

NORTHEASTERN STATES SOARING CHAMPIONSHIPS

by
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The annual Northeastern States Soaring Championships were held this year at Wurtsboro, New York, on May 28-29-30, sponsored by the Metropolitan-Airhoppers Soaring Association. The meet was kept informal, in accordance with the MASA tradition, and consequently no cross-country flights or open days were planned for the contest but rather local events which kept the pilots close to home, while at the same time tested their skill and made the event a competitive one.



Pilots' briefing at the Northeastern States Soaring Championship Meet, 1-24 in background.

Photo:
Gretchen Dambach

Besides a good turnout from our own group and a number of interested visitors, as well as the usual crowds, we had as guests a large turnout from Schenectady—Mrs. Hazel Bundy and daughter, Susanne, Harold Bovenkerk, Dick Troy, the Jim Nortons, Don Martin with his mother, and Bob Brieling who flew the Schenectady L-5 down to help with towing. The group trailered down their 2-22 and the Bundy/Bovenkerk 1-23D.

From Elmira, the Burrs with the 1-24, and the Carris' with a 1-26. From Massapequa, Mel Stickney with his L-K. And from Washington, Bob Derrick with his L-K. All in all a good group, which helped make an enjoyable weekend for everyone on the field.

Soaring-wise, the picture was a bit different. Saturday turned out to be a typical Memorial Day weekend-type of day—overcast. A layer of stratus cut any chance of lift so effectively that nobody even attempted to fly, except for a few checkouts. The hangar flying was grand though,

and while there was probably some chomping on the bit by some unhappy pilots it wasn't too evident in the flow of conversation.

The famous Wurtsboro barbecue was held that night, featuring barbecued chicken and catering to about 60 people—at the beginning of which appeared along the road the skeleton of something on a trailer (which turned out to be parts of a 1-26) driven by Frank Woodward of Toronto. Frank had gone to Elmira to pick up the 1-26 parts, had heard

Susanne and Hazel Bundy next to their 1-23D, in which Hazel became outstanding woman pilot of the meet and Harold Bovenkerk won the Northeastern States Soaring Championship.

Photo:
Gretchen Dambach



about the meet and continued to Wurtsboro. He stayed overnight, flew Bernie's 1-26 the next day, then drove back to Toronto. What a way to spend a weekend!

On Sunday we had clear skies. The air was extremely unstable though, and while a goal and return flight to Monticello, only eight miles distant, was set up, no one cared to venture even that far away from the field. So the contest was narrowed to a timed flight of one hour and a spot landing, the latter being rather inter-

esting because the field at Wurtsboro is not altogether level. Competition immediately became keen, and the whole field made a fine showing. Hal Bovenkerk emerged with a flight of 1 hour 1' 16" and a spot landing of 8½", which won him the championship.

The awards were made at the barbecue that night, and were presented by Mr. Paul Diamond, president of the Wurtsboro Chamber of Commerce. This group has become interested in the soaring activities at their local field, and shortly before the meet voted the purchase of a fine perpetual trophy, to be awarded annually at the Northeastern States Championships. MASA is highly pleased that the town should make such a splendid gesture, and we look forward to an even closer relationship with our friends there.

The trophy, along with a smaller cup to be kept permanently, went to Bovenkerk—who's headed for the Nationals, by the way. Hazel Bundy received a cup as the meet's outstanding woman pilot, Howie Burr received another for outstanding pilotage, Bernie Carris was awarded a gallon of varnish contributed by a local shop, for sportsmanship, and Tony Camacho of MASA was given a cup as the outstanding novice in the meet.

The barbecue itself fed around 75 people, and featured MASA's famous

steak. And a tremendous storm, which lashed over the field put out Bennis' fire as he was ready to put the food on. A tornado struck the valley 10 miles south of the field, uprooting trees and causing considerable damage to the community there, but MASA's luck again held out and the ships were unharmed.

Monday's weather, now that the contest was over, was magnificent. Such thermals! Such cumulus! Such lenticulars, which would appear to

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