

Soaring

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of

THE SOARING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

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Our Membership

The response to the plea for aid in securing new members has been rather encouraging. Since last issue, approximately 60 new memberships have come in.

The discouraging feature of the whole thing is the laxity of the present membership in sending in their renewals. A recent check of the files showed that there were less than 800 members, including both associate and active memberships. Instead of showing an increase in the roster due to the new memberships received, it remains about constant through the failure of proper response to expiration notices.

Since there is always a reason for such actions, perhaps it would be well to analyze the situation and find out why some of the present members have failed to renew. First, there are always a few who have lost interest in gliding, so do not feel it worthwhile to continue following it in "Soaring." Again, there are those who are financially embarrassed to the extent that renewing membership means a real sacrifice. However, it is doubtful if either of these reasons applies in most cases.

Speaking from the standpoint of Secretary and Editor, it would seem that the real reason for failure to renew is because of fear. The impression has been erroneously assumed that the SSA is flat on its back financially and every other way, so why pay for a year's membership which might not be forthcoming?

This is a false assumption spread by uninformed persons, both verbally and in writing, and should be corrected immediately!

True, the past two issues of SOARING have been bi-monthly rather than monthly, but this has not been due to the failure of the SSA. It has been caused by the necessity of readjusting the organization. Beginning with the

June issue, it is hoped to resume publication on the monthly basis.

The SSA is in sound health and so long as the members decree, it will continue to function as a national organization, publish the magazine SOARING, and do all within its means to guide gliding and soaring to a brighter future.

As has been stated before, the SSA is an organization of, for, and by the members, so if it is to continue to grow, the responsibility rests with its members. Please make renewals promptly, submit any news that might be of interest, and encourage all followers of gliding and soaring to become members of the Soaring Society. You will help them, and yourselves.

Fly Safely

It has been noted that this spring there has been a sharp rise in serious injuries and fatalities resulting from glider accidents. With the great increase in glider activity throughout the country this is to be expected but cannot be justified.

Manufacturers of gliders the country over are doing their part to provide safe ships. They are stress analyzing and flight testing their products in compliance with CAA regulations, getting their ATC's, but there the manufacturers must stop. They cannot be responsible for the way in which their craft are flown.

An analysis of the accident reports, not only of gliders, but also power planes, shows that the number of structural failures is extremely small, while "pilot trouble" accounts for by far the greatest number of crackups. Some of the outstanding contributing causes of accidents are, failure to observe air traffic rules, low aerobatics, spins resulting from stalls in turns, and show-off tactics of inexperienced pilots in attempting maneuvers in which they have had no instruction.

Accidents are unfortunate and do not help the glider movement. However, they should not be "hushed up" nor passed over lightly. Each accident should be carefully analyzed and the causes made known to all glider pilots, lest they reoccur from ignorance. There are two ways of learning, one by self experience and the other by the experience of others. The former is costly when dealing with glider crashes.

To help keep the slate clean, we should all resolve to fly safely. Remember to keep the nose down, observe air traffic rules, make sure the release hook has dropped the rope, avoid dangerous and strange maneuvers, and concentrate on a safe landing.

A safe record is a clean record!

Olympic Sailplane Plans

The Olympic Sailplane Plans have arrived, but they will not be available for distribution for sometime. Word has been received that certain structural changes have been made and until such time as drawings of these changes arrive, the drawings are not for distribution.

After the completed plans have been examined by the Technical Committee of The SSA, it is hoped that sets of blueprints can be made available, to individuals and clubs who are members of the SSA, at a nominal fee. The drawings are on tracing vellum from which any number of blueprints can be made.