



TG-3 goes aloft from Warm Springs Airport to introduce a prospect to motorless flight.

HOW A CLUB PROMOTES SOARING

By EARL MENEFEE

THE Ames Soaring Club based at Warm Springs Airport in the San Francisco area has been in existence for two years and is gradually gaining strength by initiating new ways to promote the soaring game. One of our recent membership drives brought forth a new idea which turned out to be most successful.

We trailed my sailplane, a Bowlus Super Albatross, to the University of California campus at Berkeley. Permission for a demonstration had been granted by the University Business Office. At Cal. we set up the ship on one of the busiest corners of the campus and for about five hours talked our heads off about soaring and the Ames Soaring Club. We think we "got the word" to about 2,000 students that day.

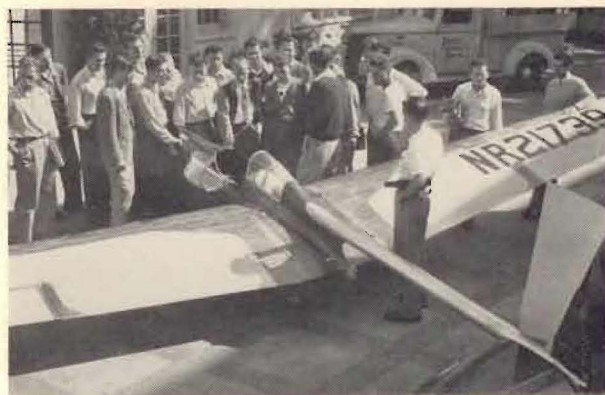
I had made up a large poster about the Ames Club, with photographs of our TG-3A in action, which proved to be a big draw. I had also sent a number of smaller posters to the Business Office, to be placed on bulletin boards prior to our arrival, but learned that personalized supervision of the announcement posters would have been better. Later we realized that a notice placed in the campus daily, several days and several times before exhibiting the ships, might have helped to draw a still bigger crowd.

We had 250 mimeographed forms ready for distribution. These showed a map and directions for getting to the soaring site, and entitled the recipient to a flight in the club sailplane for the mere cost of the tow-fee.

The Cal. excursion turned out quite well, and we hope to put on the same promotion at Stanford in the near future, where it should be even more successful. Frankly, we have found that although a tremendous number were interested in soaring, only a few had money available for the purpose.

Anyone who wants to duplicate this project should consider the distance from the site and the probable economic standing of the prospective members. Cal. is about 40 miles from our flying site, and being a state college is attended by a goodly portion of students who cannot afford the more expensive universities. This means that many do not have cars and therefore could not travel to weekend soaring sessions. Stanford, on the other hand, is attended by many students with greater financial means and is only fifteen miles from our site.

We definitely believe the project is well worth carrying out with all such potentially interested groups. It's quite surprising what people will give up in order to take up soaring.



Cal. students cluster around the Super Bowlus.

We made two other excursions, of a somewhat different nature, to publicize motorless flight. One was a double tow for about 30 miles to an airshow at the Oakland Airport. Some 5,000 spectators saw the ships tow-by, release, and then go into some gentle maneuvers before landing.

One of the big kicks of the show was the contrast between one of our sailplanes lazing along and floating down, and then four P-80's booting through at 550-600 mph. Well, everybody to his taste!