

7th ANNUAL WRIGHT MEMORIAL GLIDER MEET

by
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Photo: Ed Johnsey

Miss Jounie Broughton, Queen of the Meet, presents Grand Champion Dave McNey with the Lane Trophy.

The seventh annual Wright Memorial Glider meet opened on Thursday, May 26th at Cox Municipal Airport, Dayton, Ohio, with the weather being sunny and warm.

For the first day, seventeen entries were on hand to get things rolling. Crews were busy setting up their ships in hopes of getting their points built up early and members of the Soaring Society of Dayton were scurrying around making final preparations for communications between the glider control area, operations trailer, bomb drop, spot landing area and the Cox Municipal tower.

This year's competition had the greatest number of entries in the seven-year history of the meet. Twenty two ships and fifty-eight pilots were entered. The types of ships in the meet were as follows: Two L. K. Standards, three Schweizer 222's, two Schweizer 126's, three Schweizer 119's, four Cinema's, three Schweizer 123's, one Schweizer 123-D, one Schweizer 120, two T.G.'s, one L. K. Flat Top and one Franklin. At the close of Thursday's operations, 23 pilots in 11 ships had participated.

On Friday, May 27, brisk winds and bumpy air hurt chances for record breaking flights, but failed to keep pilots from trying their luck. Tow planes were kept busy during the morning despite the adverse weather and hopes were high that the afternoon would be more favorable for record attempts. The pilots at least had marks to shoot at after two Daytonians took the lead in the Senior and Junior division in flights

at the Cox airport on Thursday. Bud Carbough, in the Senior division, took the lead in the Polarad paper straffing, by cutting the paper twice in 8 seconds, also Wally Detert led in the Junior division with 310 points. These records were soon to be broken as the day progressed. At the close of Friday's activities, 22 official flights had been tabulated and total points were going up.

Saturday, May 28th, the third day of the meet, the weather still had not changed for the better. Low hanging clouds and winds of 20 to 25 knots out of the south west, were to dominate the day and eventually turn into thunderstorms. This condition though unfavorable to most entries, turned

and also set a new meet record in the General Electric distance event of 189 miles. Former mark was 142 miles. At this point of the meet, Purdue University team was leading Ohio State in the Collegate events. At the close of operations on this day, all entries and their families were invited to a Wright Memorial Glider Meet picnic. A good time was had by all and a lot of hunger pangs were diminished.

The fifth and final day of the meet was a busy one right up to the four o'clock deadline. Pilots were running back and forth from the flight line to the operations trailer, checking on their standings.

After all tabulations were made,

Lin Bachtell, President of The Soaring Society of Dayton, presenting the awards.



out to be a great day for Bob Urban of Erie, Penn. He got off tow just in front of the squall line and was able to pick himself a ride of 80 miles to Marion, Ohio, which put him in the lead in the Junior division and eventually won for him top honors. Also, Howard Trampenan of Erie, Penn., moved into the lead in the Hyland Spot landing event, coming within 9 1/2 inches of the spot.

On Sunday, the crews and pilots were anxious to get started as early as possible, but again weather conditions were anything but good. Dave McNey of Youngstown, Ohio, last year's Junior Champion of the meet, took the lead in the Senior division

the Queen of the Wright Memorial Glider Meet, Miss Jounie Broughton of Dayton and Lin Bachtell, President of The Soaring Society of Dayton, presented the following trophies:

Senior Division Winners: Grand Champion—Dave McNey of Youngstown, Ohio; Lane Trophy.

Lycoming Bomb dropping—Rudy Opitz, Dayton, Ohio (42 feet).

B. & H. Spot landing—Charles Kohls of Toledo, Ohio (6.5 inches).

Consolidated Vultee Absolute altitude—Dave McNey (4100 feet).

Apex altitude gained—Larry Gehlein of Erie, Penn. (3,087 feet).

Ryan endurance—Dave McNey (4 hrs. and 12 min.).

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