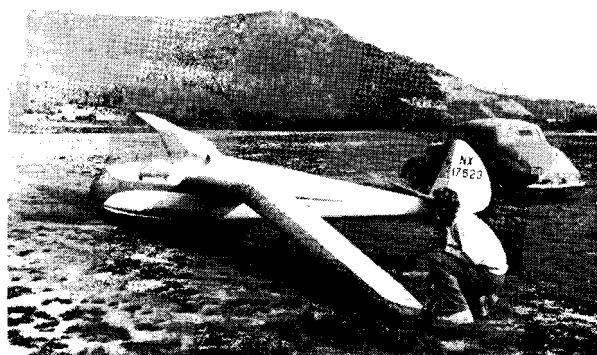


Soaring SITES-X

WHITE MOUNTAIN AIRPORT North Conway, N. H.



Eliot Noyes

Looking east to Redstone Ledge.

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As the announcement in the November issue and the leading article in this issue of SOARING give the brief history, as well as meteorological conditions, of this newest of soaring sites, we will devote ourselves at once to its physical aspects. It is unusual among American sites in being a commercial airport whose operator, Wylie Apte, is not only interested but also enthusiastic about its future development for motorless flying.

The general shape of this field, as well as its proximity to the soaring ridge, can readily be seen on the accompanying map. The surface is grass covered, quite level, and the longest runway just under 2000 ft. The hangar is located in the NW corner on the main highway, along which a telephone line and pine trees are the obstructions. Trees border the field on all other sides, although approaches with nothing over 15 ft. high, have been cut leading from the main runways.

Elevation of the field is 500 ft. above sea level and the highest point of the ridge directly east is 1350 ft. above this. Average height is about 900 ft. The nearest point of this wooded ridge steep enough to permit slope soaring is a half mile from the nearest edge of the field—a bit far for utilities trying to get back to it from the winch tows possible with the present space available. However, if this runway is made 3000 to 4000 ft. long, there should be no question of safely reaching the area of lift with the low performance gliders.

There is no doubt that B pilots will be able to get their C ratings and go right on to the Silver C with conditions to be found here on many days throughout the summer months. Duration and altitude far beyond the requirements should be easy. Goal flights can be made to Portland, 50 miles away, with NW winds, and to Boston, 120 miles south, with north winds. Much longer flights can, of course, be made to the south and southwest. This country is not as bad to fly over as

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