

SOARING NEWS BRIEFS . . .

The unusual glider reported by PETE BOWERS in the last issue of SOARING is of particular interest to SSA President, FLOYD SWEET. He was the Air Force Project Engineer on the SFG-1 at Wright Field. He reports that while the glider had the approximate wing spread of the TG-3, its weight empty was approximately 4,000 lbs. The glider was designed for towing at speeds slightly under 200 mph and had a droppable landing gear. It could be landed on the skids shown in the picture.

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"SAILPLANE AND GLIDER," the oldest publication in the world devoted entirely to motorless flight, has merged with its younger rival and official publication of the BGA, "GLIDING." The merger will be called "SAILPLANE AND GLIDING" and will be edited by DR. A. E. SLATER. The magazine will be published bi-monthly and the subscription will be \$3.00 a year. It can be received directly from the B.G.A. Londonderry House, 119 Park Lane, London, W. 1.

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The 1955 GERMAN NATIONAL CONTEST, held at Oerlinghausen in July was won by HANNA REITSCH, the famous feminine German pilot. Miss Reitsch flew a ZUGVOGEL. World Champion Gerard Pierre took second place, after having led the pack until beaten out on the last day by Hanna's brilliant choice of starting time and subsequent flight in frontal conditions.

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A. (PIRAT) GEHRIGER, Chairman of the F.A.I. Gliding Committee, who has been Secretary of the Swiss Aero Club for eight years recently resigned that position to join SWISSAIR in its flight personnel procurement program. Pirat will continue to head the Gliding Commission, in which he has so unselfishly served world gliding and soaring for so many years.

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RALPH S. BARNABY is the new President of the EARLY BIRDS. He was elected at the meeting of this pioneer group held during the National Aircraft Show in Philadelphia in September.

European Records are toppling at an unusual rate. Dr. GILDEMYN of the Ghent Aviation Club flew 207 MILES to break the Belgian Goal Record. The German Goal Record was also broken by a flight of 328 KILOMETERS by GEORG RODATZ. The Swiss distance Record was broken by DR. HANS NEITLESPOCH, in a "SKY" by a flight of 530 KILOMETERS. The Czechoslovakia Goal Record was broken by JAROSLAV KUMPEST by a flight of 526.5 KILOMETERS.

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The RJ-5, the ship with which RICHARD H. JOHNSON won three U.S. National Soaring Championships and two International Records including the 535-mile distance record, has been sold by Dick to GRAHAM THOMPSON of Santa Monica, California. Dick is busily engaged in the design of a new ship, a two place that he reports will have performance equal to or better than the RJ-5.

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The 1955 YUGOSLAVIAN NATIONAL CONTEST was a traveling affair, with one exception, when a 100 kilometer triangle was flown. The six tasks required movement of the entire contest over a 1000 kilometer journey. This is the third such contest that has come to the attention of SOARING including a very early one in Germany and one by the Texas Soaring Association in 1953.

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TED NELSON has contributed a copy of his film showing a week-end of soaring the HUMMINGBIRD at BISHOP to the SSA FILM LIBRARY. It is in color and includes a magnetic sound track with Ted's own voice describing the ship and flights. It is available on a rental basis from the library, 67 Fisher Road, Rochester, N. Y.

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An unconfirmed report is that FRANK KERNS and MILT FRANKHAUSER have leased the ELSINORE AIRPORT (recently called Elsinore Gliderport) and will make it a commercially operated gliding and soaring operation. If so, it will be the only one of its kind in the country.

The Lasham (England) News Letter brings news of a new development of interest to soaring people who visit England. It is "THE KRONFELD CLUB," which is a down town club in the heart of London. Named in honor of Robert Kronfeld, a pioneer soaring pilot and well known test pilot, who was killed in 1948 in the crash of the AW 52 flying wing. It is to be a social center for gliding and soaring and is located at 74 Eccleston Square. One of its principle functions will probably be that of a meeting place for international soaring figures.

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Australian sailplane designers and constructors, EDMOND and HARRY SCHNEIDER have added a lightweight short-span ship to their long list of developments. It is called the "GNOME," weighs 170 pounds and has a 26-foot span. Its fuselage is steel tube and its wings are of wood, all fabric covered. It will be offered in kit form in varying degrees of completion. "Australian Gliding" reports that the price will be in the order of 600 pounds (approximately \$1,700.00) and that it has pleased many leading pilots at several Australian soaring sites.

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PAUL BIKLE, Technical Director to the Commander, Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards, California, was one of the eight Federal employees to be awarded a scholarship to the AMERICAN MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION course. He was one of two Air Force personnel so honored and will attend a four weeks management course in New York City in January.

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CHARLES FAUVEL has created an "INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE AWARD" consisting of a trophy and a cash award for the greatest distance accomplished each year in a Fauvel AV-36. ERIC NESSLER of France now holds the AV-36 distance record of approximately 280 miles.

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An article in "Thermic" reports over fifty sailplanes sold to RED CHINA by the POLISH. They are reported to range from primaries to high performance sailplanes.

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HARRY PERL, co-designer of the HUMMINGBIRD, has finished that chore and is now with the Atomic Energy Commission.