



Gliderport of The Associated Glider Clubs of Southern California during the 6th Annual Mid-winter Championships. For view in opposite direction see front cover.

6th ANNUAL MID-WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS TORREY PINES, SAN DIEGO

By JIM SPURGEON

The annual mid-winter Pacific Coast soaring championships, held at TORREY PINES GLIDERPORT in San Diego went off very smoothly, Feb. 23 and 24. Saturday the 23rd, found 23 gliders and 34 pilots all set and ready to vie for the coveted trophies. Everything was fine except there was no wind. Ridge soaring is very hard to accomplish without wind, so the first day saw the hottest competition for bomb drop and spot-landing that has ever been seen in these parts. Vern Hutchinson, flying the "THING" designed and built by him, set the meet spot-landing mark of 1 1/4 inches. The bomb drop of 8 ft 3 inches set by Bob Schenback of Los Angeles also took this event. Two cross-country hops from aero tow were attempted but both marks were short, only 7 miles.

Sunday, Feb. 24, found all hands on deck for fresh tries at all marks. The wind was with the pilots and good soaring prevailed. Bill Beuby took this award with a hop of 3 hrs. 55 min. flying his famous TG2. The flat-top LK of Larry Bell was second with 3 hrs. 36 mins. Three cross-country hops were made from aero tow, 12 miles, 11 miles, and 7 miles respectively. Thousands of spectators lined the cliff to cheer on the hot and heavy competition. San Diego claimed the Montgomery championships for the first time with Dave Boone copping all honors. He took distance and two-place distance. John Loufek was second

man for top honors. Betsy Woodward was the only female pilot in the meet and did well but the Pratt-Read was a little too heavy for the light winds that prevailed.

All the television stations in the west are now running thrilling shots of the meet on sports and news programs. This is probably the most photographed glider contest in the world due to the close proximity of the spectators to the flying activity.

TROPHY WINNERS

Montgomery Meet Championship Trophy.....	Dave Boone, San Diego
Altitude.....	Danny Garrabrant of Los Angeles
Duration.....	Bill Beuby of Van Nuys
Distance.....	Dave Boone of San Diego
Two-Place Distance.....	Dave Boone
Aerobatics.....	Bill Ivans of San Diego
Spot Landing.....	Vern Hutchinson of Los Angeles
Bomb Drop.....	Bob Schenbeck of Los Angeles
Club Participation.....	Kern County Soaring Assoc.

SHIPS PARTICIPATING

TG 2	5	TG3	1
LK	3	Schweizer 1-23	2
P-R	4	Flat-Top LK.....	1
BG7	1	Fronius "Robin"	1
Baby Albatross	4	Hutchinson "Thing" ..	1



One of the highlights of the Snow Bird Meet at Elmira was the pick-a-back trailer of the flying Gehrleins. Larry Senior and Junior put their 2-22 on the ground floor and the 1-19 overhead. Larry, Sr. won the meet trophy.