

AIR YOUTH

The Shore Dimly Seen

One of the paramount desires of this Society through the years has been the inauguration of a national youth training program in gliding and soaring. Now it appears that we may be nearer the goal than heretofore. The time is opportune for us, *individually* as well as collectively, to exert every effort for the cause.

One of the opportunities at this time lies with the Civil Air Patrol and its already productive cadet training program, in which is organized the very cream of America's air-minded youth. CAP has long recognized the necessity for some form of practical in-the-air training. We agree that this is imperative.

Recent conversations with the officers in command of CAP revealed that they look with favor on the glider as a practical instrument for primary pilot training of the cadets.

CAP plans are almost complete for the exchange of cadets and European lads from friendly countries for a training period this coming summer. The Americans will be trained in motorless flight at foreign glider camps; the European boys will see our power training methods.

We who are familiar with the superb motorless craft and training facilities abroad can well imagine the enthusiasm of our American lads for gliding and soaring on returning. By all means, these boys should have opportunity to pursue further the sport and science in America. Here again, we as individuals and groups can be helpful.

It is anticipated that the CAP will be granted by this Congress sufficient funds to consummate fully the cadet training program. This is the only way a project of such magnitude can be successfully carried out. It is reasonable to assume that glider training can and will be made a part of cadet training when these funds are available.

When a small fraction of the federal budget is granted toward a really air-trained American youth, a magnificent opportunity will present itself. As patriots first, as lovers of the sport of soaring second, we owe it to the youth of our land to join vigorously with the CAP in this effort.

We may remind ourselves and others that the SSA has no ax to grind, that we, as CAP, are a "put" and not a "take" organization. While we are primarily devoted to the sport and science of motorless flight, we are at the same time vitally interested in all phases of aviation, especially those relating to our national defense.

Let us now and henceforth make renewed efforts to work with the CAP or any other organizations that have as their purpose an intelligent aviation program for American boys and girls. Many SSA members are now, and many more would, work with or in the CAP cadet training program throughout the country.

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The Cover	TG-3 over Bishop
Bishop Soaring	2
By Harland Ross	
Behind The Iron Curtain	4
Soaring Festival and Regatta	6
Airfoils	8
By R. D. Hiscocks	
Wurtsboro Thermals	10
By Alex Dawydoff	
Snowbirds, 1948	12
By Howard Burr	
Canadian Scene	13
By Douglas A. Shenstone	

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