

# SSA NEWS

## DIRECTORS ELECTED

The following Directors have been elected by the members of the Society to serve for a three-year term: Ralph Barnaby, Richard Johnson, Wolfgang Klemperer, August Raspet, Ernest Schweizer, and Stanley Smith.

Three Directors were retired from the Board as a result of the election and the Society wishes to express its thanks to them for their services. These are Gus Briegleb, Fritz Compton and Ben Shupack.

## SSA STATE GOVERNORS

The Society is now represented in all states except Nevada by a SSA State Governor. New York and California have two each because of the concentration of soaring activities in widely separated areas of these states.

A recent report from Lloyd Licher, southern California Governor, indicates he is setting a fast pace. In a few short weeks he visited each of the clubs in his area and is accumulating data on soaring sites, sailplanes, tow-planes, repair facilities, etc., which he passes on from club to club. This he does in addition to his duties as Secretary for SCSA.

It is this type of activity on the part of our SSA Governors which is a real service to the soaring movement.

## SSA GENERAL MEETING

There will be a general membership meeting of the Society on 14 July at Harris Hill, Elmira, New York. It is hoped that as many of the Society members as possible will be in attendance.

Any members having resolutions they would like to propose for adoption should submit them to the Secretary in time for the meeting or be present personally to present them.

## PAUL TISSANDIER DIPLOMAS

According to the Agenda for the 1955 General Conference of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale scheduled to be held in Paris June 17th to 25th, Captain Barnaby is slated to receive a Paul Tissandier Diploma. The other Americans to be so honored are Mr. E. H. Heinemann, Chief Engineer, Douglas Aircraft Corporation, Ben O. Howard, famous

racing pilot and Consultant to Convair Aircraft, and Mr. J. H. Kindelberger, Chairman of the Board, North American Aviation, Inc.

The Paul Tissandier Diplomas, established by the FAI in 1952, are awarded each year to representatives of the various member nations "who by their action, work, initiative, their devotion, or in any other manner, serve the cause of aviation in general, and private and sporting aviation in particular."

In the Captain's case the award is for his "outstanding contributions to gliding and soaring in the United States."

## PART 20 CAR TO BE REVISED

On 5 May 1955 the Civil Aeronautics Board issued Civil Air Regulations Draft Release #55-12, "Proposed Revision of Part 20 of CAR. Pilot and Instructor Certificates."

Sixty copies of this release have been distributed to the soaring clubs of record with the SSA and to the Technical Committee for review. Comments will be submitted to the Technical Committee for preparation of a SSA position with regard to the proposed changes. The Committee report will be acted upon by the Directors.

There are no particularly sweeping changes, but it is hoped that the SSA recommendations will result in regulations which, while not curtailing glider activity, will make for a safe and healthy growth in the number of soaring pilots.

## HOW MANY GLIDERS?

The compilation of gliders registered with CAA on 1 January 1955 is indeed revealing. The figures show there are 471 in the U.S. of which number 194 are active and 277 inactive.

There are 54 types listed of which 4 are in quantity: Cinemas 15, 5 active; TG-4's 129, 37 active; P-R 1's 48, 19 active; Schweizers (all types) 190, 91 active.

The big question is why are 277 of our gliders without current airworthiness certificates? Do these gliders actually exist or are they victims of attrition which have not been reported to CAA? If any of you are in possession of information of gliders by registration number which are no longer repairable or have been destroyed, will you please inform CAA? This will make next year's statistical report much more realistic.

## PILOT SHORTAGE?

An item in the April issue of the Aircraft Industries Association publication, "Planes" is entitled "Dearth of New License Applicants is Causing Serious Pilot Shortage."

The article laments the fact that in 1954 there were 20,000 fewer applicants for civil pilot licenses than in 1953, that the Armed Forces were experiencing difficulty in recruiting pilots and the airlines are resorting to advertising for co-pilots. While the article dealt mostly with the shortage of pilots to meet needs for agricultural aerial applications, it brings out the fact that interest in aviation as a career is decreasing.

It appears that the aircraft industry is not looking to its own. Recently the AIA turned down the opportunity to sponsor a program involving gliding which would have sparked the interest of many youthful aviation aspirants. Perhaps industry and the armed forces should plant their seed now for crops in 1960, by getting youth airminded and air conditioned before they have chosen another career.

It is a little too late when a college graduate has his diploma to coerce him into a career as a civil or military pilot.

## FRENCH NATIONALS

The SSA has received through the National Aeronautic Association an invitation from Madame Jaffoux-Tissot, Secretary General, Aero Club of France, to participate in the French Nationals June 25 to July 10, 1955.

The U.S. was invited to send one pilot and two assistants and their own equipment. It is indeed unfortunate that the invitation was not received in time for the Society to arrange for an entrant.

The invitation was much appreciated and we wish the contestants every success.

## SOARING DIRECTORY

The new 1955 soaring directory has now been mailed to all members. It was quite a task to compile but it is hoped that next year only minor changes will be necessary to bring out the new edition.

There may be some whose names have been omitted. This is probably because of late membership renewal. It was impossible to catch everyone and the cut-off date was 1 March. If any members are improperly listed, the Secretary's office would appreciate being informed.