

American Open SOARING MEET

Plans are moving forward rapidly for the Second American Open Soaring Meet to be held at Frankfort, August 26th to September 5th. Local committees are now at work arranging for better launching facilities and housing facilities for the contestants and the entertainment committee is completing plans for a fish bake, beach party, dance, final banquet and many other features.

The Michigan Amateur Network is going to handle the communications for the Meet this year. Two types of equipment will be in operation. Two complete five meters stations will be used for communication between launching site and the winches so that those on the take-off line will be in constant communication with the winch operators. These will be phone sets. An 80 meter transmitter will be set up in the American Legion Hall, which will be again used as Meet headquarters, and a second 80 meter set will be maintained on a truck. These two complete stations will afford communication between headquarters and whatever launching site is being used. We feel that this will make unnecessary much of the driving that the officials had to do at the Meet last year.

In addition to \$1,500 in the Points Award Fund, we anticipate several goal flight prizes to be posted by Michigan cities. We expect to have a thermal soaring site developed about fifteen miles inland so that those who are qualified for this type of flying may take advantage of



Frankfort Beach

the thermal activity that is found from that point on throughout Michigan.

The local Frankfort Glider Club, the Frankfort Soaring Association, the Frankfort Sailplane Manufacturing Company and School of Soaring, and the local Chamber of Commerce are all operating to make the coming American Open an event of outstanding interest in the soaring world. No effort is being spared to have everything in readiness for the entertainment of a large number of contestants, ships and visitors.

The EASTERN STATES Meet

The New Jersey State Meet, held for the past five years under the auspices of the Associated Glider Clubs of New Jersey is being expanded this year into the Eastern States Meet, and will be open, with no restrictions, to all comers. In view of the excellent performance turned in last year by the sailplanes, the chief emphasis this year will be on soaring, although airport events will still be included, and a comprehensive program for the benefit of the spectators will be planned. The contest will be held, as usual, at Schley Field, Liberty Corners, N. J. over Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Labor Day week-end, and the following week-end, September 9 and 10.

A description of the field is given in the October, 1938, issue of SOARING. It is located on top of a 300 foot hill and overlooks broad valleys to the south, east, west, and northwest, but lies so far back from the brow of the hill that it has been difficult in the past for slow ships to reach the ridge. This year a 3500 foot runway in the direction of the prevailing wind will make possible 1200 foot take-offs with the point of release at the ridge. Even the utilities will be able to cruise over the valley in search of the abundant thermals.

While the ridge is too low for pure ridge soaring, it is

high enough to cause thermals to break away from the valley floor and pass over the field.

A point award fund will be taken from the gate receipts, and various individual prizes, as yet unannounced, will be awarded. In addition to the usual soaring events, spot landings will be included in the scoring system.

Excellent cooperation is being given by the local organizations. The Liberty Corners Boy Scouts are handling the parking and concessions, and the policing of the field will be managed with the cooperation of the local and state police.

One of the objects of the Eastern States Meet is to coordinate several of the rather loosely knit regional groups in this section and form a comprehensive organization to cover activities in Eastern New York, New Jersey, and possibly Eastern Pennsylvania and parts of New England. Since the various regional organizations in this area have gradually developed into groups of only two or three clubs each, it is believed that the larger group proposed will be more effective in promoting the interest of soaring. The nucleus of this new group is formed by the Aero Club Albatross, which has absorbed most of the large New Jersey clubs, and the Airhoppers, both of whom are cooperating in organizing the coming meet.