

SOARING MODELING

This will inaugurate a new series devoted to the field of model gliders and sailplanes. For many soaring enthusiasts, full size sailplanes are not available or within reach, so participation in the model field is the only means of getting close to the thrill of soaring flight. Then too, many sailplane pilots got their start in aviation with models and would like their children to follow in their footsteps. Most of the basic principles of structures, aerodynamics and soaring flight can be learned by building and flying model sailplanes.

In the U.S., the governing body for sporting modeling is the Academy of Model Aeronautics, an affiliate of NAA. In the same way that SSA governs soaring, AMA issues model flyers' licenses, sanctions contests and an annual Nationals and publishes a monthly journal, *MODEL AVIATION*, which all members receive. In addition, official rules governing all categories of model airplanes are published and distributed to members.

Our concern is only with the glider and sailplane categories which are not given very complete coverage in general model magazines. The main types of model gliders are separated by type of launch, towline or hand-launched. There are two classes of towline gliders, Nordic A-1 and Nordic A-2. The latter is also an international class, for which World Championships are conducted bi-annually. The next Championships will take place in 1959. As details of the elimination schedules for U.S. team members become known, they will be published here and later accounts will describe the results.

Hand-launched gliders are separated into outdoor and indoor classes. The main restriction is on wing area. The specific rules governing construction and flying of towline and hand-launched gliders will be given in future issues of *SOARING*. Also, an attempt will be made to list AMA sanctioned contests that will feature glider events.

The 1959 Annual U.S. National Model Airplane Championships will be held in California during July. All categories of model gliders in all three age groups will be in competition so all who can should attend and, if possible, compete. The SSA has provided funds for an

award to the best competitor in model glider events at the Nationals, to be determined by AMA. An SSA Student Membership will also be part of the award. Perhaps in the future, an attempt to establish a scale towline glider event will be made by SSA to make modelers more aware of full scale sailplanes and soaring activity.

REPORT OF IMAC MEETING

On November 29-30, 1958, the FAI International Model Aircraft Committee (IMAC) met in Belgium to review and reorganize the Sporting Code for Models, settle the World Championship schedule for 1959 and determine the number of team members to be allowed in each competition at future Championships. A mail vote of all member nations on the latter point decided that teams should be limited to three members each. This will require a different selection procedure for 1959 U.S. teams.

It was not possible to decide on the 1959 World Championships because Russia had not submitted a formal bid after leading everyone to believe that she wished to host the trio of Championships consisting of Wakefield Rubber, FAI power and A-2 Towline Gliders. No other country present could obligate themselves for the responsibility, so it was decided to solicit all FAI member nations to see if any would agree to host the combined Championships. In case none did, Belgium offered to organize the A-2 Towline Glider Championship on August 22-23, 1959, which met with approval. If this is changed, details will be published here.

Rules changes affecting A-2 gliders were as follows: Wire is not permitted for towlines. An elastic insertion in towlines is not permitted; the line in its entirety must not be capable of stretching in excess of 15% of its original length. At the glider end of towlines, there must be affixed a flag or pennant of at least 39 sq. in. to facilitate determining the release point. Releasing or throwing towline reels during the launching of a glider will cause loss of that flight. Towline breakage itself will not be cause for declaring a glider flight an "attempt;" only if the flight lasts for less than 20 seconds will the flight be considered an "attempt" when the towline breaks. Models must have national identification marks (AMA numbers) on the wing of 1.2 inches height and

in the tail surfaces and fuselage of 0.4 inches height.

The last item of business was the election of IMAC officers for 1959. Those elected were: Albert Roussel of Belgium, President; H. J. Meier of Germany, Vice-President; and Zdenek Husicka of Czech., Sec.

JOINT SOARING AND MODELING ACTIVITIES

At the December meeting of the National Aeronautic Ass'n. in Washington, extensive conversations were held between Paul Schweizer and Dr. Harner Selvidge, representing SSA, and Dr. Walter Good, Pres. of the Academy of Model Aeronautics, and Russ Nichols, Gen. Mgr., concerning closer cooperation between soaring and modeling groups. It was agreed that the two organizations would make every effort to attempt various joint ventures during the coming year. SSA groups organizing soaring competitions, including local meets, are requested to get in touch with Russ Nichols at the Academy of Model Aeronautics, 1025 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. He will put you in touch with local model groups who might be interested in staging small contests in association with soaring meetings.

It is also planned that modeling groups will contact local soaring clubs to arrange for soaring demonstrations at the time of various model meets. Modelers represent a large reservoir of air minded youth which we should give every opportunity to become acquainted with soaring activities. Furthermore, the added spectators attracted to joint model and soaring meets cannot help but stir up more interest in both. Try it!

AMA

ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS

A division of NAA and governing body for sporting model aviation in the U.S.

Annual AMA sporting license fees:

Junior (under age 16)	\$2.00
Senior (16-20 years)	\$3.00
Open (over 20 years)	\$4.00
Includes subscription to monthly AMA magazine "Model Aviation," reduced model aviation magazine subscription rates, right to fly in AMA sanctioned competitions and public liability insurance coverage.	

ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS

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