

SSA NEWS

NEW SSA CHAPTER

A new SSA Chapter has been formed in the Kansas City, Missouri, area and will be known as the Midwestern Soaring Association. It makes the third Chapter on the rolls, the other two being the Philadelphia Glider Council, Inc., and the Soaring Society of Dayton, Inc. Leaders of the new group are Robert W. Brower, Peter Riedel and Alan Schmid, formerly of PGC, who is Treasurer. The club has a TG-2, TG-3 and a PT-23 for a towplane. Interest in the area is very high and an excellent soaring season is expected in 1958.

The status of SSA Chapters has been ill-defined in recent years but was originally based on 100% club membership in SSA. Of the numerous Chapters in existence at one time, only PGC and SSD maintained their status. With the advent of SSA's insurance program, more definition was given to Chapter status. They must now have a membership of seven or more, all full Members or Student Members of SSA. The Chapter Treasurer provides SSA with an up-to-date roster of all Chapter members and all changes thereto and is billed for SSA dues of all members at renewal time. The Chapter receives a free subscription to SOARING for its library and is eligible to purchase insurance on its sailplanes under the new SSA master insurance policy. More benefits and privileges for SSA Chapters are being developed because of the important part Chapters play in the SSA structure. Until a formal and more varied affiliation

arrangement is adopted by SSA, the present Chapter status is all that can be offered to U.S. soaring clubs. It is hoped that many more clubs will strive for this recognition.

1957 ACTIVITY REPORT

SSA's initial report on 1957 U.S. soaring activity to NAA had to be submitted before an accurate census of U.S. sailplanes could be made and reports received from all owners. Of the 486 total sailplanes known, only 36% had been heard from with the following statistics:

Auto/winch tows	4069
Airplane tows	3648
Hours from auto/winch tows	945
Hours from airplane tows	3742

There were 86 soaring clubs on record in 1957 that owned a total of 106 sailplanes.

FAI Soaring Awards issued in 1957 were 113 C's, 27 Silver C's, 5 Gold C's and 2 Diamond C's.

The above figures were those given to NAA in February. Subsequent returns from previously unreported owners have brought the percent reported up to 73. Of these, 120, or one-third, reported no activity in 1957. The 73% heard from had the following totals:

Auto/winch tows	9365
Airplane tows	10,761
Hours from auto/winch tows	1718
Hours from airplane tows	9647

If these figures truly represent three-fourths of the total activity, it would appear that over 27,000 launches were made last year for 15,000 hours of sailplane time in the air.

MATERIAL AVAILABLE

The SSA has a variety of items available on a free distribution basis, unless otherwise specified. Request by item number or name from SSA, Box 66071, Los Angeles 66, Calif.

Item 8. List giving Availability of Plans, Kits, Partially Completed and Ready-to-fly Gliders and Sailplanes. At present, the list includes only U. S. designs for which details have been obtained, including a brief description, price, manufacturer's name and address. Used equipment is not included.

Item 28. Used Sailplanes For Sale List. Over 50 ships listed by type, N number, price and owner's name and address, as compiled from 1957 SSA Census report forms.

NEWS BRIEFS

JOHN B. SAWYER, M.D.

It is with deep regret that we must announce the death of Dr. John B. Sawyer in a flying accident at Bishop, California, on August 5, 1958. Full details will appear in the next Members' Newsletter. The September-October issue of SOARING will feature a tribute to Dr. Sawyer and his place in the soaring world.

THE WORLD'S SAILPLANES

The new OSTIV book, "The World's Sailplanes," is now being distributed in the U.S. by SSA. Retail price is \$2.50; Californians should add 10c sales tax. Order from SSA, Box 66071, Los Angeles 66, Calif. U.S. soaring clubs may order in quantities of five or more for \$2.25 each. Members of OSTIV may order directly from OSTIV or Betsy Woodward for only \$2.00.

"The World's Sailplanes" is a new reference book and directory of sailplanes and gliders currently in production or designed since the war. Each design has over 100 items of information concerning it, together with a photo, three-view and brief description in English, German and French. Many classical pre-war sailplanes are also included as well as articles on the development of modern sailplanes, definitions and translations of the terms used, conversion figures and other important and interesting information. It should form a valuable addition to the library of every sailplane pilot and designer.

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