

Soaring Festival and Regatta

Adapted from THE THERMAL

The Southern California Soaring Association's Second Annual El Mirage Soaring Festival over September 4, 5 and 6, was a grand success, both from the pilots' and spectators' viewpoints. Conditions were such over the Mojave Desert that most flying was confined to the vicinity of El Mirage Field.

Thirteen gliders were flying, nine in the competitions. Several times, four or five sailplanes would circle in the same thermal right over the Administration Building.

Two cross-country attempts were made. Dick Lyon landed near Yermo, California, a distance of 48 miles. Bill Kuntz made a 15-mile flight to Victorville Army Air Base.

Dick Lyon, flying his TG-2, won the meet, scoring 133 points. His nearest rival was Fred Walters, who scored 102.

Altitudes up to 6000 feet above release and duration flights up to two and a half hours were made. The 20-mile triangular circuit course was completed six times.

This Festival was co-sponsored by the Adelanto, Victorville, Apple Valley and San Bernardino County Chambers of Commerce and sanctioned by the Soaring Society of America. The Adelanto Chamber put up \$250 in prize money, \$200 of which went toward the point award system and \$25 to the aerobatic and spot landing events.

Dick Lyon took first prize in the spot landing, stopping a mere quarter inch from the spot. Gus Briegleb was second and Joe Stasneck third. Dick and Gus shared first prize in acrobatics. It was thrilling to watch both pilots perform together each time after they gained altitude spiralling in thermals. Dave Boone up with his TG-1A and wife placed third in this event and made a nice showing in other categories.

Betty and John Loufek of San Francisco, and Al Santilli from Albuquerque, N. M., brought Laister-Kauffmanns, and both Betty and Al scored the same number of points!

For the benefit of all present Gus went aloft in the



Lee Nuzom

Vic Saudek, with flag, smells smoke after Gus Briegleb kept the BG-8's nose to the grindstone too long while braking fast to hit the "spot." Gus doesn't look very worried here, but the crash truck cooled him and the skid off with CO2 snow as a "precautionary" measure.

BG-7 towed by two galloping horses, ridden by a couple of Adelanto beauties. Additional glamour was added when Orange and Apple Valley Queen Donna Reed (Hughes) was "Queen for a day" at the Festival.

The evenings' entertainments were perhaps the high spot of this outing. Watermelon feeds and weinie roasts, to the accompaniment of selected stories by Jim Spurgeon of San Diego, President Vic Saudek of the SCSA, Gus and several others, plus the usual sing-song, were enjoyed by everyone. George Barrington led an excursion through his nearby tungsten mine. Bill Albright had plenty of hot, weary, ready-to-be-rejuvenated customers in his swimming pool.

The Festival point scores: Dick Lyon, TG-2, 133; Fred Walters, L-K, 102; Gus Briegleb, BG-8, 95; Bill



Happy warriors of the El Mirage Soaring Regatta and Festival: Gus Briegleb, Director Vic Saudek, Champion Dick Lyon, Jack Ludowitz, Anna Saudek, 1948 National Women's Soaring Champion Betty Loufek, Mikey Browning, and Miss McMillen. Trophies: Union Oil Distance Award won by John Robinson; Adelanto Chamber of Commerce Award won by Dick Lyon, Irving Air Chute Co. Altitude Award won by Ed Minghelli.