



## AIRHOPPER LOG

By Alexis Dawydoff

Sunshine, balmy spring weather and an occasional whiff of Boreas against the slopes of Shwangunk ridge dissipated the winter lethargy of the Airhoppers and Wurtsboro gliderport is again transformed into a beehive of glider activity. Even more so now, since part of the Elmira Area Soaring Corp. glider school has moved in on us and is busy training glider instructors. As it operates only on week-days, our activities on Saturdays and Sundays do not interfere with the school's training program.

Four of our members: Bill Dolger, Mal Schenot, Arthur Ramer and Bill Rodenberg are working for the Elmira Area Soaring Corp. in various capacities; unfortunately for us they are stationed at Elmira and not Wurtsboro. According to Emil Lehecka, who practically commutes between New York City and Elmira each weekend to test the Schweizer ships, the boys are doing all right there.

The last two weekends at Wurtsboro saw quite a bit of flying but no soaring because of adverse meteorological conditions. Red Phelan brought his Franklin out to be test-flown by R. E. Franklin, who has been spending several months in New York on Mr. Henry Ford's business. After a lot of judicial rigging and re-rigging R. E. pronounced the glider safe and sane to fly. And boy, it certainly proved itself to be safe, especially after Red attempted to make a 360 turn 30 feet from the ground at

a near-stall attitude around some high bushes. Both Red and the Franklin came out of it unscathed, the bushes did not; they lost a few leaves and branches which were extricated from the cockpit and wing tip skids.

The Abelard and Eloise of Airhoppers, Steve Bennis and "Ginny" Mayer have teamed up to fly the "Wolf." Steve has been giving "Ginny" flying instructions in the ship and it was a pleasure to see the gal doing her ground skids. She kept the ship level and on course behind the tow car like a veteran. On Sunday, May 31st, Steve let her take the Wolf up for a straight flight and she handled it beautifully. Methinks we have another Helen Montgomery in the making out here.

Allen Van Name, Jack Brookhart and Winny Block have sold their two-place Schweizer to the Elmira Area Soaring Corp.; the deal was negotiated by Maury Waters in charge of the school at Wurtsboro. Winny Block has won his "C" button with a 56 minute flight in the two-place.

Herman Kursawe and Frank Schellhorn come out occasionally to fly the Kirby "Kite," which has been renovated with a new coat of paint and additional red trim.

By the time these lines appear in public print, Herman Kursawe's daughter Ruth will be Mrs. Allen Van Name. They have been Thermal Soaring for quite a while, the goal flight has been set for June 20th.



R. E. Franklin explaining some fine points in ground skids to Ken Kolstad at Wurtsboro.



Left to right—Parker Leonard, President of the S.S.A.; Allan Van Name, Airhopper; Jay Buxton, Vice President; Alexis Dawydoff, Editor; and R. E. Franklin.