

# NCSA 7TH ANNUAL SOARING CONTEST

The Northern California Soaring Association's 7th Annual Soaring Contest was held at the home field of NCSA, Ted Nelson's "Hummingbird Haven" near Livermore, California, on the two weekends of April 27-28 and May 4-5.

The rules for the contest provided for a point award system where points for altitude, duration and distance were given for each flight. A pilot's one best flight each weekend counted

der and his I-26 trailed with 36.8 points. The weather had not been very good on the first weekend with dry thermals providing the only lift. Local thermals topped 7,000 feet late Sunday afternoon after all contest flights had departed cross-country.

The second weekend brought better conditions. On Saturday, May 4th, Dr. Sawyer earned 315 points by flying 137 miles while trying to make a Bakersfield goal flight. This was the

points. The distance completed his Silver C requirements. Vic Swierkowski picked up 82 points to finish fourth in the single-place standings.

The Sacramento Soaring Club TG-3 completed the only goal flight of the contest when Lynn Orgill and John Koons made the 50 mile run to Gustine airport, earning 175 points.

The last day of the meet was declared a "limited" open day, all flights restricted to a 30 mile radius of the field. Conditions were moderately good with thermals to over 5,000 feet but no flights exceeded those of Saturday so the final standings were as follows:

## SINGLE PLACE

1—Dr. J. B. Sawyer	435.0
2—Les Arnold	394.4
3—Mac Snyder	203.0
4—Vic Swierkowski	144.0
5—Derrill Hansen	112.8
6—George Congdon	39.0

## CLUB

1—Ames Club	250.6
2—Sacramento S.C.	197.0

Although only eight ships were competing they tried as hard as if they were at the Nationals with some credible results. Lloyd Licher brought his Schweizer 1-7 up from Los Angeles for some local flights and Harry Perl flew his Hummingbird on numerous occasions.

Ted Nelson was tied up on business in town all of the first weekend so could not participate in all the fun. Besides providing a good field to fly from Ted and the NCSA people have developed some wonderful storage, work and recreational facilities as the accompanying pictures will show. But it took the wives of all the members to make the "house" a "home." Barbecues and other outdoor meals together with an atmosphere conducive to the whole family's pleasure made the contest an affair to remember. The NCSA members can look forward to more of the same every weekend.



Staff Photo

The Nimbus II, owned and flown by John B. Sawyer, M.D., winner of the NCSA Contest.

for contest points. Each 200 feet of altitude gained earned one point, as did each 15 minutes of duration. Distance flights earned two points per mile (15 mile minimum) with a bonus of one-half point per mile for goal flights and one point per mile for goal and return or triangular courses.

The first day Les Arnold, in his TG-3 "Redwing," made the best flight of the weekend by going 55 miles to Gustine, earning a total of 146 points. Second best flight of the weekend was made by Dr. J. B. Sawyer in his Nimbus II. After retrieving from a short flight to Tracy on Sunday he declared a goal of Turlock, but landed a few miles short for a score of 120.

The Ames Club TG-3, piloted by Bob Gomes with Bob Duke as passenger, made 90.2 points going to Vernalis. In fourth place came Vic Swierkowski who also landed at Vernalis but only earned 62 points. Vic was flying his Nimbus III. Mac Snyder

longest flight of the meet and also the best duration, six hours and five minutes. It won him first place in the contest while Les Arnold dropped to second by earning only 248.8 points with a 91 mile flight to near Mendota. Third in point standings was the Ames Club who increased their score by 160.4 points when Dick Bray missed a goal of Los Banos by only a few miles. Mac Snyder did better in the I-26, setting down alongside the Delta Mendota Canal for 166.2

The twelve ship hangar, workshop and meeting room of Hummingbird Haven.

Staff Photo

