

THE MUNITALP FOUNDATION COMPETITION FOR METEOROLOGICAL PAPERS

Because of its interest in stimulating the accurate observation, reporting and interpretation of meteorological phenomena, The Munitalp Foundation is inaugurating a competition for written papers on a meteorological subject and offering prizes totaling \$400.00. The subject of the papers for the competition is to be "Upcurrents." Glider pilots and free-flight model fliers are in a unique position for making appropriate observations, so they in particular are being invited to participate, but anyone may enter. Judging of the papers will be primarily on originality, interest, and effective use of the data or observations available; a rather technical paper resulting from a heavily sponsored research project will be given less weight than a less technical paper based on simple, unsponsored observations.

RULES:

- (1) Anyone may enter, but the papers must be written in English.
- (2) Prizes: First \$200.00
 Second \$100.00
 Third \$ 50.00
 Fourth \$ 50.00

If in the opinion of the judges there are not enough deserving entries to warrant awarding of all of the above prizes, the prize money not awarded will be held for a later competition.

- (3) All prizewinning entries and photographs will become the property of the Munitalp Foundation who will endeavor to place them in appropriate popular or technical publications. Non-prizewinning entries will be returned only if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
- (4) Entries must be postmarked before May 1st, 1955. They should be sent to:
Dr. Paul MacCready, Jr.
Consultant to Munitalp
Foundation
1202 E. Green Street
Pasadena 1, California
- (5) The prize awards will be an-

nounced at the National Soaring Contest, Elmira, New York, and in *Soaring Magazine*.

- (6) The subject must involve "Upcurrents," with special reference to atmospheric phenomena which might be capable of sustaining the soaring flight of birds or gliders. The paper may consist of a description of a spectacular or unusual meteorological happening, or be an analysis of observations.
- (7) The paper may be of any length, though it should be noted that a concise paper will probably appeal more to the judges than will a long paper. Photographs may be included.
- (8) The competition excludes work previously published. The competition judges will be:
 - (a) Captain H. T. Orville
Adviser to Friez Instrument Division of Bendix Aviation Corporation, and ex-Chief of U. S. Navy Aerological Service
 - (b) Mr. Barney Wiggin
Meteorologist in charge of the U. S. Weather Bureau Office, Buffalo, New York
 - (c) Dr. Vincent J. Schaefer
Director of Research of The Munitalp Foundation

The Munitalp Foundation is dedicated to performing and aiding fundamental research in meteorology. The Foundation hopes that this competition will further its aims by stimulating those who are already watching the weather to "watch more closely," and by developing the meteorological interest of others (particularly the younger people). The competition is designed to recognize the value of simple observations as opposed to ones involving expensive and complicated equipment.

Here are a few examples of the sort of topics which might be prize-winning ones:

The characteristics of thermals under various conditions as indi-

- cated by the flight of soaring birds.
 - The relation between turbulence and upcurrent size and shape as noted during sailplane flights.
 - The strength and size of thermals near the ground as demonstrated by the soaring of models.
 - Descriptions of dust devils, and their relationship to clouds overhead.
 - Periodicity of thermals.
 - Wavemotions over water or flat ground.
 - The shapes of the bases of cumulus clouds.
- This competition is being conducted with the cooperation of the American Meteorological Society and the Soaring Society of America.

(Continued from Previous Page)

NEW SSA ROSTER

On or about 1 March 1955, all Active Members will receive a copy of the new SSA Roster and Information Bulletin. This will contain a list of all Active and Associate Members on record as of 1 February 1955 and will be free to all Active Members. It will also be available to Associate Members but unfortunately a nominal charge must be made.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE

We are now starting the 1955 soaring year which we hope will be the biggest ever. However, we want to make a hard honest look at what was accomplished in 1954. To this end the SSA State Governors will be after all clubs and sailplane owners within their states to obtain the very best possible statistical record of their efforts for the past year.

The 1953 statistical report was the best that has ever been compiled on glider activities in the U. S., even though there was only a 57 per cent return of the questionnaires. Two of the largest organized soaring groups failed to report. It is hoped they will not repeat the performance this year.

The statistics obtained in these annual surveys can be most useful to SSA members. For instance, an accurate accounting of all flying time can be a useful tool in seeking substantial reduction in insurance rates.

The dead line for receipt of all reports has been set for 1 February 1955. Please do your part so your State Governor can say "100 per cent reported!"