

# SSA DIRECTORS MAKE FAR-REACHING DECISION

At the March 9, 1957, SSA Board of Directors' meeting the full-time, paid position of SSA Executive Secretary was established. It was further moved to hire Lloyd M. Licher to fill the position for the first year. It is appropriate then to list here some of the qualifications, works and achievements of the first Executive Secretary who will be handling most of the affairs of the Society, including the membership records and editing of *Soaring* magazine.

Lloyd is not sensitive about the pronunciation of his name, but just for the record, say it like "Lye-shure." He is 29 years old, married and has a 14 months old son, Max. He will be ably assisted by his wife, Rose Marie, who besides being wife and mother, is a pilot, typist, photographer and part time aerodynamicist for Douglas Aircraft Company. Lloyd received his B.S. degree in Aeronautical Engineering from M. I. T. in 1950 and has since been employed as a structures designer for Helio Aircraft Corp., Nagler Helicopter Co., Douglas Aircraft Co., and the Hughes Tool Co., Aircraft Division. His first exposure to gliding was with the AES (MIT Glider Club) in 1949 where he learned to fly in a Schweizer 2-22, earning a private rating in 1951 and a commercial in 1953. With Lloyd's constant support, the club grew in assets from one winch to a 2-22, 1-7, 1-9, L-K, towplane, two winches and a retrieve car. From 1951 to 1953 he was SSA Governor for the states of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont and was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the New England Soaring Association.

Lloyd earned his C badge in 1950 flying the Schweizer 1-7 which he later bought from the AES and still owns. Marriage in 1953 was coincident with a move to the Los Angeles area where Lloyd soon became involved in the affairs of the Southern California Soaring Association, Inc., being on the Board of Directors since 1954, Secretary in 1955 and a Vice-President in 1956. He has been active in revisions to the SCSA By-Laws, compiling membership statistics and organizing the duties of the Secretary's office. With his help *The Thermal*, SCSA's

monthly publication, has been improved to where it is recognized as one of the best club publications in the world.

SSA has continued to benefit from Lloyd's enthusiasm. He became SSA Governor for Southern California in 1954, a job he has pursued with vigor and completeness, setting a high standard for the work. In 1955 he was appointed Chairman of the SSA Record Homologation Subcommittee. In this capacity he has done much to promote clarification of controversial parts of the FAI Sporting Code and has handled numerous record applications with thoroughness and dispatch. His contributions to *Soaring* magazine have included presentations of Civil Air Regulations and the FAI Sporting Code, informative articles on model gliding, clubs and organizations and currently a column on west coast activity, "West Words."

Other flying accomplishments by Lloyd include a private power rating earned in 1954 with the Douglas Santa Monica Flying Club, Inc., of which he was co-founder and first President. Silver C distance and altitude were earned in 1956 with a 45 mile flight in Paul Bikle's 1-23. A glider flight instructor certificate was added early in 1957.

All in all it would seem that SSA has on its payroll one of the most devoted and enthusiastic members available with organizational and editorial ability that should do much to put SSA in a stronger, more advanced position. Let's all get behind his efforts and give him the support he needs to do an effective job for our sport.

## STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

I am humbly thankful for the position bestowed upon me by the Board of Directors and feel my responsibility to the whole membership very deeply. Only one of us can get paid for this work right now but I would rather make a living this way than any other. The continuance of my job depends on my performance and the support I receive from all of you. I will be working to perpetuate it



Photo: John Graves

The Executive Secretary of the Soaring Society of America, Inc., Lloyd M. Licher.

but only as a by-product of always trying to do what is best for SSA and the sport of soaring.

The Executive Secretary's job description has not been specifically defined as yet but is understood to include the handling of membership and subscription records, being assistant treasurer and later this year taking over the job of editing *Soaring* magazine, with the object of making it a monthly as soon as possible. Soaring on a monthly basis can only be financed by an appreciable increase in membership and subscriptions. It will be the job of every member to help bring this about. Sales points must be developed which will emphasize the need of belonging to SSA for everyone actively participating in the sport. Services and benefits to members that will result in a stronger national organization must also be developed. An editorial by retiring President Sweet elsewhere in this issue describes the importance of SSA to every glider pilot because without SSA it would be very difficult indeed for anyone to practice the sport. Help emphasize the justification for SSA's existence and make SSA mean more to the members, prospective and present, you talk to about joining or renewing. Associate members should be convinced to renew on active status and subscribers to some grade of membership. It is hoped that some form of affiliation arrangement between SSA and the clubs and associations around the

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