



Staff Photo

Floyd J. Sweet, President
of the Soaring Society of America, Inc.

EDITORIAL

Are we really trying to promote soaring? Are members of the Society good salesmen? These two questions have been uppermost in my mind for the past two months. The questions were raised while discussing the place gliding might have in the aviation training program for the Armed Services.

When the statement is made that soaring is virtually unknown in most parts of the country and that soaring has not generated any wide appeal, it gives one pause for thought. The more informed felt that the soaring pilots do not consider their medium as a stepping stone to powered flight but considered it an end in itself; also that soaring pilots consider their medium as "real" flying while pilots of powered aircraft are relegated to a position of less than purists.

We can all think of statements to refute these remarks but I think they were generated by our failure as salesmen. Perhaps we are too self-centered and selfish in sharing the pleasures of soaring with others. We need to make a greater effort to invite airport operators, flight instructors, public officials, members of the Armed Forces and CAA personnel to participate with us.

I know this is being done by some of our soaring groups through the medium of frequent "open house" weekends. Let's have more of these and remove these barriers which are retarding the growth of soaring. Few are the initiates to soaring who do not at least sing its praises as a wonderful sport.

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