

SSA Mid-Winter Directors' Meeting

Directors of the Soaring Society of America held their Mid-Winter meeting January 30-31 in New York City. Although the actual attendance at the meeting was lower than usual due to sickness and transportation problems, the meeting was national in scope. Directors, governors, or instructed proxies were present from the major sections of the country. Comprehensive regional meeting reports worthy of much commendation were received from the Northwest and the West Coast.

The eighteen specific items considered are listed below in brief form. All Directors, Governors, and Committee Chairmen have received complete reports on all the proceedings and may be contacted for further information.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT showed that the SSA is operating on a very close budget, and steps must be taken to increase income.

THE SECRETARY reported a 20% increase in membership for 1952 in spite of about 250 December expirations not yet renewed.

EDITOR'S REPORT. Recommendations by Julian Stag proposed a minimum budget of \$15,000 per year which would enable the retaining of a full-time editor for SOARING. Further proposals included the development of a youth program. The directors accepted the recommendations and proposed budget as a goal with the provision that the editor serve as Executive Director or General Manager.

MEMBERSHIP. As a result of higher prices and of the increased cost of producing SOARING magazine, membership rates must be raised. The directors appointed Floyd J. Sweet

chairman of a committee to make the necessary recommendations for changes before the July meeting. The Board recommended that regular active membership dues be increased to a maximum of \$10 per year with other rates proportionately raised.

INSIGNIA DESIGN COMPETITION entries were judged, with the results given elsewhere in this magazine.

HONORARY CERTIFICATES. The Board voted to issue an honorary certificate to Mr. Naudain of Dallas, Texas, in recognition of his generous support of soaring over the past few years. Certificates were also awarded to Diamond "C" pilots — Robinson, Charles, Bikle, Parker, Ivans, Opitz — and to the Junior Champion, Doug Bradley.

THE SSA NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAM was discussed in connection with other items of the agenda. Steps are being taken to arrive at a definite program of development.

MODIFICATION OF BY-LAWS. Further modification of the By-Laws was discussed particularly with regard to the complete overhaul of the memberships, chapters, affiliates and so forth. Floyd J. Sweet was appointed to lead a committee to make a complete review and to make recommendations to the Board before the next meeting.

The present election system was found to be the fairest method of electing directors. The problem of insufficient time to vote will be remedied. Explanation of the system will appear on the next ballot.

PERMANENT NUMBERS FOR COMPETITIVE SAILPLANES will hereafter be the last three digits of the ship's CAA number and will be used as official numbers in all contests.

SAILPLANE DESIGN COMPETITION. The Technical Committee was given the task of preparing a set of

rules and regulations for a glider design competition aimed to implement the SSA youth program. Steps will be taken by the SSA to acquire a sponsor.

CAA APPROVED TOW HOOK installation drawings and 337 Forms will be available to the SSA Membership through the Technical Committee.

STANDARDIZATION AND SIMPLIFICATION OF CAA REGULATIONS. Although some areas reported difficulty, in general, good relationships exist between gliding people and the CAA. However, the Technical Committee was given the job of reviewing this matter and encouraging the CAA to include gliding at its Oklahoma Flight Center so that safety agents will become familiar with gliding.

A PLUTONIUM AWARD was suggested as the award above the Diamond "C." Since no specific requirements were made, the matter was referred back to the group.

THE 20TH NATIONAL SOARING CONTEST is to be held from July 7-16 at Harris Hill, Elmira, New York. Fran Hall of EASC proposed using an issue of SOARING as the contest program. The details will be worked out with the SSA Publication Committee.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLIGHT. It was proposed to celebrate the Anniversary by an expedition to Cape Cod since this year is also the 25th Anniversary of modern soaring flight in the USA. A committee to consider this project will be appointed.

TRAINING CAMPS. The Philadelphia Glider Council's proposed training camp idea was discussed, and the SSA encouraged them and others to go ahead on such worthwhile projects.

REGIONAL MEETINGS. It was generally agreed that the SSA Regional Meetings should be expanded so that the Board of Directors will have the advantage of the criticisms, comments and recommendations from the entire country in determining the policy of the SSA.

THE NEXT DIRECTORS' MEETING will be scheduled for July 5th and 6th at Elmira, just prior to the National Soaring Contest. All members are encouraged to send their comments and recommendations to their nearest director or governor, so that these matters can be taken up at that time.

Paul A. Schweizer
Secretary

The powered aircraft was never built, and the glider, which was under construction at the end of the second World War, was finished with the help of the American authorities and shipped over into this country. This glider provided the first full-scale Delta wing model tested in a large wind tunnel but it still took several years to provide enough test results to show the clear superiority of this type. However, today when we see the numerous Delta wing designs produced in different countries, it seems that the seed of the Zanon vine finally got its roots into the

ground and is beginning to grow into a big tree.

But aviation will not stop at this point, and as good as this solution might be at a certain point of the development, it still needs further improvement to reach a final goal. Will we get to the point where man designs his own flying machine without being inspired by a natural prototype? To answer this question will be our next task.

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