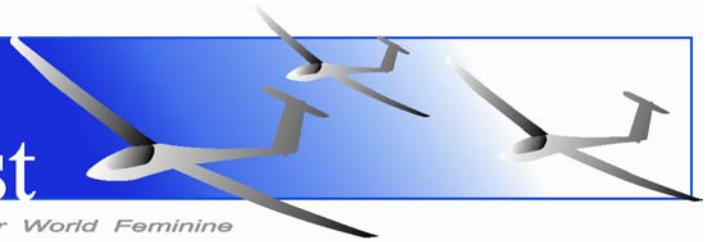


www.RobertsonTrust.com

Robertson Trust

Open 15-Meter Standard 18-Meter Club Junior World Feminine



Sunday, April 7, 2002

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As another soaring season approaches lets take a minute to think about the past and future of our sport.

Over the last several years, five new FAI classes have been introduced to our sport. This dramatic expansion provides more opportunity to participate and compete than ever before. More classes have also resulted in more eligible World Soaring Teams and World Soaring Championships.

The recent Olympics in Utah provided a magnificent example of competitive sport played out on an international stage. World Soaring Championships and our soaring teams are valuable in the same way the Olympics and Olympians are valuable. They encourage participation and competitive excellence while showing the world what is possible. Like our Olympic teams, United States Soaring Teams represent our nation and all of us on the world stage.

While many international competitors receive funding from their governments, our soaring teams are funded by two types of personal contributions - direct and perpetual. Direct contributions are available to the teams at their full value while perpetual contributions to the Robertson Trust are invested and provide stable long-term support. The recent expansion in FAI classes and eligible teams has placed unprecedented demands on team funding. The historically successful balance between direct and perpetual team funding is in jeopardy. The challenge is to build the Robertson Trust and restore balance to funding our United States Soaring Teams.

This year I encourage you help fund the future of our soaring teams with a contribution to the Robertson Trust. The sole purpose of the Robertson Trust is to provide perpetual support to our United States Soaring Teams participating in sanctioned World Soaring Championships. Since 1988 the Robertson Trust, as part of the SSA Foundation, has a proven history of team support due to a clear founding charter and independent long-term oversight by the SSA Foundation Trustees. As a new SSA Foundation Trustee I can tell you this system is solid and it works.

Spring is also tax time. With our tax deductible contributions to the Robertson Trust next April 15 will seem a little brighter. The enclosed contribution form and return envelope make it easy. See the Trust's web site for a complete contributors report and you can even contribute online.

Our soaring teams are valuable and I hope you chose to participate in this effort to restore balance to team funding with a contribution to the Robertson Trust.

John Seaborn
Robertson Trust 2002 - Funding The Future
www.RobertsonTrust.com

www.ssa.org/usteam



Funding the Future of United States Soaring Teams

In 1950, when the legendary Paul MacCready represented the United States at the World Gliding Championships in Sweden it was simple - one pilot, one sailplane, one winner.



The 1991 U.S. Team

Over the last several years several new FAI classes have been created until today there are potentially eight classes and eighteen pilots flying from five international sites representing the United States.

More classes means new opportunities to participate in competitive soaring as part of a larger strategy to build the sport.

The opportunity for U.S. pilots to compete in World Soaring Championships has never been greater.

It takes funding to compete at the world level and while the dream of becoming a world champion is available to more U.S. pilots than ever before - team funding is in crisis. There are no easy answers here. Team management may be faced with cutting U.S. participation and teams.

How Team Funding Works

While many international competitors receive financial support from their governments, our soaring teams are funded by personal contributions received from supporters. Direct contributions are available to the teams at their full cash value normally in the period of the contribution while more stable perpetual contributions, say to the Robertson Trust, are invested and provide reliable long-term support for future U.S. Soaring Teams. This historically successful and balanced approach to team funding is threatened by the recent expansion of eligible FAI classes. The challenge is to build the Robertson Trust to a point that, in combination with direct contributions, will allow United States Soaring Teams to compete internationally.

The Robertson Trust

The Robert Robertson Memorial Team Fund, often referred to as the Robertson Trust, was established in 1988 by Robbie's father, Donald Robertson, with a \$140,000 contribution to the Soaring Society of America. The purpose to the Robertson Trust, as established by charter, is to memorialize Robbie while providing a dedicated source for funding United States Soaring Teams participating in sanctioned World Soaring Championships.

Mr. Robertson's contribution has been very successful.

The Robertson Trust has a proven history of support, providing upwards of \$166,000 to United States Soaring Teams while growing in overall size. This outstanding record is due to the clear charter established by Mr. Robertson and the independent long-term management of the SSA Foundation Trustees.



The SSA Foundation

In 1997, the Soaring Society of America established the SSA Foundation, to solicit, manage and distribute endowment type funds held by the SSA including the Robertson Trust.

The SSA Foundation is managed by independent trustees, as gatekeepers for the endowments held by the Soaring Society.

The clear corporate identity of the foundation provides long-term security and stability to contributors while bringing the internal discipline necessary to manage long-term endowments.

Our Soaring Teams Are Important

The recent Olympics were a magnificent example of competitive sport played out on an international stage. World Soaring Championships and our soaring teams are valuable in the same way the Olympics are valuable. They encourage participation and competitive excellence while showing the world what is possible. World Soaring

Championships bring together an international brotherhood of sailplane pilots in the ultimate expression of our sport.

Your Contribution

Your tax-deductible contribution to the Robertson Trust will help restore balance to team funding. Contributors to the Robertson Trust join a select group of supporters that understand that our sport, our pilots and our nations place in international soaring are worth the effort.

For more information on the Robertson Trust see the web at www.RobertsonTrust.com for a full contributors report.



Robbie Robertson

Robert "Robbie" Robertson

If there were a Pilot-of-the-Year award in soaring, Robbie would have won it hands down in 1986. This was the year that Robbie

won very tough Regional competitions and set a world record for triangle distance together with Karl Striedieck and John Seymour. Tragically, Robbie was killed in a sailplane accident only weeks after winning the hotly contested 15-Meter Nationals which had put him on track for the 1987 U.S. Soaring Team to Australia.

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Help Fund the Future - Robertson Trust Contribution Form

With your contribution to the Robertson Trust you are helping to keep the dream of future United States World Champions alive. To make a contribution to the Robertson Trust please return this form with your contribution check or credit card information to the Robertson Trust Contact.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

<i>Contribution</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Total</i>
Robertson Trust Contribution		
Total Robertson Trust Contribution - THANK YOU!		

Paid by: Check / Credit Card Card: Visa / MasterCard

Name on Credit Card _____

Card Number _____ Exp. _____

I would like my contribution to be acknowledged (name only) on the Robertson Trust Web site - YES / NO

Send this form along with your contribution to the Robertson Trust Contact. Make checks payable to: SSA ROBERTSON FUND. All contributions are fully tax deductible. With your contribution you will receive a letter of thanks and the IRS donation conformation.



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See the web at www.RobertsonTrust.com