

Notes and Quotes From Club Bulletins

Arizona AIR CURRENTS

"ARIZONA AIR CURRENTS," published by the Arizona Soaring Association. "I LIKE IT," by Derek VanDyke. For thirteen years flying had been a way of life for me. Little Puddle Jumpers with their short takeoff and landing and their shake, rattle and roll flight characteristics on up through four engine Douglas transports, had been my magic carpets which carried me to many corners of the world. Even now, each takeoff is thrilling because of its miracle transformation from dead weight to surging lightness. But far back in my memory was a picture of a small boy standing by the rail of an ocean liner watching the sea gulls course down the ship's white wake. What fun it would be to fly as the birds fly!

"It wasn't until last September out at Cactus Airport, thirty-five years after the dream on the deck of the ocean liner, that I felt the first real thrill of true flight. For some of us it is given to understand art in its many forms, some gain happiness from music, others revel in the accomplishments of competitive athletics, and there are those of us who love the sky. Not because we know too much about the home of the clouds but because somehow being, even for a short while, part of the sky's vastness restores our souls. Power flight does that for you—but how infinitely more satisfying it is to soar quietly through the air in a sailplane.

"As the rushing air ruffles the feathers of a hawk, so does it flutter the fabric of the soaring glider. The drumming moan of the wind against the wings of the sailplane is a fugue for flyers in the truest sense. One cannot sit in a cockpit of a sailplane as it surges to the lift of a strong updraft and remain unresponsive. The quickening of the entire aircraft to the tremendous power inherent in the rising air is felt completely only by a soaring pilot.

"Gliding and soaring have something for everyone who wishes to expose his flying skills to a really critical and impartial judge. The careless flyer won't have too much fun, for it is by increasing his skill and delicacy of touch that the true sailplane pilot derives his greatest satisfaction. The pleasure of soaring is directly proportional to the skill you develop in flying finesse. The heavy-handed and lead-footed have no place in a sailplane. But approach the sport for the sake of sport and with a desire to improve in the art of flying and your future as a soaring pilot is bound to be happy and long. No finer way of flight can be found."

"THE PLAYBOYS' THERMAL," newsletter of the St. Louis Soaring Ass'n. "NEW FREE FLIGHT. If you have been wondering why you haven't been getting your 'Free Flight,' well don't worry about it. Look for it around the first of the year.

Received a letter from Pete, Superclot, Stickland and he informs me that it is going to take a new form. To quote Pete, 'I am extending all subscriptions by six months and starting January 1957, I hope to start turning out a monthly 8-page newspaper of the same name. New sub rate: \$3.00; single copy 25c.' I'll be looking forward to this type of thing because I don't care for the fancy trimmings with my news, they are nice, but when the shekels don't warrant it, I think the newspaper is a good idea. I would even go so far as to say that the SSA could do something along these lines. I would personally sooner have a paper once a month than a magazine every two months. I don't know what the cost of publishing a newspaper is compared to a magazine."

"BIRDS I VIEWS," Newsletter of the University of Illinois Glider Club, Urbana, Illinois. Pirat Gehriger, official of Swiss Air, 'Golden C' pilot, and officer of F.A.I., visited the University and the famous Institute of Aviation to study its flight and mechanic training programs in early November. The day of his arrival, 7 November, some quick arranging and telephoning produced Herr Gehriger at our regular club meeting complete with a remarkable 16 mm. color-sound film taken largely in flight from one of a pair of Mosweys on a joint cross country. Swiss soaring over glaciers and peaks is both breathtakingly beautiful and just barely believable. S.S.A. film library should get a print of this film which was financed by SwissAir!"

"KSA NEWS," published by the Kansas Soaring Association. "Probably the greatest thing that has ever happened to soaring in this country has been the recent decision of the Air Force Academy to include gliders and soaring in the activities. In the future as the activities of the Air Force Academy are publicized, the majority of the people in our nation will learn of soaring for the first time. At least 90 per cent of the population of our nation never heard of soaring and don't even know that the sport exists. This sounds like a high percentage but comparable to this is that fewer than ten per cent of the people in our nation have ever been in an airplane. One of the greatest benefits to expanding soaring activities will be obtained if we are able to hold the next International Soaring Contest in this country. We should get some national publicity from an international contest. Unfortunately not one person in a hundred in our country is even aware that a National Soaring Contest is held each year or that an International Soaring Contest is held every two years. In 1956 a U. S. pilot, Mr. Paul McCready, won the International Soaring Championship for the first time."

"THE THERMAL," Publication of the Southern California Soaring Assn., Inc. "BILL IVANS RECEIVES FIRST S.C.S.A. APPRECIATION AWARD. The S.C.S.A. has inaugurated a new award. A plastic ring with the S.C.S.A. emblem and the words 'APPRECIATION AWARD' embedded therein, is attached to a flexible metal cord and key ring. Each month one of these will be presented by the Board of Directors to some member in appreciation for his or her efforts in behalf of soaring.

"Mr. Wm. Ivans, who was Guest of Honor at the November meeting, was awarded the first of these tokens. We hope that in some small measure it will remind Bill how much his contributions to gliding are appreciated.

"The awards were made possible through the efforts of 'Pete' Bonotaux who had them designed at the same time that the 1956 S.C.S.A. Soaring Contest plaques were made."

"Flying activity at Elsinore has been greatly bolstered by a series of contests to be held on one particular weekend each month. The first was on Nov. 17 and 18 and was won by Jack Lambie flying Bruce Carmichael's 1-26, with Bob Schnelker second in a 1-26 and Duke Mancuso third in the 1-23. The task was best time for 5 round trips of a 4-mile straight course; 40 miles total; same task both days; a pilot's best flight for the two days determines his score for that weekend. No one completed the task this weekend, Lambie made 6 of the 10 legs and the others fewer. Other similar short tasks will be flown in subsequent contest. A \$1.00 entry fee per pilot for each contest weekend flown goes toward prizes in the form of small cups for the first three places in each contest. A yearly prize is planned for the pilot with the highest total for his five best monthly scores. If the 14 ships that participated in the first contest are any indication, it should prove to be quite a stimulus to activity at that site. So far the San Diegans are providing most of the entries but the LA people should catch on. Johnny Williams instigated the competitions. Next contest is on the weekend of December 29th and 30th.

"BULLETIN #16," Published by the Michigan Soaring Association. "YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT BUT . . . The J. L. Hudson Company, Detroit, has advertised what every soaring pilot needs—THERMAL UNDERWEAR!!! No kidding, fellows, a local paper ran an advertisement stating that Thermal underwear is now on sale at Hudsons for \$5.00 per piece. The way the weather's been lately I'm ready to try anything to gain a little altitude."

"THE CONVECTOR," monthly bulletin of the Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association, Inc. "NATHAN FRANK has received the honor of being made Treasurer of the 1-26 Association. The honor appeared a bit dubious at first since the same letter that announced Nate as Treasurer also said 'Send your money to Otto Zauner,' but we have been assured that Otto is just going to handle the paper work and the money will end up with Nate."