

SOARING MODELING

by LLOYD LICHER

Most of the current interest in model gliding is being centered around the Nordic towline glider event and this summer's competitions. Some of the contest rules affecting design and official flights for 1954 have been changed by the FAI Model Commission and are as follows: towline length is shortened to fifty meters (164 feet); fuselage cross-section requirements are eliminated; and scoring methods are changed so as to be based on the total flight time for five flights, each with a three minute limit.

The world's champion of this international class of model is determined by a series of contests which culminate in the Nordic Finals, held each summer in the country of the previous year's winner. This year Denmark is host for the Finals which will be held from June 24th to 28th. Each country will be allowed to send a four man team. In the United States the Academy of Model Aeronautics is the governing body responsible for the selection of the team. The International Competition Committee of the AMA has formulated plans for the holding of area Eliminations and regional Semi-Finals for all three international model events: Nordic towline gliders, Wakefield rubber-powered models and the FAI Gas model category. Generally the winners of the Eliminations compete in four Semi-Finals and the winners of these are then the U. S. team members. This year the U. S. Nordic team will unfortunately have to be determined from the first Eliminations because of the early Finals date in Europe. Eliminations are scheduled for June 5th and 6th around the country except some on the West Coast which will be on May 16. Semi-Final dates are June 19th and 20th for all but the West Coast which will be on June 12th and 13th.

The schedule is rather tight so all those intending to go out for the team should register their intentions with a member of the ICC before the actual Eliminations. Members of the AMA ICC are as follows:

Bill Fletcher, chairman, 8708 Grand Ave., Elmhurst, L. I., N. Y.

Frank Purdy, 3511, Jackson St., Bellwood, Ill.

Harvey S. Robbers, Sr., 5610 East 17th St., Oakland 21, Calif.

Joe Bilgri, 256½ Locust St., San Jose, Calif.

Information will have to be sent to those competing seriously regarding shipment of models, etc., for at present there are no funds to finance a live team and all winning models would be sent to Denmark to be proxy-flown by their experts.

Work toward raising the \$3,000 necessary to finance a U. S. Nordic team is now being carried on by members of the SSA. The SSA Board of Directors has approved a proposal to take an active interest in Nordic modeling, and the first step has been to become co-sponsor of the U. S. Nordic team with the AMA. Soaring clubs and groups should take an active part in helping to sponsor the basic Eliminations. All such efforts must be cleared through one of the ICC members. It would be desirable for at least one soaring group to become associated with each of the presently established Eliminations to further the tie between models and real gliders. New Eliminations can be set up only where there is an indication of at least fifteen modelers who would enter. This is something soaring groups could originate through the ICC in cities which would not otherwise be having Eliminations. Try it!

The SSA is also taking up as an obligation the task of raising the funds necessary to send our team

abroad each year. The AMA has gradually been building up interest and participation in the international events but has not as yet been able to do financial justice to the Nordic event. As co-sponsor the SSA hopes to speed up this process of activating a specialized interest. All those wishing to assist should contact the author at 767 Haverford Avenue, Pacific Palisades, California.

The 1954 National Championship Model Airplane Contest will be held at Glenview Naval Air Station near Chicago. Dates: July 27-August 1. This is a direct conflict with the National Soaring Contest but worth attending if you are near Chicago and can't make it to California. All recognized model glider events will be flown: Nordic towline, Limited towline, Outdoor hand-launched glider and Indoor hand-launched glider. Of course most of the other free-flight models are essentially gliders after their brief power runs expire.

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