



Photo: Bob Symons

## Bishop To Host 1958 Nationals

Pictured above is an aerial photograph of the site where the 1958 Annual U. S. National Soaring Competitions will be conducted: Bishop, California. Co-sponsors for the contest are the Northern California Soaring Association and the Inyo-Mono Soaring Association. They will have the full support of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce.

Dates have been set as July 29th through August 7th. During this time, the California Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fair is also being held at Bishop.

An entry fee of \$25.00 per sailplane will be charged. This will provide one free tow per day during the contest.

A travel fund will be paid to pilots who placed within the top ten in any of the last three national contests, providing they score within 25% of the average score of the top three pilots this year. The amount will be approximately 3c per round trip airline mile from the pilot's

home to Bishop. California pilots not eligible to receive travel funds.

The photograph above was taken from a point approximately over Black Mountain in the White Mountains. It is a view looking northwest, in the direction of Yosemite National Park. Points of interest are numbered as follows: (1) the city of Bishop; (2) the Bishop airport which has runway lengths of 5600 feet, 6000 feet and 7500 feet, all with unobstructed approaches; (3) Owens River; (4) the town of Laws; (5) Fish Slough; (6) Chalk Bluff; (7) Round Valley; (8) Tungsten Hills; (9) Mt. Tom; (10) Pine Creek Canyon; (11) Crowley Lake in Long Valley; (12) Owens River Gorge; (13) Wheeler Ridge, 11,000 feet; (14) Rock Creek; and (15) Minarets.

The airport is at an elevation of 4150 feet and just to the west the peaks of the High Sierras reach to 14,000 feet. Summer soaring conditions are generally excellent with cumulus clouds over the mountains and dry thermals going to 20,000 feet. As a consequence, oxygen equipment will be required in each competing sailplane. For those who do

not have such equipment, rental units provided by Zep Aero Breathing Co. will be available for a few dollars a day. Rental fees may be applied to purchase, if desired.

A mountain top radio relay station will maintain contact with all sailplanes (on 123.3, 123.1 and 122.8 mc) and the airport so that, on task days, it should never be necessary for crews to leave the airport unless needed. A limited number of used Skyrafters radios will be available for rent from the manufacturer.

Facilities should be more than adequate with 400 rooms available in nearby motels and hotels and many good restaurants in Bishop. The hardy and/or frugal can camp out on the airport or in the nearby mountains. Buses will be available for tours and a baby sitting service will be provided.

The next issue of SOARING will feature the story of a 150 mile cross-country flight in Nevada which originated near Bishop. It describes typical conditions for that area. There will also be another picture, similar to that above but looking to the north, and further details on contest plans and preparations.