



Glider and glider guiders of the Midwestern: standing, Miller, Franklin, Adams, Bikle, Johnson, Walters, Heth, Frost, Ely; kneeling, Wise, Knight, Nowak, Wolinsky, Sweet.

The Midwestern

By ED KNIGHT, Contest Chairman

THE second Midwest Soaring Contest was held at the Toledo Municipal Airport July 14-17, 1949. Scheduled for four days as part of the annual Toledo Aquarama Festival, the contest temporarily had to cede the field to an air show on Saturday, July 16, but there was enough activity during the three and a half days of actual contest flying to satisfy both sponsors and spectators.

Wind and weather did not favor the contestants—each day the wind blew from the northeast off Lake Erie—but in spite of this condition some fair flights were made.

Paul Bikle of Dayton was crowned Midwest Champion and Dick Johnson was runner-up. The Toledo Glider Club perpetual trophy was presented to Bikle after his 101-mile flight to Geneva, Ind., cinched the Championship for him. Dick Johnson flew 75 miles to Wapakoneta, Ohio. Bikle also won the altitude award with 3650 feet; Gene Miller was second with 3200 feet.

Third in total contest points was Ed Knight, after a flight of 3 hours 9 minutes duration with return to Toledo Airport. Paul Bikle was second in this event with 3 hours 2 minutes. Bikle also won the spot landing event with an average of 4 2/5 inches for the four days.

Nine sailplanes were entered and fourteen pilots participated in the contest: Paul Bikle, TG-3; Dick Johnson, TG-2; Ed Knight, 1-23; Dallas Wise, TG-2; Bill Heth, 2-22; Herbert Schlimbach, 1-23; Kemp

Trager, LK; Marvin Frost, LK; Lawrence Ely, LK; Paul Adams, Gene Miller, Fred Walters, Floyd Sweet and Chuck Kohls.

John Nowak did his usual fine job as Contest Director and Master of Ceremonies Extraordinary. R. E. Franklin was chairman of the Rules Committee and Sealer of Barographs. Emerson Melhose flew down each day from Wyandotte, Mich., to act as Line Chief. In addition to Melhose, George Hauptkorn, of Willoughby, Ohio, did a fine job of keeping the gliders in the air.

A BT-13 was used in addition to the Stearman, and Paul Adams and Nick Walinski donated their valuable time as towplane pilots.

During the writer's absence in England the organization of the contest was carried on by Ed Wright, to whom all were grateful for his excellent work.

On Friday night, Ed Knight was host to contestants and crews at the Carranor Club in Perrysburg, Ohio. Saturday night everyone went to the Aqua Follies as guest of the Toledo Aquarama Festival.

We hope that next year we can have an even greater list of entries. The permanent silver trophy for the Mid-West Championship may not be so permanent unless some of your "hot shots" come out here to keep Bikle's name from going on it three times in a row.

Total flight time this year was 51 hrs. 60 min. and 96 airplane tows were made. "C" Certificates were awarded to Bill Heth and the writer.

HAVE YOUR CONTEST SANCTIONED BY THE SSA. To avoid confusion and to derive all the benefits the organizing officials should write to the SSA, 228 Boston Post Road, Weston 93, Mass. as early as possible, for a sanction for their event. (4 to 6 months ahead would be ideal.)