

Soaring

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CLUB NEWS

Out of all of the varied opinions that have been expressed concerning the material contained in SOARING, there is one point upon which nearly every member is in complete agreement. The most popular part of the whole magazine seems to be the section on news from individuals and clubs. Everybody likes to hear what the rest of the boys are doing. They like to know how their own group stacks up with others in different parts of the country. They like to hear of any new ideas that are being tried out. There are other reasons too numerous to mention.

In spite of all of this interest, it is a continual struggle for us to obtain enough material to fill up the allotted space. Nobody wants to take the time to put his stories on paper and send them in. Having been a member of a large university glider club, where interesting things were continually happening without any news leaking out, we know how much inertia must be overcome before our account finally gets into the mail. Nevertheless, we refuse to be discouraged by the modesty of our readers, and are issuing a call for more news.

The copy of the English magazine, "Sailplane and Glider" from which we obtained the material on page 10 of this issue prints approximately 6 pages of club news every month, with no pictures to fill up space. We cannot spare six pages in SOARING, but, if you will send in your news, we can do a lot with the two or three pages that are now available. How about it.

OUR PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

One of our members, Theodore Walkowicz, of M. I. T., has submitted a suggestion which, if carried thru, is one of the best ways of promoting soaring activity in the country. Even though no new members may be enrolled in the Soaring Society, the sport of soaring will have received added support. We will let Mr. Walkowicz speak for himself.

"... There is one thing I would like to say in regard to the S.S.A. "perpetual membership drive." It is quite obvious that our future members will be drawn from

the present high school pupils. In view of that fact, shouldn't we try, even now, to arouse their interest in gliding? We can do this very easily both as a group and as individuals. As a group, the S.S.A. can send letters suggesting that high school libraries obtain copies of such books as "The Art of Soaring Flight" and the "Gliding and Soaring Manual." As individuals, we can offer our services as speakers at high school assemblies—speak on gliding and soaring. I have already done this before a few classes. The topic, when presented effectively, is received very enthusiastically. The number of "open-mouths" in the audience is an indication of the effectiveness of this type of propaganda. I would certainly venture to say that there is more than one future S.S.A. member in the making among the groups I had the pleasure of addressing. Maybe these ideas are pretty far fetched. But why not pass them on to the boys—there may be something in it?"

This is not a very new idea, but, in only a few cases have any individuals or groups done anything like it unless the schools took the initiative. If we keep at it, it should bring results. Lets try it out.

FATAL ACCIDENT

The first fatal glider accident of the year has finally occurred. The report is contained elsewhere in this issue. We want, first, to point out to the skeptics that this is the only gliding fatality recorded this year, and, second, to point out the significance of the conditions under which the accident occurred.

Three students were carrying on training operations with no supervision. The actual mechanical failures that caused the accident are unimportant compared to the above statement. The accident was caused by the fact that the judgment of the students became so warped that they did not consider it dangerous to operate with unsafe equipment, and because they did not have sufficient knowledge of the subject to be able to foresee what might occur. No student has ever learned to fly without going thru this stage. An instructor can see the symptoms in plenty of time to avoid accidents. The student can not.

To those of you who are considering learning to fly
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