

U. S. INTERNATIONAL SOARING TEAM

Progress is being made in SSA's effort to sponsor a U.S. soaring team for participation in the 1958 World Soaring Championships. This year they are to be held in Leszno, Poland, from June 15-29.

Each country is being allowed to enter a maximum of four sailplanes. Three of the four U.S. pilots will be Stanley W. Smith, current U.S. National Soaring Champion, Paul F. Bikle and Lyle A. Maxey. William S. Ivans, Jr., was selected as the fourth but has recently had to withdraw because of business obligations. His replacement will be decided upon in the near future. Bikle is a Diamond C pilot who currently holds the World Class and U.S. National Record for Speed Over a 200 km. Triangular Course (55.02 mph) and the U.S. National Record for Speed Over a 300 km. Triangular Course (43.94 mph). Maxey is also a Diamond C pilot and holds the U.S. National Records for Goal (340.52

mi.) and Goal and Return (310.70 mi.). Stan Smith holds a Gold C Badge with two diamonds and competed in two other Internationals.

Because of the expense and difficulty of shipping U.S. sailplanes to Europe, the U.S. team presently plans to rent European sailplanes abroad. The Poles have offered some and prospects of filling out our needs in France and Germany are bright.

Some of the other countries that have announced their intention of participating are Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, Rumania, Sweden and the U. S. S. R. It will be the first time for the Russians.

The U.S. pilots have selected John Aldrich, Chief Aviation Forecaster of the Los Angeles Weather Bureau, to accompany them as team meteorologist. John has worked in close cooperation with Southern California soaring pilots for many years and was meteorologist for the 1954 Na-

tionals at Elsinore, California.

John D. Graves was chosen by the pilots to be team manager. He will handle all business affairs of the team both here and abroad, as well as conduct the fund drive from the aviation companies.

Solicitations to other types of companies and special sources to help finance the expenses of the team will be made by a special committee. This article is aimed at YOU, as a reader of SOARING, SSA Member and soaring enthusiast, to solicit your contribution for this cause, no matter how small. The pilots and crew members will pay as much of their expenses as possible, but the bulk of transportation costs will have to come from contributions. No regular SSA funds will be used for this purpose. With less than three months to go, there is no time to lose. Make your check or money order payable to The Soaring Society of America, Inc., and send it to Box 66071, Los Angeles 66, California. Remember, SSA is listed by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and contributions are deductible on Federal income tax returns.

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