.

From Tony Condon’s post on FaceBook:“The weather was very good but also very challenging. The tasks were tricky, just as you’d expect at a World Championship.” The mini LAK FES and GP-14 VELO made their debut at this contest.

Tony Condon had his first daily WGC **win** on Task 8 (11 July 2017). Congrats to Tony!

For additional information from the contest, use the following links:
US Team FaceBook Page: [https://www.facebook.com/ussoaringteams/](https://www.facebook.com/ussoaringteams/)
US Team Twitter Feed: [https://twitter.com/SoaringUSA](https://twitter.com/SoaringUSA)

Contest Website: [wgc2017.hu](http://www.soaringspot.com/en_gb/2nd-fai-13m-wgc-and-alfold-cup-szatymaz-2017/)

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4. 10th Jr WGC US Team Returns
The 10th Jr WGC was held from July 27 - August 13, 2017 at Pociunai, Lithuania with two classes: Club and Standard. Noah Reitter, Daniel Sazhin, and JP Stewart represented the US Team pilots in Club Class. Fernando Silva was the team captain and John Good was the co-captain.

With the exception of one bad day, our team had a very good contest.

Their best daily result came on August 4 with our three pilots in the top 4 for the day:
2nd: Daniel Sazhin
3rd: Noah Ritter
4th: James “JP” Stewart
Just 6 - 11 points out of 1st place for the day (http://www.soaringspot.com/en_gb/jwgc2017/results/club/task-2-on-2017-08-04/daily)

The captains and pilots are working on their contest and expense reports which will be completed by the end of September.

For additional information, use the following links:
John Good’s Contest Reports: http://ussoaringteams.org/news/
US Team FaceBook Page: https://www.facebook.com/ussoaringteams/
US Team Twitter Feed: https://twitter.com/SoaringUSA

Contest FaceBook Page: https://www.facebook.com/wwgc2017/
Contest Website: www.jwgc2017.lt
5. US Team Financials

The US Team checking account balance as of August 16, is $28,779.55.

Gary Ittner (18m pilot) from the 2017 US Team which went to Benalla, Australia very generously did not take his US Team pilot benefit of $6350.00 (minus the paid registration fees) which was put back into the general US Team Fund.

A concerted effort was made to collect donations to support the 2017 13.5, Women’s, and Jr US Teams which we were able to do. We were able to collect enough donations to fully fund 3 pilots for the 2017 Jr. WGC.

The 2017 WWGC Team had unused funds of $1464.00 which were returned back to the WWGC Team fund for future team use.

The final Jr US Team funding push came during the Perry regional contest at the US Team Evening event. John Godfrey and Sandra Danoff started the event off with a pledge of $1000, plus a match up to an additional $2000 only available during the event. This really got the donations flowing... Richard Maleady followed up with a $500 pledge, plus a $500 match. We finished the evening off with a $2000 donation from Mike Solley. Thanks to all of our generous donors big and small!

The process was started to move $10,066.69 from the Junior Endowment and Mozer Trust for 2015 and 2016 to support the Jr. Team expenses. Noah Reitter was the winner of the Mozer Trust which will provide $4,890.63 towards his expenses at the 2017 Jr. WGC.

The checking account balance also includes proceeds from fundraisers from 2016 and 2017 events; specifically, $20882.99 designated for the Junior Team. Any unused Jr. Team Funds will be returned to the Jr. Team Endowment.

With 8 WGC classes (Open, 18m, 15m, 13.5 m, Club, 20m 2-place, Women’s, and Jrs) across so many venues, the cost of fielding such a large team continues to escalate. The US Team Committee continues to search for solutions to expand its appeal to a wider audience.
6. 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 during all of the WGC contests (13.5 m, Women’s, and Jr) this summer with content coming from the participating pilots, crews, and captains. Thanks to everyone for helping to keep our social media fresh and up to date throughout the season.

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. By November 1, we will reorder the blog to focus the front page content on the US Team going to the 2nd PAGC in Argentina (details below).

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

7. Soaring Magazine Articles From The US Soaring 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:

July 2017:
What’s It Like to Compete in the WGC? By Erik Nelson, Tiffany Fidler, and John Good
The Worlds: Just like a big Nationals, right? By Bob Fletcher

September 2017:
In the meadow By Sarah Arnold

We plan on continuing this practice of writing articles for future issues of Soaring Magazine for all WGC and PAGC events.
8. 2nd Pan American Gliding Championships (PAGC) in Argentina

The 2nd Pan American Gliding Championships will be held at Adolfo Gonzalez Chaves from November 30 to December 16, 2107 with the following classes:

- 15 Meter (all entrants will fly an ASW-20)
- Standard (all entrants will fly a Standard Jantar)

Juan Mandelbaum has been working with his local connections in Argentina to arrange rental sailplanes for the US Team. He has made rental arrangements for all US Team pilots in both classes.

Rick Sheppe will be the US Team Captain.

The pilots representing the US Team:

15m Class:
1. Phil Gaisford (1st PAGC Club Class Champion)
2. Robin Clark
3. Juan Mandelbaum

Standard Class:
1. Ryszard Krolikowski
2. Al Simmons
3. Josef Bostik
4. Eric Redweik (Reserve Pilot)

All US entrants will be entirely self-funded.

The US Team will need to fly into Buenos Aires and drive to Adolfo Gonzalez Chaves which is about a 543 km trip around a 6 hour and 30 minute drive (http://www.pgc2017.org/documents/info_travel.pdf).

Contest Website: http://www.pgc2017.org
9. 2018 US Team Selection
There will be two WGC Contests next summer:

35th FAI World Gliding Championships
15m, Club, Standard Classes: Ostrow Wielkopolski, Poland: July 8 - July 21, 2018
18m, Open, 20m 2-place Classes: Příbram, Czech Republic: July 28 - August 11, 2018

The USTC will be running the next step of the US Team selection process as soon as John Leibacher has processed the US Team Selection points for the 2017 US Nationals which should occur very soon.

10. 2018 US Team Committee Focus
1. Support the US Team going to the 2nd PAGC in Argentina

2. Current and former US Team members will participate in the 2018 SSA Convention in Reno (March 1 - 3) providing presentations from the US Team Camp and other topics for pilots from early x-country through WGC level of racing. The overall details for this participation is in it’s early planning stages.

3. Run another successful US Team Training Camp.

4. Support the 2018 US Teams going to Ostrow Wielkopolski, Poland (15m, Club, and Standard Classes) and Příbram, Czech Republic (18m, Open, and 20m 2-place Classes).

5. 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.

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 WGCs. The handbook has not been completely updated since 2004.