



Bob Blaine,
The
Contest Manager

Bob BLAINE SAYS

VISIT Wichita Falls, Texas, today—or even get near it—and all you'll hear is "Soaring Meet," or "Look at those Cumulus!" Why, the day I arrived, one of the bell-boys in the hotel looked dreamily up from under the marquis and said, "They're sure poppin' today! Who do you think is going to break the international distance record?"

There's evidence everywhere of friendly, wonderful cooperation and downright hard work—not only by the live-wire members of the Wichita Falls Junior Chamber of Commerce, but by the city's leaders and by good Texans as far away as Dallas—"Three hours by Pratt-Read!"—as one of the boys put it.

You should see Sheppard Field: (On some maps called "Sheppard-Kell Field"). Honestly, it has its own thermal factory right along its south edge. A concrete-and-black-top paved city of barracks and offices and hangars that should practically guarantee 20 f.p.s.!

The contest itself is taking shape in the careful thoughtful planning by Charles King, Francis Harvey, and the SSA in direct cooperation on the spot through the presence of the Contest Director. Here are some brief points to show that this planning is commensurate with the great size of the undertaking:

The field is so large it will handle several lanes of simultaneous traffic—for really fast launching. A fleet of tugs include BT's and even a Wasp-powered Stearman for those ships and pilots qualified for double-tow launching. Everyone can rest assured that the facilities will be here to ease the burden of grand-scale operation!

Guests by air have a completely separate portion of the field, radio-controlled for safety.

"Magnificent hospitality" will be the watchword. Excellent accommodations (The Wichita Falls Junior Chamber of Commerce purchased 500 beds and mattresses for contestants, crews, families!) and long-to-be-remembered social events will make every minute rich.

National attention attests the significance of this year's contest. Senior Air Scouts will be here to assist during the Meet, representing the entire region. Aviation's top leaders will attend. Senator Tom Connally will open the program.

International attention already shows in England's sending two (2) Olympia's and possibly two pilots via Transatlantic air just to be with us and try out this magnificent soaring weather.

More thought and double checking has been given the contest rules this year than most realize. Provisions are included to avoid most, if not all, the weaknesses of previous rules. All-up, even chances are provided for each contestant, ("dark horses", attention!) but every due incentive is up for the world-record beating which is confidently expected. There are no "trick prizes." A total *point award* purse of many thousands of dollars! Top pilots will earn plenty, but the day to day "contest flight" pilots will be elated at their chances at prize money!

All may rest assured that no conflict with "other than soaring" activities will occur! There are fifteen cross-country days of contest soaring and two on which American Soaring may be displayed at close range to those who can *do something* about getting recognition of motorless flying in this country—a long and urgently needed opportunity!

Every decision being made by the management is for the best interests of American Soaring!

BOB BLAINE, Contest Director

P.S. The steaks are marvelous!

PRE-CONTEST REGISTRATION BLANK

TO: 14th National Soaring Meet
500 First National Bank
Wichita Falls, Texas

Name:

Address:

Age:..... Single..... Married.....

Are you a member of the Soaring Society of America or of a similar organization of another country? Yes..... No.....

If from a foreign country, please give country and organization.....

Soaring Planes to be entered: Type and CAA No.....

Type and CAA No..... Type and CAA No.....

CAA pilots license held:

Soaring Society Rating Held: A.....B.....C.....

Silver C.....Golden C.....

I will attend meet as Contestant..... Crewmember.....

Spectator..... Other capacity..... In latter case please explain

I request Hotel Accommodations..... I request free Barrack space.....Number of accommodations requested.....

I expect to arrive.....

A more complete and detailed blank will be filled out upon arrival in Wichita Falls.



Photo Associates

Believe it or not, sailplanes sometimes land in Texas.
The Ross Ranger II.

SOARING