

CLUB NEWS

Contributions to "Club News" should be sent to B. M. Ryan, 2659 Centinela Ave., Santa Monica, Calif., before the first of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue. Clubs and associations are requested to send their newsletters and other publications to B. M. Ryan, also. Photographs are welcome.

Antelope Valley Soaring Club A Chapter of SSA

The summer promises to be a busy one for this Mojave Desert soaring club. A major event in which they will participate is the Air Fair at El Mirage on July 4th and 5th. The Fair is sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association and the Antelope Valley Soaring Club plans to have an extensive soaring demonstration. A second major event is the West Coast Soaring Competition being sponsored by the Club at El Mirage over the Labor Day weekend. This will undoubtedly be the most interesting affair of the year at El Mirage.

The month of May was only fair for flight activity with some exceptional days during the working week and mostly high winds on flying Saturdays and Sundays. However, Francoise Pioline received her Private glider pilot certificate in spite of the weather. She has been most active in work parties and flight activity at El Mirage. She will be missed very much when she leaves this month to return to her home in France.

Arizona Soaring Association

ARIZONA AIR CURRENTS reports on "Operation Fractured Fanny" as it is being carried out by Marcel Godinat and Carl Ernst. Noting that, "Physical endurance often determines the distance to a goal," Marcel has started a series of flights to do two things. The first is to accustom his body, with particular emphasis on the great muscles, to the rigors of long hours in flight. The second purpose is to develop his technique in the working of very weak thermals. In this regard, he was soaring higher than surrounding Cu's by working the dry thermals ascending slowly among them. On a recent Saturday he flew a flight lasting five hours and three minutes, and on the next day, just to show that his

fanny wasn't fractured yet, one of six hours and twenty-five minutes.

Two other very active pilots in the Arizona area are Joe Lincoln and John Ryan. Joe is well known to all in the sport but John Ryan is a relative newcomer who is making his mark early. On May 16, 1959, John and Joe decided to try for a new goal record, from Prescott to Santa Fe, N.M. Joe made 260 miles to Grants, N.M., after a slow, late start. He raced hard to get out from under a cirrus overcast but couldn't reach the good Cu's after he succeeded and was forced down early. John flew more conservatively and was able to use late lift to eke out Diamond distance, landing at 6:16 P.M., 15 miles west of Albuquerque for a total distance of 315 miles.

Associated Glider Clubs of Southern California, Ltd.

This club has grown so much that the time finally came around for a complete reorganization. For a long time the club has had two groups, one for winch tow training at Torrey Pines near San Diego and the other for soaring and advanced training at Elsinore, 75 miles north of San Diego. In the past year the growth of these two natural groups was so phenomenal that the work involved in running the group as one organization became too much for people who have to keep soaring as a spare time activity. Thus, the decision was made to make these two natural groups distinct with different organization and officers but still within the AGCSC. The two groups are open; a member may belong to both. He may attend any meeting he so desires and actively participate in either or both the training (Torrey Pines) and solo (Elsinore) groups. The division has been made to have a point for placing responsibilities and a means of having a more manageable operations set-up. The entire Club is still under the direction of one Board of Directors, however.

China Lake Soaring Club, Inc.

This club's air space problem concerning the use of Cuddeback dry lake in California's Mojave Desert for soaring activity has been partially resolved. They are restricted to Sunday flying there only, and must

call in to Edwards AFB two days prior to flying for approval. The Air Force has marked off an airstrip on the lake bed surface with asphalt markings and they are particularly anxious that this area be avoided by vehicles so that the strips are not obliterated. This leaves the eastern edge of the lake open as well as the entire northern end.

President Jimmie Craig recently addressed the local Civil Air Patrol unit on the subject "Soaring and What it Means for You." He concluded his talk with an offer to train two of their cadets each year through an honorary membership status in the club; with the expectation that the students would be carried at least as far as solo in the sailplane. Selection of the students would be done by the CAP, presumably on a merit system. There is a considerable interest developing in the China Lake area to incorporate soaring activity in the local CAP training program.

Mr. Gordon Heeke was chosen to represent the group at the regular meetings of the Southern California Regional Council of soaring clubs. His travel expenses are defrayed by the membership in order to insure that they have representation at these meetings.

The club and personal construction projects are moving forward steadily and with a little luck this summer will see at least one more sailplane in the air to join the club operated TG-2. The projects are a BG-12A (80% complete), two Cherokee II's (each about 50% complete), a club owned EPB-1A Plank (70% complete), a BG-7 (rebuilding started) and a Cherokee II (just started).

Chicagoland Glider Council

There has been some discussion about the possibilities of the three Chicago soaring groups getting together this summer for a Sunday of flying and fun as was done last year when the Windy City Hawks journeyed to Prosperi, site of the Chicago Glider Club. Another event planned for the season is participation in the National Fly-In of the Experimental Aircraft Association, an annual event taking place at Rockford, Illinois. It is hoped that a soaring demonstration can be put on.

Eleven soaring enthusiasts and three sailplanes from the Chicagoland-area journeyed to the 11th Annual Wright Memorial Glider Meet over the Memorial Day weekend this year; among them, Kit Drew (Ka-