

# The STEPHENSBURG SITE XIV

by J. Leslie Barton

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The Stephensburg soaring site has one advantage that few soaring sites can boast. The take-off points for all wind directions are in the valley. If the pilot is unable to stay aloft, he can land and try again at his own convenience. He never has to polish the ridge. He never has the horrible realization that if he can't keep above the hill he will spend a couple of hours helping to bring the ship back, during which time he must endure the recriminations of his friends who have lost their chances to fly that day.

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Photo by J. L. Barton

Stephensburg site. Take-off starts at trees partway up slope. The winch is behind Kestrel fuselage.

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This site combines the soaring facilities of a ridge with the take-off accommodations of an airport.

Stephensburg is located in New Jersey on State Route 24 between Hackettstown and Washington (N. J.). The take-off point is on the Thomas farm. The ridge is part of a range of hills that runs NE-SW from Massachusetts nearly to Harrisburg. It is east of and parallel to the chain known to soaring pilots as the "Ellenville Ridge". Although it looks low in the photograph, its actual elevation is somewhat over 500 ft. above the valley. There is a great deal of thermal activity and the boys have had little difficulty in "hooking one", even in the Waco secondary (since retired). Flights made in eve-



Photo by J. L. Barton

Looking west-northwest from take-off. Mr. Thomas pulling trees.

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ning thermals and winter thermal flights made here are described under club news.

As may be surmised from the photographs, the launchings are made with a winch. Altitudes of about 700 ft. are obtainable. Very high take-offs are possible, since the tow is made in the area of lift in front of the hill. Mr. Thomas, the owner of the field, charges fifty cents an hour on soaring time made from his field. He has offered the most wholehearted cooperation in the development of the site, having donated the use of his farm machinery and a good deal of the sweat of his brow in clearing the fields.

The site was discovered and developed by Les Barton, Stan Hruslinski and Frank Apgar of the "Y" Flying Club. Les and Stan fly their Kestrel there every good week-end and have piled up a lot of time. Many of the New Jersey pilots have flown from this site and have expressed their unanimous approval.

Anyone desiring to join the week-end trips to Stephensburg should contact Les Barton, 395 Sussex Ave., Newark (Phone listed under Apgar) or Stan Hruslinski, 99 Fulton St., Bloomfield, N. J.

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Stephensburg, March 27th—  
Frank Apgar taking off for his C license.

Photo by J. L. Barton

