



LARGEST ENTRY EVER INDICATED FOR 21st NATIONAL

Probably More Than One Hundred High Performance Sailplanes To Take Part

The start of the 21st American National Soaring Championships, the first to have been held on the West Coast, is now less than one month away.

This national aviation event, sanctioned by the Soaring Society of America through its affiliation with the National Aeronautics Association and the Federation Aeronautique Internationale, is now this country's largest sporting aviation activity.

This year's contest to be sited at Lake Elsonore in Southern California, will likely see more than 100 machines entered. This expanded pilot entry list (the largest heretofore, 70 odd ships at Wichita Falls, Texas, in 1947) along with its crews, official observers, SSA officers and directors, and the many persons attracted by the special events, should add up to a gathering of around a thousand persons, exclusive of the visitors, spectators, etc.

Activities will probably get underway well in advance of the contest starting date on July 27. Many contesting pilots will likely be on hand at the contest site for a few days practice and recon flights before the starting date. The wide variety of soaring conditions, as well as the terrain over which these motorless flights will be made, will prompt many contestants to come early in order to familiarize themselves thoroughly.

New and Unproved Sailplanes (for tournament work) To Be in Competition

Many new machines, some never publicly shown before, will be entered in these competitions, and it is anticipated that a greater variety of high performance ships will be flown here, than has ever previously assembled in any soaring event anywhere in the world. This in itself will attract avia-

tion designers and technicians from all over the country and especially from the vast aviation industry domiciles on the West Coast. It is also expected that military aviation experts will find this array of some of the world's most efficient flying machines to be of more than passing interest. Foreign air attaches of friendly nations and whose present assignment is in this country will be issued a special invitation to observe this event.

Dick Johnson Favored by Many

Former National Champion and current holder of the International Distance Soaring Record (535 miles) Richard H. Johnson of Grand Prairie, Texas, will fly his world-famous sailplane, the 'Ross-Johnson 5.' Many dopesters, and, naturally, those in Texas, are favoring Johnson as the

winner. His machine, declared by experts to be the world's most efficient flying machine, will be of special interest to those who have not seen it before. It has a measured and proved glide ratio of more than 40 to 1, and even to the untrained eye, it becomes fantastically apparent that this machine is something apart.

Other Soaring Aces Who Will Fly

Practically every top soaring ace in this country will fly in the 21st National tourney. Most of these men have been runners-up in previous national and regional meets. Texas' second ace after Johnson will be Wally Wiberg who currently holds the national goal (333 miles) record. He will be flying the original small span 'Screaming Weiner' now greatly modified and designated the 'Lil Doggie.' Another famous pilot and veteran

