

## THEN . . . AND NOW

On a recent evening I was reading some back issues of SOARING and chanced upon the February-March 1940 issue, the first of our bi-monthly issues. We had been forced to retrench when we lost the subsidy of that great soaring benefactor and pilot, Richard C. duPont, and were forced to go it alone without the services of a paid manager.

The following article, "Will You Help?", is from the editorial page of that issue:

"Since its founding in 1932, the Soaring Society has existed largely through the efforts of a few interested persons, at considerable personal sacrifice. It is now up to each and every present member of the SSA to do his part so that we may continue their good work. For eight years they kept the Soaring Society alive and now the time has come when it must and will stand alone!

"To guide our ship to the port of success, where the Soaring Society can be a self-supporting organization, will require the wholehearted support of all. It is your organization and your magazine. If each member will actively contribute to the extent of rounding up one or more new members, we will reach our goal. We will be self-supporting and better able to perform the duties which you look to us to perform. Will you do your share?

"Besides increasing our membership roster, there are other ways by which the present members can materially aid the SSA. One way, and probably one of the most important, is to contribute each month some news of what you are doing either as individuals or clubs. It is the newsy little items about the goings on in the soaring fraternity that make SOARING your favorite publication. Let's have each of the 48 states represented in the April issue!

"Along the same lines, it is necessary to have four or five feature articles each month dealing with record or



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unusual flights, descriptions of new soaring sites, operations procedure, new developments in ships and equipment, safe flying, meteorology, and innumerable other subjects. If you have done anything unusual or outstanding, write it up and send it in to the editor. There are hundreds of readers of SOARING who will be interested. It is through profiting from the experience of others that more rapid progress can be made in motorless flight."

The response to this request for help was wonderful—60 new members the next month and much usable material contributed to make SOARING a better and more interesting magazine.

The passing years have not changed our needs. We still urgently need the support of every member in the Society. Won't you make an effort to seek additional members from among your soaring friends and any others who are interested? Won't you contribute worthy bits of news and feature articles to our editor?

Serious concentrated effort can have the same results now as then. How do I know? I wrote the above as your SSA Secretary and editor of SOARING in 1940. "Will you help—NOW?"

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