

SOARING

The Journal of

THE SOARING SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc.
and
THE SOARING ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



Vol. 15 Nov.-Dec., 1951 No. 6

SOARING SOCIETY of AMERICA, Inc.

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Editorial office of SOARING, published bi-monthly by The Soaring Society of America, Inc., is 3778 Marion Ave., Memphis, Tenn. Entered as second class matter at Memphis, Tenn. Office of the Soaring Association of Canada, P. O. Box 851, Ottawa, Canada.

Membership in either organization is \$5.00 per year, \$3.00 of which is for a year's subscription to SOARING. Life membership in the Soaring Society of America, Inc., is \$100.00.

Single copies 50c.
Family membership for two members is \$7.50 per year.

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OBSERVATIONS

By JON D. CARSEY



Of the eight contests and meets held in the United States, including the 18th National Soaring Contest, this summer, it was my pleasure to attend five. It is needless to say that every one was highly enjoyed and that it was a great pleasure to meet the many participants, especially those whom I had corresponded with but had not "shook with." It was a special delight to talk with many whom I met for the first time, although I had "known them" through SOARING for many years. The predominating feature of all the contests, was the friendly spirit of competition, the ever-present willingness to assist a competitor, the continual kidding of each other about quality of equipment and abilities and the hard work done by so few and enjoyed by so many.

Second to flying, at all centers and with most participants, I found that expansion of interest in the activity remains foremost among the topics of discussion. Third in order, I was impressed with the fact that soaring activities are family activities, and that many meteorologists, photographers, model builders and other hobbyists were among those enjoying the contests.

This is the way we like it, we want our families and others to enjoy our sport-science, but if you will notice, my third impression suggests a possible solution of the problem presented by the second. This can and should be taken advantage of. Local club and association facilities and activities designed to interest our families as well as hobbyists of allied fields would add much to interest in gliding and soaring and to the pleasure to be derived.

The fourth of my impressions was the fact that at all the meets, the participants were eagerly working and assisting each other on the site, but a lack of cooperation and assistance in the work of preparation for the events seemed apparent. This could bear correction, the work of preparing for a contest can be as much pleasure as participation. Adding to and expanding an idea into something bigger and better, as preparation progresses, is a surprising pleasure of satisfaction in ac-

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