

FINAL RESULTS OF REGIONAL AND FOREIGN

Increased Interest in Tournament Soaring is Shown Throughout the World.



Air Force photo

Meet Champion Charles "Chuck" Kohls, winner of the Wright Memorial Meet, as he receives the Lane Trophy from Queens Shirly Dalrymple and Gloria Lee.

The Wright Memorial Glider Meet, sponsored by the Air Force Assn., Dayton, Ohio, May 27 through 31, 1953. Compared with the four successful former meetings, this Fifth contest proved by all odds to be the "biggest and best" heretofore organized by the Dayton group. Charles "Chuck" Kohls, veteran contest soarer, by a very considerable margin, carried away top honors in the contest. Setting a new distance record for this meet of 118 miles. The Junior Championship (for pilots under 21 years of age) went to young Bob Stillwagon of Dayton. Thirteen gliders were entered with thirty-one contestant pilots. Best distance was Kohl's 118 miles; maximum altitude was by Maj. Wm. Elliott USAF, 6800 ft.; longest duration by Larry Gehrlein, 4 hrs. 19 min.; spot landing by John Bardwick.

The 6th Mid-West Soaring Contest, Toledo, Ohio, July 2, through 5, 1953. Ten sailplanes and twenty-five soaring pilots were entered in this competition. Soaring flights were made on three of the four days of the meeting. The contestant with highest score was Mr. Lawrence Gehrlein, Sr., of Erie, Pennsylvania, flying a Schweizer 1-23 (see picture page this issue for photo of winning pilot and ship.) The runner-up in this competition was Mr. Marvin Frost. Best distance for the meet was by Gehrlein (84 mi.) and second best by Al Pow, Canadian entry, (58 mi.) Best duration over the field was by Frost (3 hrs. 20 min.) and second best by W. Dettert (2 hrs. 33 min.) The altitude award went to Henry Carbrough (4550 ft.) and second to Frost (4200 ft.) Spot landing honors went to E. F. Knight 1st and Carbrough 2nd.

Northern California Annual Soaring Contest, June 13 and 14, 1953, Oakdale, California. The very active Northern California Soaring Association was the organizer and sponsor of this well attended two-day meeting. After several weeks of continuously good soaring weather, it seems that it turned for the two days of this contest and the pilots did not find it to their liking for cross country soaring. Dick Johnson flying his famous RJ-5 brought off the best distance of the contest in a flight of 170 miles. The second best distance was by Dr. Sawyer in his new Don Mitchell designed and built single place ship. (See other pages this issue of SOARING for photo of this interesting new ship.) Eleven sailplanes participated in the meeting, including Nelson's famous self launching "Hummingbird."

The Third Annual New England Soaring Meet was held on the weekend of June 20 and 21, 1953, at the North Adams Airport, North Adams, Massachusetts. Five gliders took part in the activity: Earl Brook's L-K, Dana Darling's L-K, Don Taupier's 1-19, Mohawk Valley Soaring Club's 2-22 and MIT AE's L-K. Soaring conditions were not favorable for cross-country flights, hence most of the activity was confined to local and pleasure flights. The North Adams Airport seems to be an ideal spot for motorless flying. The ridge is only one half mile from the airport proper, it is bowl-shaped and therefore soarable with winds from three directions. Mr. George West, the airport manager, was very cooperative and welcomes soaring.

The meet was terminated with a banquet on Sunday evening. Bertha M. Ryan, SSA Governor, reports the above and that the New England group is planning a September camp for the sand dune area on nearby Cape Cod.

FRENCH NATIONALS

News from France lists Pierre as champion, Lambert in second place and Troubert in third. Philip Wills placed fifth in this event.