

TENTH ANNUAL WRIGHT MEMORIAL GLIDER MEET

by HARRISON F. WOOD

The 1958 soaring season was opened in the Mid-West on May 29th, with the commencement of the 10th Annual Wright Memorial Glider Meet at the Richmond, Indiana, Municipal Airport. Under the auspices of the Soaring Society of Dayton, fifty-one pilots flying twenty-eight sailplanes competed for eighteen trophies.

Senior Champion and recipient of the Soaring Society of Dayton Trophy was Richard E. Schreder, who flew his beautiful German import, the Schleicher Ka-6B with sufficient skill to take first place honors by a wide margin. Roy Winn did a fine job flying a 1-26 to win first place honors in four of the six Junior events and take home the McCall Trophy for the Junior Championship. (The Junior division is open to those pilots who have not qualified for a Silver C and who have less than 200 hours power experience.)

Further indication of the performance potential of the German imports is the second place garnered by H. W. Jensen flying a Wolf Hirth LO-150, and in the fourth place position won by its sister ship flown by A. J. Smith. Third place was won by Tom Holloran in a 1-26.

The contest opened with Tom Holloran taking off into a hazy sky at 11:00 A.M., Thursday, May 29th, and promptly returning his 1-26 to earth after accumulating the first contest points in the bomb drop and spot landing events. Tom also made the second and third tosses of the meet, and finally broke loose for a cross-country east to Columbus, Ohio, about 80 miles. With soaring

conditions improving, Jensen, Schreder and Smith took off towards goals to the south, with Jensen making 135 miles to New Haven, Kentucky, and Schreder and Smith settling for Louisville, about 115 miles. Roy Winn captured first place honors in Junior Distance with a flight of 82 miles and Bill Coverdale in his 1-26 established the winning goal flight of 42 miles to his back yard in Waynesville, Ohio.

Meanwhile, back at the airport, Lamar Thaxton, who had traileered in from ("I'm from the Deep South, son") Warner-Robins, Georgia, soared the Mid-Georgia Soaring Association's 1-23 around the airport for three and a half hours for Senior duration honors. Pat Close kept Lamar company for an hour and ten minutes in a TG-3A and succeeded in gaining honors in the Junior duration event.

Friday, Memorial Day, turned out to be a beautifully warm day lacking only in strong lift. The relatively poor conditions, however, proved no detriment to the cross-country enthusiasts. Dick Schreder took the lead with a flight of 174 miles NE towards Akron, Ohio, and was followed closely by Jensen, who made 153 miles. A. J. Smith followed and Bill Coverdale made about 50 miles flying north. Activity at contest headquarters centered around the bomb drop and spot landing events, with best performances of the day turned in by Bjarne Lund, who dropped his bomb 37 feet from the marker, and Harold Jost, with a five inch spot landing.

One of the highlights of the day's

activity was the cold beer that appeared at the close of the day's flying to cool off the hot competition and overheated officials.

Saturday, May 31st, proved another beautiful day for sun and fresh air, but stable conditions limited competition to local events. Most closely contested was the spot landing event, which finally resulted in a one inch tie in the Senior division between 1-26's flown by Kit Drew and Harley Shaffer, and a 3/4 inch performance by Roy Winn in the Junior division, followed closely by the perennial spot landing expert, Bobby Kellner, who flew the same 1-26 for 3 1/2 inches. Top bombardier of the day was Wally Detert, whose drop from 800 feet in the Soaring Society of Dayton's 2-22 landed 31 feet from the marker and copped first place in the Junior division.

All activity ceased at 4:00 P.M. to allow the scorers a chance to total the points and the contestants to tie down and rest up for the grand awards banquet, which was held at the Leland Hotel in Richmond.

125 contestants, guests and friends gathered in the ballroom for dinner and the presentation of awards. Guest of honor and speaker for the evening was the Honorable Mayor Roland H. Cutter, who pleased everyone with his very cordial invitation to return to Richmond's beautiful airport for next year's Meet.

This year's Meet has been praised by contestants and officials alike as the best yet, and congratulations and thanks are due the contest committees, Soaring Society of Dayton members, sponsors and the City of Richmond. Particular credit is due Julian Allen, who performed so ably as Contest Director, Betty Christman for arranging the Awards Banquet, Ray Barrett, Ted Snow and Arch Kerns who stayed on the field full time keeping operations going, and Pat Close for setting up and main-

The two-place Schleicher Ka-7 Rhonadler entered by Chuck Kohls.

Photo: R. L. Shamblen



Chuck Hauke's Scheibe L-Spatz-55 tied down at Richmond.

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