

# Soaring

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
SOARING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

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EDITORIAL OFFICES: 1909 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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## Government TRAINING

On Friday evening, June 16, the Soaring Society of America received, in Elmira, a telegram from Harry L. Kinnear, Chief Clerk, Works Progress Administration, asking us to submit a bid for the soaring training of 12 airplane pilots. The program is being sponsored by the Civil Aeronautics Authority with funds provided by the National Youth Administration. The telegram stipulated among other things that this training should commence on Tuesday, June 20 and continue for three weeks.

The soaring training course, as outlined, consists of ground school instruction, an airport gliding check-out course, and soaring, including all forms of launchings. When the students have completed their course, they will have obtained their C. A. A. private glider pilot certificates and their soaring, or, "C" certificates. Eleven of these students have already completed the 35-hour Controlled Flight Course at various colleges throughout the country, under the experimental private flying development program. The 12th student is a Civil Aeronautics Authority Inspector.

The telegram from Mr. Kinnear further stipulated that any bid had to be received not later than 12 noon on Saturday, June 17. A similar invitation to bid was sent to the Frankfort School of Soaring, and we understand that, as a result of negotiations, a similar group is to be trained at that soaring center.

Immediately efforts were made to set up a properly equipped organization to comply with the conditions set forth in the invitation. Through the cooperation of the Elmira Area Soaring Corporation and pilots and members of The Soaring Society, these details were worked out and a bid submitted which has been accepted. As we go to press, we anticipate the arrival of these students and a busy and interesting three weeks of work. We intend successfully to demonstrate what the Soaring Society has

advocated, namely: that soaring experience is a requisite to the well-rounded training of an airplane pilot.

What is the significance of this experimental soaring program being put into practice by the Civil Aeronautics Authority? It very definitely indicates that at last the Government of the United States, through the appropriate agency, is giving those individuals who make up the soaring movement in this country the chance for which we have been asking. Nobody can say whether anything will come of the training experiments at Elmira and Frankfort. The whole matter may be dropped, as was the preliminary flight training in gliders by the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida.

On the other hand, the present experiment is an attempt to prove something quite different from the one undertaken by the Navy. It aims to prove that an airplane pilot with considerable soaring experience is a much better pilot than one of equal natural ability and the same amount of power plane time, but without any soaring background. In the first place, the former pilot has a well-founded conception of soaring meteorology and appreciates what is taking place at any particular time in the air through which he is flying. Secondly, because he has learned to rely on his own skill and experience as a pilot of motorless craft in order to maintain continuous flight, and not upon a powerful engine, he is a much safer pilot in emergencies, particularly those resulting from motor failure.

Our immediate concern must be with the details of this experimental soaring training program. It must be an outstanding success. We have good gliders, good launching equipment and good instructors, as well as the excellent facilities which have been developed at the Warren E. Eaton Motorless Flight Headquarters on Harris Hill. Speaking for Frankfort, we feel confident that in the experienced hands of Stan Corcoran and Ted Bellak as instructors, and with the able assistance of Jim Smiley in the matter of local arrangements, things will run smoothly, safely and efficiently there.

What we accomplish will be written into the record of daily flight reports and the detailed reports on each student forwarded to Washington at regular periods. These

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