

# SSA NEWS

## 1956 NATIONAL SOARING CONTEST

The Contest Committee of the Soaring Society of America, Inc., has announced that Grand Prairie, home of Texas Soaring Association, has been chosen as the site for the 23rd National Soaring Contest. No definite dates have been decided but it has been tentatively agreed that contest flying will commence on July 31 and finish on August 9.

TSA, in anticipation of its being awarded the 23rd National Contest, had already selected most of the chairmen to lead the various committees, and, now that its hopes have been justified, the Texas organization under the leadership of President Del Lewis, has started the necessary planning to insure the success of the contest.

Full details will be published in the March-April issue of SOARING and the contest rules and regulations, as approved by the SSA Contest Committee, will appear in the May-June issue.

## MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATIONS

With the November-December issue of SOARING a large number of our memberships expired. Close to 500 in fact.

All expirations have been duly billed by the Secretary's office. May we urge you to renew your membership NOW, so you will not miss the next issue of SOARING or fail to be included in the 1956 Directory. This Directory will be sent to the printers on March 1, 1956 and mailed soon thereafter to all those holding Memberships of various grades in the Society as of the March 1 closing date.

## ANNUAL REPORTS

The annual reports from the various gliding associations, clubs and individual owners in the U.S. will be due at the end of this year. The Secretary's office has already distributed questionnaires to 63 organizations on record with the Society and the SSA State Governors have been requested to follow-up on this matter.

It has been requested that the reports be submitted to the Secretary's Office not later than January 15, 1956.

In 1954 an incomplete report was compiled based on 54% return of the questionnaires. LET'S FIND OUT WHERE WE STAND. GET YOUR REPORT IN EARLY!!

## MICHIGAN SOARING ASSOCIATION HONORS KEMP TRAGER



The 1955 National Soaring Champion, Kemp Trager of Detroit, was guest of honor at a banquet given by the Michigan Soaring Association at the Engineering Society of Detroit on November 4th. Among the 57 persons in attendance were representatives from soaring groups in Fort Wayne, Toledo and Grand Rapids. Bill Sherman, old-time glider pilot from Detroit, was toastmaster. Kemp was presented with a handsome electric clock, suitably inscribed, on behalf of MSA. In his speech of acceptance Kemp pointed out that he felt that the thermal soaring potential of Michigan and the northern mid-west has been very much under-rated, and that record-breaking distance flights might well be possible from such locations. He also recommended a strenuous effort to re-establish a gliderport in the Detroit area, complete with club facilities, and was subsequently named chairman of a committee to drive toward this goal.

## 1956 WORLD MEET

There has been no additional information on the dates, place or number of permitted entries to the 1956 World Soaring Competition since that reported in the last issue of SOARING.

SSA planning has progressed to the point of seeding the U.S. pilots. The Contest Committee selected the first ten contestants in the 1954 and 1955 U.S. National Soaring Competitions, plus the members of the 1954 International Team, as possible contestants for the 1956 International Team. This selection resulted in a list of 18 of

the top U.S. soaring pilots, each of whom graded the 17 names on the list, omitting their own name. The only factor considered in this seeding was the pilot's ability in competition flying.

The voting resulted in the following seeding for the top half of the list:

1. Paul F. Bikle	53
2. Paul B. MacCready, Jr.	61
3. William S. Ivans	62
4. Richard H. Johnson	75
5. Kemp Trager	83
6. Raymon H. Parker	95
7. Paul A. Schweizer	117
8. Lyle A. Maxey	125
9. Robert B. Smith	127

The team will not be selected until the place and dates of the contest and allowable number of entries have been determined. Other factors which must be known are the availability of gliders, pilots' availability for the duration of the contest, plus practice period and transportation time, and the extent to which the SSA is able to raise funds for financing the trip.

It is hoped all of this information will be available such that the team selection may be completed by February 1, 1956.

## MID-WINTER DIRECTORS' MEETING

It has been customary for several years for the Directors to hold a mid-winter meeting. The 1956 meeting takes on additional importance since the last revision to the By-Laws provide that the Directors will elect the new officers at this meeting. Officers so elected will assume their duties at the time and place of the Annual U. S. Soaring Competitions.

It is planned to make this meeting one of the winter features for members of the Society; to include not only the Directors' meeting but Committee Meetings and a general membership meeting, covering a period of several days. All Members of the Society will be notified by mail of the details.

## ANOTHER "CLASS" RECORD

The World "Class" out and return record established by Lyle Maxey on the last day of the SCSA Regatta, 4 September, 1955, has been officially homologated by the FAI. This flight was very well reported by Lyle in the last issue of SOARING.

The record distance officially is 500.02 kms.

Our sincere congratulations to Lyle Maxey for bringing to us our eighth World "Class" Record.