



# DISTANCE ALTITUDE DURATION



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## THE STORY of the MOST SUCCESSFUL CONTEST

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Due to the great number of flights, this report has been limited to those exceeding the minimum requirements.*

At the official opening time of the 9th Annual National Soaring Contest, three p.m. on the afternoon of June 25th, first indications were rather inauspicious and gave little, if any, indication of the performances that were to follow. Only a handful of ships and pilots had appeared and low hanging clouds kept them on the ground.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 26th

The weather was even worse than the day before, as it rained hard most of the time. No flying.

### MONDAY, JUNE 27th

The Schweizer Brothers arrived with their all-metal sailplane, built for the Airhoppers Gliding and Soaring Club. Mr. Charles Pear, Jr., of Blue Hill Observatory, arrived from Boston with 20 radio meteorographs. All flights were brief.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 28th

This was the first day of the Contest on which the minimum requirements of 32 miles distance, 3280 ft. altitude, and five hours duration were exceeded. Peter Riedel, showing his remarkable skill, of which those of us who were at last year's contest are well aware, made a flight of 103 miles to Kylertown, Pa. On his flight, Peter reached a maximum altitude of 5,000 ft., and his duration was 5 hrs., 34 min. Second longest flight of the day was made by Warren Merboth, of the North Jersey Soaring Association, flying the Bowlus-duPont Albatross. After 2 hr. 15 min., he landed at Liberty, Pa., having covered 41 miles, which qualified him for one leg of his Silver C. Emil Lehecka made the only successful goal flight of the day by landing at his announced destination of Roundtop, Pa., covering 34 miles in 2 hr. 1 min. As in last year's contest, he was flying his Rhönsperber.

In the matter of duration, the best performance was made by Floyd Sweet, who completed the last leg of his Silver C by a flight of a little over 5 hours, made in his Rhönbuzzard. His best altitude was 3690 ft. The only other flight of the day exceeding minimum requirements was made by Jack O'Meara, who took the Baby Albatross up to 4330 ft. altitude. Falling only slightly below this

height, Richard duPont and Emil Lehecka made 4220 and 4200 ft., respectively.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29th

This day will always be remembered as outstanding in the annals of American soaring. For four years, Richard duPont's national distance record of 158 miles was not exceeded, until the recent record made in Texas. Now, no less than four pilots went well beyond the old mark on notable flights made to the south on strong north winds and powerful thermals. The best performance was that of Stan Corcoran, flying his self-designed and built "Cinema", a sailplane of intermediate performance. In 5 hr. and 53 min., he covered 183 miles and landed beside the race track at Havre de Grace, Md. His maximum altitude on the flight was 5090 ft. Second longest distance of the day was made by Peter Riedel, who reached duPont Field at Wilmington, Delaware, a distance of 178 miles. This was a goal flight which was accomplished in 6 hrs. 41 min., with maximum altitude above take-off of 5800 ft. Before Peter took off for this flight, he stayed around long enough to take up in the Kranich, Devon Francis, Aviation Editor of the Associated Press.

Chet Decker landed his Minimoa at Gladwyn, Pa., in the suburbs of Philadelphia, after covering a distance of 171 miles in 6 hr. 30 min. His best altitude was 5310 ft. Richard duPont, also flying a Minimoa, landed on the airport at Lancaster, Pa. His distance was 155 miles, his best altitude, 5350 ft., his duration just over 5 hrs.

What was certainly one of the most outstanding flights of the day, which was to win him the Air Trails Trophy for the best performance of a C pilot, was made by Robert Stanley of San Diego. Without previous experience in cross country soaring, in his new self-designed and built sailplane, which had been completed only just in time to bring to Elmira, he covered 144 miles to Reading, Pa. During the flight, which lasted 6 hr. 8 min., he reached an altitude of 6380 ft., thereby exceeding the American record. This not only established Bob as an outstanding pilot, but also as the "dark horse" of the meet.

Next in the order of distance flights was Emil Lehecka, who flew his Rhönsperber, "Gunter Groenhoff", 130 miles to Cornwall, Pa. His best altitude was 5620 ft., and his duration 5 hr. 24 min. Jack O'Meara, flying the Bowlus Baby Albatross, an intermediate sailplane,