

PHILADELPHIA "OPEN HOUSE"

By ART B. MILLAY

The annual "OPEN HOUSE" at Philadelphia Gliderport was a very enjoyable occasion. All days but one provided soaring weather, and four Pennsylvania State Records were broken during the week, although we didn't catch up with Larry Gehrlein's 130 miles. Al Schmid established a single-place Duration of 6 hours 57 minutes, and a single-place Goal and Return of 42 miles. Al also made a cross-country flight of about 100 miles to Wurtsboro in a Golden "C" attempt aimed at Rochester, N.Y.

Our visitors included Nathan Frank, with his "Wolf"; Del Pierce and Mrs. Pierce with 1-19; Bob Derrick and Jack Perrine with L-K; Ted and Mrs. Pfeiffer with L-K; Mr. and Mrs. Howie Burr and family with 1-24; and Gib Scheffer and Gus Scheurer with families and their 2-22. Many other pilots and friends dropped in without their gliders, including Ralph Barnaby who entertained our club members, guests, and training camp students, with an historical talk and movies on Sunday evening.

Other movies showed during the week included "We Saw It Happen" loaned by Chance Vought; "Eyes of Flight" loaned by Rohm & Haas; and three films rented from the S.S.A. film library.

Members and guests alike enjoyed refreshing swims in the new P.G.C. "Lake" between flights.

Nathan Frank and John Jednacz completed their 5 hour duration legs for Silver "C" badge. That was the final leg for Jed, though Nat still needs his distance. He got a good start one day but the Wolf let him down 20 miles away at Pottstown.

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seagoing gliders could doubtless open up many new soaring sites, one major disadvantage of the type must be recognized—and that is the fact that it is helpless and at the mercy of the wind when adrift. A safe landing on water at the base of a steep cliff would soon turn to disaster as the wind blew the frail craft through the surf and on to the rocks. Calm lakes with a boat available for immediate retrieving might be alright, but otherwise landing spots would have to be chosen with great care. Ordinary landlocked gliders have enough problems of their own without taking to the water to find others!

The Glider Training Camp, which followed immediately after our Open House will be described elsewhere; however, I wish to mention that Private Pilot licenses were earned on Tuesday by Nathan Frank and Doc McKee. On the same day John Jednacz and Jack Reatch qualified for Commercial Pilot licenses.

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WHEREAS, The 21st National Soaring Competition has been efficiently and successfully conducted and has been one of the most pleasant of the twenty-one contests held, due to the efforts of Mr. Hal Smith, who has unselfishly devoted his time and energy for the past several months to preparations and, for the past two weeks, all of his time to a large proportion of operations of the competitions at considerable personal sacrifice to himself,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That members of the Soaring Society of America, and all participants in the 21st U.S. National Soaring Competitions, do hereby record their feelings of sincere appreciation for the services and kindnesses so generously accorded the pilots, crewmen and observers, by Mr. Hal Smith. We wish him as much success with his every endeavor throughout the years to come.

WHEREAS, To plan and conduct a National Soaring Competition involves a great amount of ingenuity and sacrifice of personal time and effort, and,

WHEREAS, the 21st National Soaring Competition has been efficiently and successfully conducted and has been one of the most pleasant of the twenty-one contests held, due to the efforts of Mr. Pete Bonotaux, who has unselfishly devoted his time and energy for the past several months to preparations, and, for the past two weeks, all of his time to a large proportion of operations of the competitions at considerable personal sacrifice to himself,

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NEW WORLD RECORDS

The following World Records have been homologated by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale.

On 15th May, 1954, JERSY WOJNAR of Poland, flew his single place "JASKOLA" SP1325 around a 100 kilometre triangular course at a speed of 94.716 Km/h to establish a new world record. On the same day WANDA SZEMPLINSKI in a "JASKOLKA" SP1311 flew the same course at a speed of 75.564 Km/h for a new feminine single place record.

Other feminine records have also been made in France. MADAME M. CHOISNET-GOHARD on the 17th April, 1954, flew an "AIR-100" from Beynes-Thiveval, 507.052 kilometres to her goal at Bordeaux-Leognan, and on 30th May, 1954, MADAME FRANCINE ABADIE and MADAME JOSIANE CHARPENTIER flew their two place "CASTEL 25" S-138 from La Ferte Alais to Blois and return, a distance of 250.411 Kilometres.

BERTRAND DAUVIN and HENRI COUSTON on the 6th-8th of April, 1954, raised the world duration record for two place sailplanes by flying a "KRANICH III" over the Romanin Les Alpilles for 57 hours, 10 minutes.

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almost 300 miles of distance. A goodly number went through to the Blythe, Needles, Desert Center, etc., area—netting over 150 miles. But, alas, many a good man and machine became very well acquainted in the vicinity of the fine airport at Banning, situated just to the west of the mouth to the pass, one hapless chap landing at this place on six different days.

It is our considered opinion that these different and difficult obstacles which were placed in the path of those who would compete in the 21st—were all on the credit side of tournament soaring in America, proper challenges indeed for combatants in a tourney of this character, leaving, methinks, nothing whatever to question as to who really is the Champion in America for 1954.

It is doubted by this writer if there exists a site elsewhere in the world providing such perfect conditions for testing the mettle of soaring men and their machines. And lastly it should be said to the credit of our American breed of men and machines—that all of the nine days of flying during this 21st National were accomplished without a single injury to a pilot or a scratch on a ship.