

# NEWS BRIEFS

## C.V.S.M. MEETING

The F.A.I. International Gliding Committee (C.V.S.M.) met in Paris, France, on December 16, 1957. Chief purpose of the meeting was to study the rules for the 1958 World Soaring Championships. The Polish Aero Club submitted a new draft of the rules based on comments received from all other Aero Clubs. It was decided that the scoring formula for speed tasks should take account of the number of competitors who completed the task.

Numerous changes to Section 3 (Class D, Soaring) of the F.A.I. Sporting Code were proposed but the only one adopted was that which eliminated the requirement for all persons in multi-place gliders to be of the same nationality in record attempts.

An interest was expressed in having the sport of soaring reinstated as a part of the Olympic Games. A representative of the Olympic Committee will be asked to attend the 1958 World Soaring Championships to see if one of the Standard Class sailplanes to be flown there might be adopted for use in the Olympic Games. If one would appear suitable, a set of proposals for rules would be submitted to the Olympic Committee for their consideration.

## 1956 LILIENTHAL MEDAL

The Lilienthal Medal for 1956, which was awarded to Dr. Paul B. MacCready, Jr., at the 1957 FAI General Conference in Palermo, Italy, for his performance in winning the title of World Soaring Champion, was finally presented to him recently at a meeting of the Southern California Soaring Association in Los Angeles. Paul had not been able to attend the Conference so the Medal was transferred from FAI to NAA and in turn to the SSA for presentation. SSA Vice-President Stanley W. Smith, current U.S. National Soaring Champion, made the presentation after explaining how he had met Paul years ago as an intense newcomer to competition soaring. He also pointed out that in too many subsequent years Paul had been the only thing standing between him and the National Championship. Now he had the honor of presenting the high-



Photo: Judy MacCready

Dr. Paul B. MacCready, Jr., displaying his Lilienthal Medal.

est award in the soaring world to the World Soaring Champion and was charged with partial responsibility of defending that Championship for the U.S. in Poland this year.

## BOB SYMONS

As we go to press, word was received of Bob Symons' death in a flying accident on April 19th at El Mirage Field, California. Full details as they are known, will appear in the next Members' Newsletter. The May-June SOARING will feature an appropriate tribute to Bob and his contribution to soaring.

## FAI CONFERENCE IN L.A.

The 51st Annual General Conference of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale was held in Los Angeles, California, from April 14 through 16, 1958. The delegates from all countries were accorded official receptions and dinners in New York, Washington, D.C. and Fort Worth, Texas, arriving in Los Angeles on April 10th. The Los Angeles official reception and dinner took place on the 11th. The following two weekend days were free for tours of Hollywood, Disneyland and other places of interest in the Los Angeles area.

The formal opening session of the Conference took place on Monday, April 14th, with General-Dr. Charles Sillevaerts of Belgium, FAI President, officiating. Awards were presented which included Paul Tissan-

dier Diplomas to Dr. Leslie A. Bryan, Director, Institute of Aviation, University of Illinois, for the effort expended in connection with the progress and development of aviation education in the U.S., and to Mr. Frederick N. Slingsby, M. M., in recognition of his work in designing and producing (British) sailplanes and gliders. The Lilienthal Medal for 1957 was awarded to Don Luis Vicente Juez Gomez of Spain for his many accomplishments in international soaring and devotion to the sport in Spain.

Conference business sessions were conducted at the IAS building in Los Angeles on April 15th and 16th. New officers were elected and later installed at a closing banquet on the evening of the 16th. Miss Jacqueline Cochran was elected as President of the FAI for the ensuing year. It was decided to conduct the 1959 Conference in Moscow, Russia.

## CHEROKEE II NO. 3 FLIES

Cherokee II No. 3 made its first flights on April 12, 1958, at El Mirage Field, California. Built from plans by Ralph Thenhaus of Van Nuys, Calif., it was test flown by the designer, Stan Hall, who flew down from his new home in Sunnyvale, near San Francisco, especially for the occasion. The first two Cherokees to fly were Frank Kerns' prototype and Stan's own ship. Stan reports that the "tribe" of Cherokee II builders is making steady progress. Next to fly should be Bob Baker of San Gabriel, Calif., some time this fall. Many more should follow in quick succession and one day soon the sky will be dark with Cherokees.

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