

CLUB NEWS

NOTICE TO ALL SOARING CLUBS—:

Please send your newsletters and any other news you want to appear in this section of SOARING to your Club News Editor, B. M. Ryan, 2659 Centinela Ave., Santa Monica, Calif. Photographs are welcome. Deadline for the May-June issue is May 1st.

Antelope Valley Soaring Club A Chapter of SSA

The Antelope Valley Soaring Club, based at El Mirage, California, has really been keeping their two TG-3's busy this year. During the first nine weeks of 1959 they made 115 flights for a total of 70 hours flying time! Several of these rides have been given to first timers and a great deal of new interest for soaring has been generated in this manner. The club is also very active in youth activities and makes a special attempt to encourage young people to fly by getting them up in the sailplanes.



Photo: Paul F. Bickle

Bickle boys start young! Little Alan Bickle seems dwarfed by the Antelope Valley Soaring Club's TG-3A as he pulls up a towline at El Mirage. Alan seems destined to follow in the footsteps of his famous father, Paul, and older brothers, Hugh and John.

They have been having a campaign of selling tickets on a prize (movie camera) with the purpose of raising money towards the eventual purchase of a high-performance, single-place sailplane. With three weeks left to go before the drawing for the prize, almost all the tickets had been sold. They have set their sights on a used 1-26 and begun a serious search for a reasonably priced one. Meanwhile, a 1-26 canopy has been installed on one of their TG-3's to alter its classic profile.

On the first weekend of March, practically all the club members

turned out to help fellow club member Irv Prue assemble and fly his new design - the Prue Two. Besides giving this help on the ground the members kept their TG-3's in the air 15 hours and 5 minutes that weekend. One of them had the thrill of flying with the Prue Two for a short time but the Prue Two climbed above them.

Arizona Soaring Association

The biggest news in Arizona is the new Schweizer 2-22C donated to the Arizona Soaring Association by Joe Lincoln. To quote from ARIZONA AIR CURRENTS: "Joe's enthusiasm has never been doubted but if ever there was doubt, in a few weeks there will be a sailplane at Turf Paradise Air Strip which will be tangible proof of his practical as well as idealistic belief in soaring and soaring training as a means of telling the real story of flight. Now we will be able to carry into effect the purpose of

the Association in education.

"There are only three requirements to which the Board of Directors has pledged its full agreement. In order to realize the greatest effect from the use of the 2-22 in stimulating the growth of soaring and our association, here are the terms upon which the gift is contingent: First: All pilots using the 2-22 must be members of both the Soaring Society of America and the Arizona Soaring Association. Second: The 2-22 can be used only for dual instruction and solo for that portion of the requirement for FAI soaring awards (en-

durance and height gained) which can be flown locally and the necessary solo for a ticket. No cross-country flying is to be undertaken. Third: An amortization schedule is to be set up and charges per flight or per hour of flight assessed in accordance with the schedule so that the aircraft will be self replacing."

There are two other projects around Phoenix keeping the pilots busy. First is the construction of a winch using a Buick engine. Next, a hangar construction project is beginning to go beyond the planning stage and acquisition of material has begun. The hangar facilities are desperately needed so the ships won't have to be assembled and disassembled so often during the good soaring season when time is better spent in the air.

Associated Glider Clubs of Southern California, Ltd.

The biggest news in San Diego this month has been the annual Torrey Pines Soaring Meet. The competition is reported elsewhere in this issue so we won't go into that here. We would like to compliment the AGCSC on a very nice dinner given to the waterlogged pilots who showed up for the first weekend which was rained out. Even without advance reservations in many cases, they managed to seat practically everyone for a delicious chicken dinner followed by some enjoyable comments by President John Williams and called upon guests, and two soaring movies.

The soaring at Elsinore has been very interesting this winter with altitudes of 8 to 10,000 feet. The owners of the field have opened a restaurant where they will serve breakfast and lunch.

Elmira Area Soaring Corporation

An item from EASC's HARRIS HILL NEWS concerns the traditional attempt to fly on the first of the year: "If the weather on this day was a forecast for 1959 soaring (as it is traditionally rumored to be) then we might better make other plans for 1959 right now. Building igloos or fishing through the ice would be appropriate. As usual we anticipated being able to fly on New Year's Day, and a number of EASC members planned to arrive on "The Hill" about noon. Ye Ed was no exception and arrived on the hill amidst the howls of a gusty, bluster-