

4308 T Street
Sacramento, California

"Recently, we have been using a new type wire for auto launching students. This wire is high grade oil tempered flat spring steel "Electricians Fish Tape." It is flat, 1/8" x 1/16" (.060) and combines the strength and wearing qualities of spring wire with the handling ease of soft wire.

"We purchased a 200 ft. piece locally for \$5.50. To date, we have made over 150 tows on it without breakage. This is unusual since our Lincoln blacktop runways have a very sharp abrasive sand in them which is equally hard on tires, skids and towlines.

"No chute has been used on this wire, however we intend to chute the 1000 ft. line we are ordering.

"Fish tape in the 1/8" x 1/16" size weighs approximately 27 1/2 lbs. per 1000 ft. and can be ordered from your local electrical supply house in any amount over the 200 ft. standard stock length.

"We have a price quotation from Holuh Industries, Sycamore, Illinois, of \$23.40 per M. FOB Sycamore. An attempt is now being made to obtain a better price on it through local sources. If anyone gets a better price, let us know please?"

"When installing eyes and rings on the ends of it, it is necessary to draw the temper from the wire by heating it over a gas flame (or sticking it in the barbeque).

"No attempt has yet been made to run this line through pulleys or to spool it into a drum. We feel it should spool onto a winch satisfactorily although it may need a free swiveling fitting incorporated on the glider end of the line to allow any twisting to relieve itself. However, our short line normally tends to lie flat on the ground in a long, loose serpentine pattern with little or no twist to it."

John Flynn

Bad Godesberg
Germany

"Just a short note to inform you of my new address and tell you how much I appreciate your fine magazine. Someday when I return to the States I hope to participate actively in our sport." . . .

Conrad C. Schubert

8669 Lemon Avenue
La Mesa, California

"Thanks very much for the paper on "A National Scoring System." It certainly gives evidence of a great deal of thought on your part. I must say, however, that I disagree with some of the basic premises. I think, for example, that it will be a long time before we can rate contests such as the Wright Memorial Meet, the Torrey Pines Meet, The West Coast Championships, etc., with relation to the Nationals on any sort of systematic basis. The difficulty, of course, is that many of these contests award points which have no bearing on competition of the type which rules National or World Meets and, therefore, it is difficult to award even a weighted number of points to the winner of such a contest.

"We are slowly working on standardization of rules and it may be that in a few years time we will have a degree of uniformity which will permit scoring as you suggest, but we are certainly a long way from this point.

"At first glance it appears that the scoring suggested would place too great a premium upon entering as many contests as possible in a given year. Although it would be desirable to have our top pilots be our most experienced in terms of contests entered, it by no means follows that those who participate most heavily are, in fact, our best pilots. Witness Paul Mac-Cready, for example, who many of us feel is still the country's top pilot. (This was written May 8th, before the International Contest.—Ed.) Paul has not competed in any of the regional meets. Yet in the combined judgment of the 18 pilots who form the Seeding Committee for this year's World Meet, Paul placed number 2. In the sample seedings which you enclosed toward the end of your paper, Paul places 8th and 11th. I believe that the system proposed gives way too much of an advantage to those fortunate pilots who have the time and money to participate in widely scattered contests.

"The same remark could apply with perhaps less force to the inclusion of such items as "C" awards and World Records as part of the seeding. Here again conditions of time and place are paramount, with skill and, in particular, *competitive* skill, being secondary. . . ."

W. S. Ivans, Jr.

Dept. of Meteorology
Imperial College
London SW 7, England

" . . . The other night at the Kronfeld Club I read with amused amazement your (Jon Carsey's) article on a national marking system in the May-June issue of SOARING. . . . The basic idea is fine, and you are to be commended. But frankly, the system you have chosen is quite ridiculous. (I feel quite justified in making this remark considering the standings, i.e. a 3rd place tie of Bikle and Woodward in the 5 year standings.) First of all let's tackle the silly situation of my tying for 3rd place in the 5 year standings and holding 6th place in the 7 year. You have evidently allotted points for establishing women's records. The purpose to your proposed seeding, as I understand it, is to pick an International team. If we used your system and took the 5 year standings, then I would be a member of the U. S. team to the Internationals; as Johnson and Coverdale showed no original intention to participate. (On the present system used I wasn't even qualified to put my name down for possible seeding.) But holding National Women's Records does not mean that one should be on the team. It merely means that one has put in a better performance in one category than other women glider pilots in the country. Why should a woman receive this extra advantage? Considering the fact that I now hold all national feminine records (in the categories for which a claim has been made) that are presently recognized by FAI, I would like to go on record as stating that an equal number of points should not be given for feminine records. You have probably allotted points for these records as you would like to provide an added incentive to women pilots. (Heavenly days, I'm all for it, and there is nothing I would like to see better than to have some of my records broken.) But let's not give equal points so that the final standings are thrown out of proportion. How about 100 points for a National Feminine Record and 300 for an International Feminine Record. This would provide the incentive and yet not appreciably change the final standings.

"The editor's footnote (evidently Jock Forbes) made a bit more sense. It is imperative that members of the International Team receive points, especially when it means that they probably won't be able to attend the U. S. Nationals. The idea of a bonus for doing well and a deduction in points for doing poorly in the Internationals is good. I would also like to recommend that points be given for placing well in the Nationals of some other countries. Few Americans will probably have the opportunity to participate in these, but the provision should be made nevertheless. In the odd years many of these Nationals are actually small scale Internationals. If someone were to ever accomplish the virtually impossible task of winning British, French and German Nationals in one year then that person should certainly be a member of the team. But under the proposed system they receive no recognition . . ."

Betsy Woodward

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