

7th ANNUAL

Pacific Coast Mid-Winter Soaring Championships

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, and
SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 1953



Torrey Pines Gliderport
San Diego, California

The spectators eagerly sought the Program.

By JIM SPURGEON

35 PILOTS had registered and 20 sailplanes had been entered, and all were prepared to enjoy the wonderful ridge soaring over the famous Torrey Pines cliffs, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The 7th Annual Pacific Coast Mid-winter Soaring Championships had gotten under way at 9:00 AM. Feb. 28th with a well conducted pilots' meeting called to order by Charlie Rowen, Associated Glider Club President.

The first flight was made by Bill Ivans who shook down the winch tow and tried out the cliffs for lift. In less time than it takes to tell about it, Ivans started his 5-hour, 32-minute sojourn over the cliff to turn in the best duration for the meet. Rapidly all the gliders were airborne, skimming along the cliff with the winds getting better by the minute. The wind shifted from due south to SW and picked up to 20 MPH, helped along by a very mild cold front that moved thru about 1:00 PM. The bomb drop and spot landing events were unpopular activities with such excellent soaring going on. Only when it was necessary to change pilots did anyone shoot the spot or drop a bomb. Everyone was sitting up there at 500 or 800 feet. About 12:30 the V-8 winch lost its power and auto tow was put into play. Tows of 150 ft. set the gliders into the ridge lift and away they would go. Often there were 16 ships over the cliffs at one time.

When the Saturday deadline of 5:00 PM came around, 11 ships were still going strong, some having racked

up over 5 hours of soaring. Ernie Shattuck flying his TG2 was high point leader, having flown 2-place cross-country 17 miles. Carl Walters led the spot landers with the nose of his ship at 5½ inches from the mark. Sunday, March 1st, came in like a lion with rain and wind; but when the pilots' meeting was over, the rain had stopped and the 25 to 35 MPH westerly breeze picked the ships off winch tow one by one until all were airborne. A contest for altitude and duration was really on until a squall came thru about 1:00 PM. Most gliders were forced down, but some caught the front and soared inland. Ivans and Swinsen made a 22-mile flights each to take the single and two-place distance marks. Ted Nelson and Harry Perl were on hand for Sunday flying, bringing the HUM-

of San Diego won the club participation trophy, beating out a strong field mark. The Associated Glider Clubs from the Valley Soaring Club, Douglas Soaring Club, Boulder Soaring Club, and the San Gabriel Valley Soaring group. The first San Diego appearance of the Prue 215 built by Ed Minghelli, captured top attention. It made a grand debut here, flying neck and neck with the 1-23, and it is the slickest home built glider ever to grace the cliffs at San Diego.

Some 12,000 interested spectators were on hand for the show, in spite of biting cold winds and chilled rains. The 7th Annual was one of the best meets yet witnessed in San Diego. Never have the winds been better or the pilots more cooperative; it was real soaring and the participants and crowds loved it all.



The Torrey Pines Cliffs.

MINGBIRD down from Frisco. Ted gave the crowd a very pleasing exhibition of aux-powered launching and beautiful soaring. The Hummingbird and the new Prue 215 were the eye catchers of the meet. A total of more than 130 hours of soaring was logged by contestants, most of it right over the cliffs in front of spectators. Fox Movietone recorded the highlights so the nation can enjoy the show thru movies.

Bill Ivans of San Diego won the Montgomery Championships with a total of 166 points. Ivans won with highest Duration, Aerobatics and Distance points. The Douglas Soaring Club won the bomb drop with 9 ft., 7 in. off the target. Vern Hutchinson won spot landing with a 3-in.



A page from the Program.

SOARING