

From the Editor

First things first: our heartfelt thanks to Associate Editors Goetz Bramesfeld and Helmut Fendt who oversaw the reviews of the papers in this issue. Goetz is also a co-author of one of our papers. All of our Associate Editors are busy with papers that will (we hope) appear in upcoming issues and we thank them for their hard work. As always, we thank our peer reviewers — you know who you are!

Above all, we are grateful to our authors, whose labor make *Technical Soaring* possible.

OSTIV Congress XXXII

OSTIV Congress XXXII will be held in conjunction with the 33rd World Gliding Championships in Leszno, Poland, 21 July – 10 August, 2014. More information can be found in the official Call for Papers appearing later in this issue.

OSTIV Plaque with Klemperer Award

OSTIV participated at the 2014 SSA Convention in Reno, Nevada with an OSTIV speaker track and an OSTIV booth with back issues of *Technical Soaring* and other OSTIV publications available for sale. I hope to provide a more detailed account in an upcoming issue of *TS*.

For now, Loek Boermans reports that he was pleased to present the OSTIV Plaque with Klemperer Award at the OSTIV banquet on Friday evening, February 28, to Bruce Carmichael for his many significant contributions to soaring technology in laminar flow research, scholarly papers, popular articles, books and seminars in recent years. Bruce has planned, organized and conducted dozens of seminars and conferences on soaring technology which have introduced many interested people to the science and culture of soaring. He has inspired and motivated several generations of soaring enthusiasts

The full citation from the Board reads:

“Bruce Carmichael has earned the affectionate cognomen of ‘Mr. Low Speed Aerodynamics,’ having made low Reynolds Number fluid flows the object of his life’s work. An aviation enthusiast since 1928, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering at the University of Michigan in 1944, studying under Prof. Edgar Leshner. He worked for Chance Vought and Goodyear Aircraft as an Applied Aerodynamic Engineer. Later he joined the late Dr. August Raspet’s team at Mississippi State College conducting flight research on boundary layer control, continuing that work under Dr. Werner Pfenninger at Northrop. Before retiring from North American Rockwell, he worked on low drag underwater vehicles with Dr. Max Kramer.

“His 43-year career has been characterized by analytical and experimental work in both hydro- and aerodynamics. It included test programs in low-turbulence wind tunnels, in flight, in water tunnels, water basins, deep lakes and the ocean. The emphasis throughout was on laminar flow, both natural and suction-stabilized, and on the aerodynamics of the critical Reynolds Number regime.

“Bruce Carmichael has lectured at Cal Tech, USC and MIT. He has been featured speaker at National Soaring Conventions, Experimental Aircraft Association conventions and Sailplane Homebuilders Association workshops. His work has been published in the *IAS Journal*, various NASA Contractor Reports, Northrop and Rockwell reports, *Soaring*, *Technical Soaring*, OSTIV publications, *Sailplane Builder*, National Free Flight Symposium journals, *Sport Aviation*, *Kitplanes*, *Contact* magazine and the French magazine *Experimental*. He describes himself as a ‘ham-handed model airplane builder and sailplane pilot.’ ”

Accepting for Bruce (who wasn’t able to attend) was Dan Armstrong. We send Bruce our enthusiastic congratulations and best wishes.

Technical Literature on the Web

That good research begins with a literature review needs hardly be stated. Perusing the literature is also an excellent way to derive inspiration for new research topics. I thought I’d devote some space in this issue to pointing out some excellent online sources of technical literature relevant to soaring technology.

Technical Soaring online

Thanks to the efforts of Journal Manager and EIC-emeritus Ward Hindman, back issues of *Technical Soaring* from Vol. 22, No. 1 (January–March, 1998) to the current issue are now online at journals.sfu.ca/ts/. The project continues and earlier issues will be made available as soon as possible.

We strongly encourage authors, when preparing articles for *Technical Soaring* or for any other journal, to review and cite *Technical Soaring* articles wherever appropriate. An index to Volumes 10–37 of *Technical Soaring* may be found at http://ostiv.org/IDX_2013.pdf.

NASA Technical Reports Server

The NASA Technical Reports Server (NTRS), although taken offline last year for — shall we say — “non-technical” reasons, seems to be back up again at <http://www.sti.nasa.gov/>. The database is searchable and simple searches such as “sailplane” and “soaring” turn up hundreds of documents that will be of interest to *TS* readers and authors. Some of my favorites include the proceedings from the 1972 (MIT) and 1979 (NASA Langley) Low Speed and Motorless Flight Symposia and detailed descriptions of sailplanes competing in early soaring contests, for example in translated reports of the early the Rhön contests.

Defense Technical Information Center

DTIC, the Defense Technical Information Center, www.dtic.mil, is much less known among sailplane enthusiasts, but a quick search at that site reveals such gems as early reports by Gus Raspet on his boundary layer control flight test work (supported, by the way, by the Office of Naval Research) and early inflight measurements of thermal profiles, (Flight Measurements of Isolated Thermals, Betsy Woodward, August, 1962). DTIC is also a good site for obtaining academic theses from the US Service Institutions such as the Air Force Institute of Technology and the Naval Postgraduate School.

Letters to the Editor and Reader Comments

Your Editor invites comments and suggestions related to any aspect of *Technical Soaring*. News of interest to *TS* readers (upcoming events etc.) is also welcome. Comments addressing technical or factual content of papers published in *TS* may, at writer request, be considered for publication as a formal “Reader Comment,” with the original author being afforded an opportunity to respond.

Respectfully,

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