

Organized National Sponsors For Science-Sport

Glider flying, consisting mostly of gliding rather than soaring, attracts a great deal of attention with the result that many haphazard plans and activities have been foisted upon aviation enthusiasts. A group of sincerely interested business men in Detroit saw the need of an organization that could provide glider designs and methods of glider flight instruction that could be conducted at a minimum of risk. Thus was the National Glider Association brought into being. The leaders of the organization, Edward S. Evans and William B. Mayo, gave much of their time and resources and were assisted by the Detroit Board of Commerce. A full time executive-secretary, Donald F. Walker, was employed and gliding enthusiasts were urged to use this as a "clearing house." The Edward S. Evans Soaring Trophy for the American Glider Champion was established and plans were made for national contests which were held in 1930 and 1931 by the "N. G. A." at Elmira, New York. Due to the economic situation throughout the United States the Detroit group announced their withdrawal from further organizational activity, to be effective at the close of the 1931 contest.

Thereupon a group of individuals, most of whom had participated in the first two contests, issued a call "TO ALL WHO BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE OF MOTORLESS FLIGHT IN AMERICA", which was carried in "Gliding and Soaring Bulletin No. 1" issued by the Information Committee, American Soaring Association (later the name was changed to the Soaring Society of America). Incidentally, the "Bulletin" was predecessor to "Soaring" Journal of "S. S. A." Publishing the "Bulletin" were: Warren E. Eaton, President;



Warren E. Eaton
Founder of S. S. A.

A. C. (Gus) Haller, Vice President; Arthur L. Lawrence, Secretary and Treasurer; and Charles H. Gale, Editor. The "Bulletin" announced the 1932 contest to be held at Elmira, New York.

In addition to persons named previously the "parent" group included Edward P. Warner, William R. Enyart, Jacob S. Fassett, 3rd, Franklin (Bud) K. Iszard, Sherman P. Voorhees, Ralph S. Barnaby, Russell Holderman and Earl R. Southee. Emphasis was placed on the premise that "the contest this year (1932) is to be a strictly sporting affair."

Since 1932 the "S. S. A." has come through many situations but is stronger than ever. Under authority delegated by the National Aeronautic Association record soaring flights are submitted to the Federation Aeronautique Internationale, the official channels through which glider pilots the world over must proceed in order to establish records. In addition to the officers and directors of the "S. S. A." the organization is staffed with the following committees: scientific, technical, contest, and records. The services of committee members are available to all interested in furthering gliding and soaring. Regional Governors are available in 37 states, many of whom are active soaring pilots in their own right thus being in a position to pass on to students the benefit of their soaring exper-

iences. Furthermore, the U.S.A. is divided geographically into six sections with a "Leader" heading up states assigned.

As of this time (1953) forty-two clubs and associations are clearing their activities through "S. S. A." seeking advice and in turn passing on their experiences to other groups. Soaring sites in 28 states have 75 communities in each of which is located a person who may be contacted to ascertain what facilities are available for gliding and soaring.

There are 7 recognized schools for learning the art of gliding and soaring located in six different states. In the U. S. A. 12 clubs and associations publish periodicals devoted entirely to gliding and soaring. The "S. S. A." processes all regulations for records in gliding and for the award of gliding badges (A, B, C, Silver C, Gold C, Diamond C) based on an annex to the Sporting Code of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale; approved by the Gliding Committee at Orebro, July 11, 1950, and at Brussels July 5, 1951.



All gliding and soaring done under the sponsorship of the "S. S. A." is under rules and regulations for both gliders and pilots, promulgated by the Federal government agency, the Civil Aeronautics Board, and administered by the Civil Aeronautics Administration. With close to two thousand names on the mailing list the "S. S. A." is in contact with forty-five of the forty-eight states, and the District of Columbia, Canada and Mexico; and with members in South Africa, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

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