

SSA NEWS

1955 U. S. NATIONALS

The 1955 U. S. National Soaring Competition has been awarded to the Elmira Area Soaring Corporation by majority vote of the Directors. Attractive bids were received from the Texas Soaring Association and Elmira.

The dates of the contest have yet to be established but they will be such that most contestants can make the contest in a two week vacation. The contest will start during one week and finish before the end of the next week, permitting long weekends for getting to and from the contest.

This contest will mark the 25th year since the first national contest was held in Elmira and the Silver Anniversary celebration on Harris Hill will be a high point of the contest.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The bulk of SSA memberships expired with the November-December issue. Many Active and Associate Members are going to miss this present issue because of failure to renew their membership. However, this issue will be mailed upon renewal of membership for the year 1955.

In order to minimize the work for the Secretary, all December 1954 expirations were removed from the files on 1 December and billings have been sent by mail.

Tell your fellow members their prompt renewal will insure continuous receipt of SOARING.

FAI BADGES

The Records Committee recently has had occasion to turn back applications for FAI badges because the claims did not meet the established requirements. On another occasion a premature announcement caused some embarrassment because the claim for record flight was disallowed for the reason stated above.

These international ratings are held in high esteem by those who have earned them and the Records Committee will continue to demand strict adherence to the FAI rules. These rules are printed on the forms furnished by the SSA for use of our members in making applications.

Your cooperations is solicited in filing only valid claims for FAI badges or legs to badges.

FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE

The 47th Conference of the F.A.I. was held at Istanbul during the period 20th to 27th September 1954. Twenty-five countries were represented.

The new President elected by the Conference is Captain K. J. G. Bartlett of the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom, and one of the Vice Presidents is Miss Jacqueline Cochran of the U. S. A.

The Lilienthal Medal was awarded to Victor Iltchenko of the U.S.S.R. for a World Two Place Distance Record of 829.822 kilometres on the 26th May 1953.

It was noted at this F.A.I. Conference that gliding is one of the most popular of aviation sports and it has established itself as one of the best means of learning to fly.

SSA OFFERS AID TO CAP

The Society was represented at the Aviation Education Workshops Planning Session for 1955 conducted recently at Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D. C., by its President, Floyd J. Sweet.

The session was under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mervin K. Strickler, Jr., Director of Aviation Education, National Headquarters, Civil Air Patrol. It was attended by a large group of educators from colleges and universities all over the United States.

The object of the conference was to enable these educators to establish workshops in their home locals for the purpose of imparting a greater knowledge and interest in aviation to members of the teaching profession. For several years a most successful summer workshop has been conducted at the University of Colorado during which gliding lectures and demonstrations have been conducted by SSA members Dave Stacey and Dr. E. E. Allaby.

The conferees were briefed on the advantages of the use of gliders as a tool to be used in imparting aviation knowledge and to maintain aviation interest once it is created. It is expected that many of the conferees will be contacting the SSA for assistance and it is hoped that all members will give their utmost cooperation when called upon.

This is a real opportunity to develop a greater interest in soaring and aid in the Air Youth Education Movement.

MID-WINTER DIRECTORS' MEETING

The mid-winter Directors' meeting will be held in New York City on 28 and 29 January 1955. These dates have been selected because a number of the Directors have indicated they will be in the New York area for the IAS-SSA meeting.

This will be an opportunity for the SSA membership to bring to the Directors those items which they wish to have considered. All members are enjoined to write to the Directors nearest them who have the most intimate knowledge of their problem. To insure that the item gets on the agenda, copies of letters should be sent to the Secretary, Box 71, Elmira, New York.

It is unfortunate that the SSA membership is so widely scattered that a true membership meeting cannot be held. Every effort will be made to give consideration to any and all problems which the membership may raise at this time.

A general membership meeting will be held at the site of the 1955 U. S. National Soaring Competition, scheduled such that there will be no conflict with others scheduled events.

IAS-SSA MEETING

The Society will participate in the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences' program on the occasion of its annual meeting in New York City. The SSA session will be Thursday, January 27, 1955 in the Columbia Room of the Hotel Astor, New York City. The session will be from 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. and will be chair-manned by Capt. Ralph S. Barnaby, USN, Ret., Vice-President of the SSA.

A paper will be presented by Harry N. Perl entitled, "The Powered Sailplane," which will be augmented with a colored movie. Following this will be a panel discussion on "Contributions of Soaring to the Aviation Program, Past, Present and Future," with Capt. Barnaby as moderator. Panel members will be Dr. W. B. Klemperer, Ernest Schweizer, Ernest G. Stout, Paul MacCready, Jr., Lt. Frank Obarr and Lt. John Bardwick.

The panel members will lead off with brief talks on their themes followed by discussions to be participated in by the audience.

(Continued on Next Page)