

# HUDSON VALLEY AIRCRAFT CO., INC.

by VIRGINIA M. BENNIS

Many power pilots and non-pilots have had the desire to do gliding and soaring flight, but unfortunately, location of a site where facilities in all phases of gliding and soaring operation were available at all times, was difficult to locate. As a result, many potential active enthusiasts in the sport were lost.

The operators of Hudson Valley Aircraft Co., Inc., at the Randall Airport, Middletown, New York, are well known in the gliding and soaring training field. Steve and Ginny Bennis, along with other competent and experienced pilots in handling glider operations, have achieved the honor of becoming the first fixed base flight school operation with an established gliding and soaring training curriculum fully approved by the FAA. This has been added to their Air Agency Certificate #5202. As this operations handles Schweizer Aircraft Corp. products, the glider training and soaring is done in 2-22C's and 1-26's, using Fairchild PT-23 as a towplane.

For licensed power pilots or professional pilots to achieve all the requirements for their FAA glider rating and to be basically introduced into the techniques of soaring flight,

only several day's time is required. Non-pilots, with no flying background, require several week's time for the same amount of experience in gliding and soaring technique and handling of operations. Ground and flight instruction in all phases of soaring, i.e., regulations on proper signals (on ground and on tow), various tow positions, release, flight characteristics, planning ahead, pattern, spot landing, and taxiing off runway; as well as recognition of the types of soaring conditions in existence at the time, are automatically included in the progress of the students through their training course. Commercial power pilots who are going through courses and desire their commercial glider rating are given experience in auto tows, as required by the FAA. It is this school's purpose to make it simple, easy, and rather inexpensive for all new enthusiasts to achieve a perfect background in their gliding and soaring techniques, so that they may form or join a club anywhere (but preferable where facilities are available) and feel perfectly confident of their ability to take part in the sport of soaring, for which all clubs are basically formed. This is believed to be the

basic foundation for the future advancement of club activity throughout the country, in addition to many other advantages.

Because gliding and soaring school training is part of the fixed base flight operations at Randall airport, it is available at all times, which is a great advantage to new enthusiasts who like to participate at their convenience.

## SSA EUROPEAN EXCURSION

All SSA members who have expressed interest in an excursion to Europe for the 1960 World Soaring Championships will receive direct letters giving details on the trip before the end of December. It appears as if the trip is on.

## TEAM FUNDS NEEDED

Fund raising plans are now under way to help defray the expenses of the U.S. team's participation in the 1960 World Soaring Championships, to be held in West Germany next June. Paul A. Schweizer, chairman of the SSA International Team Subcommittee is coordinating these activities. Individuals wishing to contribute should make their checks payable to "SSA International Fund" and send them to Box 66071, Los Angeles 66, Calif.

Contributions to SSA for this (or any other) purpose are deductible on Federal income tax returns.

Contributors to date are listed below. Send your check today and look for your name here in the next issue.

### \$25.00 or more

William H. Coverdale, Jr.  
Texas Soaring Association  
R. E. Van der Cook

### Up to \$25.00

Fred H. Matteson  
C. A. Street, Jr.  
R. Terry White  
Jessie R. Womack

**HUDSON VALLEY AIRCRAFT CO., INC.**  
**Randall Airport, Middletown, N.Y.**  
**Phone Diamond 3-8883 (55 mi. NNW of N.Y.C.)**

### FAA AIR AGENCY CERTIFIED GLIDER SCHOOL COURSE INSTRUCTION RATES

Private Glider Pilot Course .....	\$300.00
For FAA licensed power-plane pilots .....	\$125.00
For Professional Pilots .....	\$100.00

The above fixed rate courses may cover up to 20% over the listed minimum of time and/or flights required by the FAA. Any further flying will be at the rental & tow rates listed. (Glider students must be accepted by the glider instructors.)

### SAILPLANE RATES

For licensed glider pilots .....	\$ 8.00 per hr.
For non-rated or unlicensed pilots .....	\$15.00 per hr.
	(plus tow charge)
SOARING Instructor Fee .....	\$10.00 per lesson

### TOW RATES

Airplane Tow (to 3,000' above field elev.) .....	\$ 5.00
(\$1.00 ea. add'l 1,000')	
Auto tows (Max. 5 tows - by prior appointment) .....	\$10.00
Cross-country aero tow - per hour .....	\$20.00
Cross-country retrieve by auto & trailer (incl. driver) - per air mile .....	\$ 1.00
Minimum charge .....	\$20.00
PASSENGER HOPS - Per flight (incl. aero tow) .....	\$10.00

## CALENDAR

Items listed in bold face type are to be sanctioned by SSA.

**Jan. 30-31. Midwinter SSA Directors' Meeting, Kansas City.**

**Feb. 27-28. 14th Annual Pacific Coast Midwinter Soaring Championships, Torrey Pines Gliderport, San Diego, Calif.**

April 9-17 or 16-24. SCSA Bishop Wave Soaring Expedition, Bishop, Calif.

June 4-19. 1960 World Soaring Championships, Cologne, West Germany.