

EUROPEAN NEWS

By

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Outstanding Flight in Sweden

Early in July the Alands Island saw its first sailplane, and a Swedish pilot saw the culmination of a flight he had been planning for several years. Olle Berg, a Swedish engineer, made a take-off in his Weihe from Skarpnack and climbed in thermals over the Vaddo Mountains to 7,000 feet. From this altitude he headed for the sea. After losing 4,000 feet over the sea and after four hours total flying time, he landed on Alands Island, 22 kilometres north of Mariehamn.

Aero Club of Germany Elects New President

Wolf Hirth, Germany's first post-war president and reorganizer of the German soaring activities during the past few years, retired from his not-always-too-easy duty as president. He plans to devote most of his time to business.

Dr. Eitel-Friedrich Mann has been elected president. Dr. Mann, Director of the Zundapp Works, has been active in aviation for over twenty-five years. His major work as new president will be to increase the rights and the popularity of German civil aviation in Germany as well as over the whole world.

Swiss Aero Club Test

Soaring groups in Switzerland have difficulty selecting the right type of sailplane for their club members. In order to guide the clubs in the selection of new flight equipment, the Swiss Aero Club has formed an examinations group of from ten to twenty experienced pilots.

Each pilot is given a flight program and a list of about thirty questions regarding the ship itself and its flight characteristics, which he will note. After each flight the pilot is to write down his answers to these questions. He also states his personal opinion of the ship and any suggestions he may

have for changing and improving it.

Flight polars will be measured under carefully controlled conditions using low altitude flight-path analyzers. Each ship will also be tested for cloud flying, aerobatics, and practicability as a trainer.

The Aero Club hopes to make the results available to clubs and individual glider pilots who would be interested when buying a new sailplane.



Photo: E. G. Linnett

Swiss-born Othmar Schwarzenberger and beautiful Gail Frampton, Queen of the Meet, Elsinore, California.

Swiss National Soaring Contest

Since few Swiss soaring pilots can afford to take two weeks off each summer for a concentrated contest, the Swiss Aero Club devised a unique method for selecting the national soaring champion. The national contest actually lasts from March until September. During these months anyone who makes as many as six flights can complete so long as he has made at least two cross country flights of 30 kilometres and two flights of over 500 metres altitude gain. The competing pilots send complete records of as many flights as they wish; however

only the best six flights are counted in the final scoring. An accelerated scoring factor involving altitude and distance is used.

In spite of inclement weather much of the time, this year's contest results show good soaring. Hans Witschi is leading with 20,383 points; Niklaus Dubs, Switzerland's youngest Gold "C" pilot, is second with 19,809 points; third place is held by a girl, Mrs. Irene Muller, who has 19,155 points; and Alvin Kuhn, for many years the leading Swiss soaring pilot, holds fifth place with 17,912 points.

Polish-Organized International Soaring Meet

During the month of June the Aero Club of Poland held an international soaring contest in Leszno. With the exception of West Germany and the U.S.A., all other countries were invited. The countries taking part in the two weeks' contest were Poland, U.S.S.R., Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Eastern Germany, Hungary, Rumania, France and Great Britain. The Polish and Bulgarian pilots were flying the "Jaskolka," a shoulder-wing, fully cantilever machine of 48 foot span and aspect ratio of 18. The Hungarian flew the "Junius 18"; the Rumanians, "IS-5"; and the Russian pilots their "A-9," a fighter-like sailplane with exceptional performance at high speeds.

Contest flights involved only triangular course, goal and return, and goal flights. Flights were from 65 to 190 miles, but contest points were awarded only for speed.

During the training for the contest a new international speed record over a 100 KM triangular course was established by a Polish pilot, Jerzy Wojnar, flying a "Jaskolka," when he made the course in 94.716 Km/hr.

The Polish pilot, Makula, flying his "Jaskolka" won the individual championship. A Hungarian pilot, Mezo, flying a "Junius 18" placed second. Lambert from France placed ninth, and Mrs. Marcelle Choynet-Gohard, also of France, placed thirteenth. Mrs. Choynet set two new French speed records during the contest, and the British record for speed over the 100 KM triangular course was broken by Dan Smith.

Scores for the countries read as follows: Poland was first with 13,545 points; the U.S.S.R. was second with 11,531 points; Czechoslovakia, third with 8,877 points; France, sixth with 7,835 points; and England, ninth with 4,404 points.