



Photo: Bob Symons

## Preparations For The 1958 Nationals

Another good aerial view of the Bishop, California, area is pictured above to further illustrate the locale of the 1958 Annual U.S. National Soaring Competitions. The view this time is to the NNE, looking into Nevada. 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) the town of Benton Station; (8) White Mountain Peak, 14,242 feet; (9) Nevada; and (10) Boundary Peak, highest point in Nevada at 13,145 feet, and Mustang Mountain, 10,316 feet (see story on page 5).

The contest is being co-sponsored by the Inyo-Mono Soaring Association and the Northern California Soaring Association, under the auspices of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce. They will conduct the meet from July 29th, a Tuesday, through August 7th, a Thursday. The California Eastern Sierra Tri-County Fair is

also being held in Bishop over the included weekend of the above dates. The Nationals Awards Banquet is scheduled for Thursday evening, August 7th.

The rules for the contest are printed elsewhere in this issue of SOARING. It is of interest to note that a preamble has been added this year which gives direction and guidance for the task setters, thereby helping to insure a more equitable contest. The organizers have also added a new class of competition, the Pan-American, and it is earnestly hoped that Canada and some of the countries south of the U.S. will be represented in the competitions.

Emphasis is being put on participation in the National Club Championship category. This was not competed for in Elmira last year but now the rules have been designed to make it a genuine contest of club teamwork, effort and ability, rather than a rivalry between large area organizations that happen to be well represented. This should induce many of the 100 odd U.S. clubs to each pool their talent, resources and equipment and compete in this event. The Donald W. Douglas Perpetual Glider Trophy for the National Champion Soaring Club has been refurbished

and is awaiting its next winner. Notice that the ships of club entries do not have to be registered in the name of the club, which should encourage those clubs that only have training gliders to make arrangements to borrow better equipment which might not otherwise have an opportunity to compete.

The contest organizers are going to extra effort to provide each entrant with a very complete kit of contest information upon registering. The kit will feature high altitude photographs of all areas to be flown over on possible tasks with suitable landing areas marked thereon. Also to be included is a booklet giving instructions for soaring operations in high desert terrain; retrieves, emergency procedures, etc. The usual official papers will complete the kit: rules, tow tickets, identification ribbons, personnel forms and the like.

Notice that adequate oxygen equipment is required in each competing sailplane. For those who do not already have such equipment or do not wish to invest in some, portable units will be available for rent. Rental fees are expected to be only a few dollars a day for Zep Aero Breathing Co. equipment and they may be applied to purchase price, if desired.