



Staff Photo

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

EDITORIAL

Looking back on 1955, we might get a sense of satisfaction from several things: a small increase in members, the usual number of regional contests and a most successful National Contest, and a definite increase in the general activity of soaring groups over the U.S. The statistics and supporting facts of how successful 1955 was, will not be known for several months.

The Society is circulating a report to all of the organized soaring groups of record and it is our earnest plea that they be completed and returned promptly to the Secretary's office. Our last effort along this line was in 1953 when through failure of 46% of the groups to report, we obtained inconclusive data. We all owe it to the prestige of soaring in the U.S. to submit prompt and completely factual reports.

Looking behind is only useful in plotting a better and brighter future. Some things we already know. The general level of interest in soaring is exceptionally high and, as evidenced by the number of articles in all of our news media, forecasts a growing movement. It will expand of its own accord, slowly to be sure, but we can accelerate this and make soaring more popular and pleasant for everyone if we give it some direction. This is an old saw which I have played many times, but still true — WE CANNOT MATERIALLY HELP THE MOVEMENT GROW WITH VOLUNTEER HELP. A few more SSA Members from each soaring group in the U.S. would make possible the establishment of a paid executive staff. At least two large soaring organizations in the U.S. already have 100% SSA Membership. Will your group be 100% in 1956?

We all have a big stake in a strong, well organized soaring program. To reap its benefits, we must all make a greater effort to keep it growing.

I wish you all prosperity and good soaring for 1956.

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