

TORREY PINES MEET

By JIM SPURGEON

The feeling of a great soaring meet to come was very apparent around San Diego a week before the start of the Tenth Annual Pacific Coast Soaring Championships. TV shows, radio, and newspapers were all running top stories about the famous pilots and ships due to appear at Torrey Pines on February 25 and 26.

Paul Bikle came down a day early to limber up his 1-23, and he knocked off a three-and-one-half hour flight to measure the cliff for size.

Saturday morning, February 25, gliders came rolling in from everywhere. A good solid cold front was just moving through, low Cu hung heavy over the Pacific and a brisk 15 knot wind spanked the waves into a frenzy. The pilots' meeting ran off smoothly, and the drawing for the take-off position was followed by a mad rush for the ships waiting to fly.

Larry Bell was first man off in his flat-topped LK and the first to land . . . on the beach. He was followed by four more ships . . . also on the beach. Our meet was off and running with five brand new members of our "Beachcombers Club" for 1956. The wind was a "fooler," and not until 12:30 did it hit its stride. Bill Ivans was the lucky pilot to hang on for the first time and resulted in Bill taking the duration event for that day with 4½ hours. He and Bikle, along with Parker, Lambie in his new 1-26, and others all stuck on the cliff until closing time at 5:00 p.m. Fourteen to sixteen ships were constantly in the air giving the photo bugs lots of good footage for television and other movies.

At quitting time on the Saturday Ivans had duration, Lambie held the best spot-landing with 6 inches from the bull's eye, and Frank Perkins had gone 16 miles off aerotow for the maximum distance.

After this had been decided everyone gathered at Perricanos Pizza House for a big feed and a film jamboree and to discuss the prospects for next day.

Sunday morning, February 26, dawned with lots of scattered Cu and good westerly winds of 18 to 20 knots. The pilots' meeting was again run off and take off positions drawn.

Fred Daams from Phoenix, Arizona, chose aero-tow and hit out for distance, but was caught short of lift to land 13 miles away.

Ray Parker elected to winch tow and managed to hang on beautifully to capture the duration event of the meet with a 4 hour 47 minute flight. Everyone was launched and soaring by noon, Bikle slipping in for a shot at the spot to win this event with a 5½ inch strike. Ivans and Bikle, followed by Williams and Perkins, all headed out for cross-country off aerotows. Bill Ivans with his 89 miles

Missed! Charles Webber from Pomona holds the bamboo pole with the powder-filled balloon on its end while Don Stevens tries to burst it with his sharp nosed Bowlus.

Photo: Mel Forbes



to a point 20 miles northeast of Banning, California, set the best distance mark ever flown from Torrey Pines. Bikle made 59½ miles to Yucca Wells, Perkins scraped 34½ miles to Escondido, and Williams made 22½ miles to take the two-place distance event of the meet.

The entire meet was run with only a solitary hitch, Lynn Christenson being the only one to hit bad luck. Captain Ed Butts borrowed Chris' LK for a turn on the cliff and, during the landing run, lost control just before he slowed to a stop, striking a parked car, and shearing the left wing panel off at the aileron root. No one was injured in the glider or in the car.

The meet closed at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 26 and Ted Sanford, who did a terrific job of scoring had all the winners picked by 4:25 p.m. The trophies were pre-

sented and the biggest and best soaring contest in Torrey Pines history was a matter of record. There were 17 gliders and 24 pilots in this tenth Annual Meet and all had their fill of soaring for one week end.

CONTEST WINNERS

Duration

1st Ray Parker	287 Mins.
2nd Bill Ivans	269 Mins.
3rd Paul Bikle	233 Mins

Altitude

1st Paul Bikle	1430 ft.
2nd Bill Ivans	1120 ft.
3rd Jack Lambie	875 ft.

Spot Landing

1st Paul Bikle	5½ ins.
2nd Jack Lambie	6 ins.
3rd Lynn Christenson	8 ins.

Bomb Drop

1st Hal Hutchenson	5' 7"
2nd Vern Hutchenson	10'
3rd Bob Priestly	18' 7"

Two-Place Distance

1st John Williams	22½ Miles
2nd Larry Bell	12½ Miles
3rd Fred Daams	12 Miles

Single-Place Distance

1st Bill Ivans	89 Miles
2nd Paul Bikle	59.7 Miles
3rd Frank Perkins	34.5 Miles

Club Participation Trophy

Won by

Arizona Soaring Assn. Phoenix, Ariz.	
John J. Montgomery Championship	
1st Bill Ivans	153.6 points
2nd Paul Bikle	130.3 points
3rd Jack Lambie	48.3 points

Welcome guests on the Sunday included Colonel Floyd J. Sweet, SSA President, and Dr. Klemperer and his family. The meet was sanctioned by the Soaring Society of America, Inc., and was sponsored by the San Diego Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Glider Clubs of Southern California, Ltd.