

What Next In Sailplanes

OF the first ten planes at this year's contest, all but two could be classed as high performance sailplanes. The winning ship was Robinson's Zanoia—now nine years old, second and third were Laister-Kauffmanns about four years old, fourth was Shelly Charles' seven year old Mini, fifth was an extensively rebuilt Orlik, sixth was the "Screaming Weiner" also seven years old, and the remainder were L-Ks and Schweizers all about four years old.

Most of the surplus ships are still in good shape. Even though four years old they have not been flown much and have plenty of life left in them. But the others cannot last too much longer.

As we have pointed out in the past, super sailplanes must be either bought or built. So far foreign designs such as the Moswey III, the Weihe, and the Olympia have been the only purchasable high performance ships available. Building takes time. Witness Guy Storer spending over five years building an Olympia and Herman Kersawe's four years on his Kirby Gull. In both cases these fellows worked from plans and did not design their ships. How long Ray Parker has spent on his new modified "Screaming Weiner" we do not know.

The choice still remains to buy or design and build. To those who want to buy there is at last an opportunity to buy American—the new Schweizer 1-21.

The 1-21, discussed further in this issue, has many advantages over foreign built ships. First it will be built of metal and second it will be a production article with all parts interchangeable. As can be seen by comparing the performance curves, the 1-21 is definitely in the same class as the Weihe and with its metal construction it should have superior lasting qualities. In this regard it is interesting to note that TG-2s have a higher resale value than do TG-4s, mainly because of the all-metal construction and its longer life. A quick glance at the classified ads in this issue will verify this.

This is our opportunity to support a real effort to provide an excellent high performance mass produced sailplane. We highly recommend that all those who are considering either buying or building carefully consider the Schweizer proposal before they act.

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