

Fourth Annual Pacific Coast Mid-Winter Soaring Championships

By JIM SPURGEON

MARCH 11 and 12 brought to San Diego the greatest glider show ever witnessed in the area. Seventeen gliders and nineteen crack pilots did a superlative job of showing off the art of motorless flight to record breaking crowds. 126 winch and fourteen airplane tows were made, and a total of 106 hours was logged.

Saturday morning brought a frontal passage at 6:00 AM, followed by westerly winds of twelve to sixteen miles per hr. By 11:00 AM the sailplanes were being "set out on the cliff" via winch tow. Bill Beuby, followed by John Robinson and Pete Girrard, hit the air early and stayed aloft until 7:00 PM. The meet officially closed at 5:00, but the three duration seekers stayed right on. A mark of 5 hrs. and 48 mins. by Beuby, flying two-place in a new TG-2 conversion, took top honors in duration.

At 1:00 PM John Loufek and Dave Boone, both flying LKs and carrying passengers, set out cross-country. Loufek made fourteen miles to take both single and two-place distance honors, and won the Montgomery Trophy for Meet Champion. Boone was second with twelve miles and finished in third place in the final standings. Robinson held the place ticket.

A mark of three inches in the spot landing event set on Saturday by Herman Stiglmeier stood until Sunday at 2:00 when Jim Spurgeon



Lockton Park

Bill Beuby and his Super TG-2, winners of the duration event, during their 5 hr. 4 mins. sojourn above the cliffs.

sneaked in with a lucky hit of one and one eighth inches.

The bomb-drop mark of nine feet six inches achieved by Irving Gere, fifteen-year-old member of the Associated Clubs, won that event handily.

The aerobatic championship was won by Bill Ivans, flying his 1-23. He edged out Johnny Robinson by two points—an inverted precision 360° turn did the trick.

Over 5000 people were on hand Saturday, followed by a record crowd of 12,000 on Sunday. News-reels and private photo bugs ground out hundreds of feet of film. Watch for it on television news-reels and in your local movie houses.

The meet, originally scheduled to run February 25 and 26, was postponed because of a heavy fog which kept the cliff in 0-0 visibility both days. Ted Nelson and his boys from San Francisco were down the 25th with the Hummingbird to steal the ground show we held for the native San Diego glider boosters.

Stratospheric Soaring

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could manage. So we called it a day as the temperature gauge was now reading —56 degrees centigrade (—69 degrees fahrenheit).

I put the airspeed to 90 miles per hour and dived toward Bishop airport 25 miles to the north. All the way down George kept saying, "Gee, it's a long way up here." We arrived over the field at 25,000 feet and spiraled down with the spoilers open, taking 25 minutes to reach the ground.



Edward Sievers

Showing off his 1-23 to spectators at 4th Annual Mid-Winter Meet is Bill Ivans. He won aerobatic championship.