

NE STATES SOARING CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Continued from Previous Page)

down the first leg, so after turning the corner they both landed in a field near O'Briens' Restaurant and collected 20 miles and steak dinners for themselves and their crew members. John Jednacz landed at Blue Swan, 19.5 miles from Harris Hill.

All the other contestants landed locally, many returning to the Hill after unsuccessful attempts to get away. The flights made were considered good for the prevailing conditions, but since the required three

futility of trying to beat the upwind leg of the triangle, and by 3:00 p.m. all the ships but four were accounted for. Two of the ships provided the spectators a near photo-finish; Howie Burr crossed the finish line at 3:49 followed by Stan Smith's screaming dive over the line at 3:52. All we needed now was one more flight of 30 miles and we would have a contest day.

The next report was from Bernie Carris who had landed north of Corning. We went to check the map with our fingers crossed. It was a 31 mile flight! Larry Gehrlein was still unaccounted for, and he was apparently

Schweizer 26; Bill Hoverman 23.5 semicolon; Francis Bundy 21, and Otto Zauner 18.5.

The Awards Banquet on the Sunday evening was well attended and after an enjoyable chicken dinner the prizes were presented. Walt Cannon took all three places in class "C," and John Jednacz was awarded the EASC Cup as the class "B" champion. Second and third respectively, in class "B," were Paul Schweizer and Otto Zauner, and the SAC 1-26 trophy was won by Jack Wilkins. In class "A" Stan Smith took home the Champion's Cup awarded by the Wurtsboro Chamber of Commerce. Howie Burr



Left: Gretchen Dambach and Ginny Bennis study the route for a task during the Northeastern States Soaring Championships.

Below: Art Thompson and the Olympia which he shares with Pete "Superclot" Slickland, the Editor of FREE FLIGHT.



flights of 30 or more miles were not made Saturday's flying was not considered official.

Thermal activity was forecast as fair to good for Sunday afternoon and the task was set as another triangular course, counter-clockwise from Harris Hill to Martin Airport, Montani Falls to the Corning Drive-In Theater and back to Harris Hill, a total distance of 47 miles. This choice of direction proved to be a poor one since the longest leg of the triangle was an upwind struggle that wrote finis to all but two attempts at completion.

Landing reports were soon coming in from pilots who could see the

going to make up for his four attempts to get away on Saturday. At 1:30 we received the report that Larry was down at the County Airport, having made the first leg and a part of the second for a projected distance of 27 miles.

For the final tabulation of scores, Stan Smith won by .7 of a point, having covered the 47 mile circuit at an average speed of 21.5 mph. Howie Burr made the trip at an average speed of 20.8 mph. The rules called for a point a mile so that Stan had 68.5 and Howie had 67.8 points. Bernie Carris was third with 31 points, followed by John Jednacz, 27.25; Larry Gehrlein 27; Paul

took second prize, and Bernie Carris third. Awards for splendid effort went to Larry Gehrlein, Bill Hoverman, Steve Bennis and Francis Bundy.

A total of some 30 contest flights were made and slightly more than 33 hours were flown. Everyone agreed that longer, straight-line distance flights could have been made on either of the two days, and it was also felt that better flights could have been made around Sunday's triangle had it been flown in a clockwise direction. Despite the short distance flown, however, it was generally agreed that flying triangular courses presents a stimulating challenge to the soaring pilot.