

MEMORIAL DAY WEEK END SOARING MEET

by STEVE AND GINNY BENNIS

A soaring holiday was had by all who attended the Memorial Day week-end soaring meet at Middletown's Randall Airport, Middletown, New York. Many soaring pilots from different clubs enjoyed the fine surroundings in this well developed area. The weather was bright and clear and presented good conditions for "normal" activity, but not for soaring, as the air was calm and stable.

Activity on Friday, the holiday, had a late start as the road traffic held back the arrival time of many. A pilots' meeting was held in the large "glider hangar." Mayor Raymond Swalm of Middletown extended a warm welcome to all at the opening event of soaring in this area. Rules were set up; take-offs were on the demand system and the task set for the day was a Silver C equilateral triangle with observation points at Joe Coleman Airport in Florida; Bullville; and Otisville; then back to the home airport at Middletown, covering an air-mile distance of 43 miles. After the meeting, ships were taken to the far end of runway 26 for take-offs. A PT-23 and Stinson Station Wagon were the tow-planes in use.

Clubs, pilots and officials present were:

Long Island Soaring Association
Martin Beck Kurt Reupke
Gunars Bumburs Lee Rosche
James Reilly Bob Smith

Nutmeg Soaring Association
Ev Keeler
C. A. Moeller

Republic Soaring Society
Siegfried Feuersaenger
Gene Pahl

Metropolitan-Airhoppers Soaring Association
Bob Brown Bill Placek
Geo. & Margaret Downsbrough
Middletown's Randall Airport
Hod Taylor

OFFICIALS

Contest ManagerTed Riehle
Field Operations and Towing
EquipmentSteve Bennis
Hank Henderson Bill Terry
George Rief Terry Roach
Airport Traffic
ControlGinny Bennis

TimerMaury Travers
Records and

RegistrarElizabeth Deremer
Airport PoliceKen Hall

Observers...Betty Suffern (Florida)
C. "Pappy" Sloat (Bullville)
Norman Symon (Otisville)

Ships taking part in this meet were 1-26's, L-K's, a Grunau Baby, 1-23's, the Zanonias and the auxiliary powered Hummingbird; 12 total.

The Long Island Soaring Association with pilot Jim Reilly in the 1-23 was first off. A total of 21 contest flights were made this day putting in about 12 hours of gliding and soaring time. Bob Brown made it past Joe Coleman Airport in Florida, Bullville, and landed at Otisville. No other contestants left the local area so the day was voted "non-contest."

On Saturday the weather conditions were still about the same. The task was identical to the first day's and take-offs began with Bob Brown and the Zanonias. Contest flights totaled 22 with about 10 hours flying time. Bob Brown and the Zanonias reversed the task and got a bit beyond two observers. Attempts in the clock-wise direction were made by others without luck.

The six acre wooded area on the airport provided a fine camping site for the outdoor type group who pitched tents near a little shack.

On this evening a chicken bar-b-que was attended by about 55 of the glider gang at a picnic area in the

woods set-up with tables, benches, brazier-type fireplace and electric lights. The campers turned out the lights at midnight.

One contestant arrived at the meet in a different way—Bill Placek and his 1-23 soared over from the Wurtsboro site. Other pilots would like to have made it the same way, but the weather at their sites held them back.

Sunday began as a calm day. A short task between Middletown and Warwick Airport (12 miles) was agreed upon. Bob Smith arrived from Long Island this day, without his 1-23, but graciously accepted the use of the Zanonias. Contest flying was started by Hod Taylor. Several attempts were made for the goal and return, but none completed the task. Fourteen contest flights were made totaling about 10 hours time. Over 32 hours of contest gliding and soaring time was put in by the 16 contestants and 12 ships entered in the meet. Non-contest flights were also made from the airport in the 2-22C and 1-26.

Many merchandise awards were donated by interested companies and they were presented to the winners at an outdoor gathering.

The winners of this Memorial Day weekend soaring meet were:

1stRobert Brown
2ndHod Taylor
3rd (tied).....Martin Beck
Bob Smith James Reilly

They chose their awards from the following:

Motorola "Weatherama" Radio—
Air Associates, Inc.
Calculator—Jeppesen R2
Day-Glo Blaze Orange Paint
Ray-Ban sun glasses
Van Dusen Aircraft Supplies
Knife set - Ayres & Galloway Hdwre.
Travel BagKassel Bros

The flight line at Randall Airport on Memorial Day: the Grunau Baby, Zanonias and two 1-26's.
Photo: Marjory Collins

