

SSA NEWS

ELECTION RESULTS

The annual election for SSA Regional Directors in certain SSA regions has been concluded with the following results.

Region 2 - Benjamin H. Cohen
Region 3 - Edgar D. Seymour
Region 5 - Francis B. Compton
Region 6 - John Nowak
Region 10 - Harland C. Ross
Region 12 - Paul F. Bikle and William G. Briegleb

These directors will serve for a term of three years on the Board which has a total of 20 Regional Directors and five Directors-at-Large. Cohen, Seymour and Ross are new to the Board this year, Compton and Nowak were Directors-at-Large last year and Bikle and Briegleb were re-elected.

1958 ACTIVITY REPORT

Forms have recently been mailed to all sailplane owners for the annual soaring activity report. Data from the logbooks of each U. S. sailplane will be collected for the calendar year 1958 showing the number of tows made and hours flown from airplane tows and auto and/or winch tows. At the same time it is hoped that the U. S. sailplane census information can be brought up-to-date. If you own a sailplane and have not yet received a report form, please advise SSA at once to have your ownership recorded and a form sent to you.

The statistics compiled will be published in SOARING and submitted to NAA for inclusion in their annual report to FAI. The information will also be useful to the insurance companies that provide coverage for soaring activity and should help to insure that rates are realistic. The new FAA will be appraised of the magnitude of soaring operations in the U. S. so that proper provision can be made for it in regulatory planning and airspace use.

1959 SSA DIRECTORY

The 1959 edition of the SSA Soaring Directory will go to press in March and be distributed free to all voting members shortly thereafter. It will reflect the SSA membership roster as of March 1, 1959, including Members, Student Members and Associates, so everyone desiring to be listed should have their dues paid up by that date. All known soaring

clubs will receive a special reporting form in February upon which to submit up-to-date information for inclusion in the club section.

The directory also lists all SSA officers, directors, committee chairmen and state governors, the current world and U. S. national soaring records, holders of FAI soaring awards in the U. S. and features a map of the U. S., showing the 11 SSA regions and locations of soaring clubs, Student Members and Associates may purchase copies of the directory for \$2.00 each.

BARRINGER TROPHY APPLICATIONS FOR 1958

Applicants for the Lewin B. Barringer Memorial Trophy have until May 1, 1959, to submit a duly authenticated record of any qualifying flight made during 1958. Authentication shall conform to the FAI rules for establishing a distance record. Application should be made to the Chairman of the SSA Awards Committee, Capt. Ralph S. Barnaby, USN (Ret.), 2107 Chancellor St., Philadelphia 3, Pa.

The trophy is perpetual and is awarded at each Nationals awards banquet to the pilot making the greatest straight line distance soaring flight during the previous calendar year, other than at the Nationals. Prior to 1957, the main requirement was that the launch must be from other than airplane tow but this was changed to encourage more cross-country soaring throughout the year. For 1957, the Trophy was awarded to Sterling Starr for a 330 mile Diamond C distance flight which originated in the Bishop Wave from an airplane tow.

The best flights for 1958 would seem to be those that qualified for Gold C distance. There were five of these made in straight flights, only two of which were over 200 miles. Both were made from Grand Prairie, Texas, one by John J. Randall in a 1-26 on August 3rd to 6666 Airport at Guthrie, Texas, for 202.5 miles and the other by R. Terry White in a Minimoa on August 16th to the municipal airport at Sweetwater, Texas, for 201.5 miles. Any others? If not, it looks like some great circle distances will have to be calculated for these two, if they both apply.

SOARING'S NEW LOOK

We hope that the new front cover on SOARING magazine which makes its first appearance on this issue will be a pleasant surprise to all of our

readers. It is usually something of a shock to find a sudden change in an old, familiar cover format, but this appears to be a not uncommon situation in the publishing business.

Those SSA members who read the English publication "Sailplane and Gliding" know that that publication recently had a competition for a new cover design which resulted in a cover format which appears to be the subject of considerable criticism among its subscribers. With this experience as a reminder that even contest winners are not free from criticism, we skipped the contest.

A good many SSA members have felt for some time that we could improve the appearance and readability of SOARING by making some revisions in the make-up, and this cover change is, we believe, a major step in this direction. With this January-February issue we are starting an experiment of releasing some copies for newsstand distribution in the hopes that by this means we can bring soaring in the United States to the attention of many individuals who would not otherwise be aware of the extent of our activities. For newsstand display it is almost essential to have the title clearly placed at the top of the cover so it will not be hidden by other magazines stacked in front of it, so we made the cover change with this issue, which is the first to be tried on newsstands in many years.

We have no illusions that our new cover design for SOARING magazine will please all of our members, but we have every hope that it will be well received by most of them. It was designed by Mr. James DeWitt, a commercial artist of Los Angeles who has been exposed to soaring through his brother-in-law, Lt. Cdr. T. E. Sharp, new SSA Treasurer.

Old timers in soaring will recall that this new cover is very much like those last used on the magazine in 1951 and 1952. We understand one of the reasons for discontinuing the large cover picture at that time was a shortage of good photographs, and we hope our readers will respond to the challenge by keeping us well supplied with good photographs from which we can choose future covers.

During the next few issues we will probably make some typographical rearrangements on the inside which we hope will also improve the appearance and readability of the magazine. As usual, we would be glad to have your comments.