

SOARCERERS AID C.A.P. CADETS

by DAVID W. LESTER

The Soarcers (soaring club), in San Gabriel Valley Soaring Group, have been cooperating with and actively supporting the cadet aviation education training program of the Covina Squadron #23, California Wing, Civil Air Patrol, in projects designed to stimulate interest in soaring pursuits. For the past several years Larry Bell and Rich Eggleston have flown many orientation flights to advance the basic understanding of the characteristic properties of soaring.

These field trips were encamped on Mirage Dry Lake over many weekends where additional training concepts were carried forth for those awaiting flights. Meteorology was covered through the casual discussions centered around the evening campfire with visual references emphasized during the following day's activity. Much planning and thought was directed at the cadets' safety mindedness towards the sport and science of soaring. They practiced by doing; assisting in the assembly of both Larry Bell's Super L-K and the Soarcers' Pratt-Read, where each pilot passed on several timely topics to impress these young people with



Photo: David W. Lester

The Soarcers Pratt-Read approaching the spot landing marker on Mirage Dry Lake near Adelanto, California, with Rich Eggleston at the controls. Thirty-four cadets were flown by Rich over the two-day operation. The most important single lesson learned by the cadets was the ease with which the pilot exercised complete control over the sailplane.

the seriousness and the beauty of soaring.

The effectiveness of such a program within the ranks of Civil Air Patrol is fully realized by the staff leaders of the squadron to such a point that many efforts are being made to equip the unit with a sailplane of its own.

At first a new two-place ship was desired for obvious reasons. However, since this looks like a distant financial achievement, the squadron is currently looking for a TG type sailplane most suitable and most

available. Any information concerning ships in reasonable condition, both airworthiness and financially, should be dropped to; David W. Lester, 19328 Invergarry Street, Glendora, California.

Capability of such a program within the Covina squadron is more evident upon further inspection of the personnel involved. There are six rated pilots, two of whom are USAFR majors with thousands of hours flying time and check flights in sailplanes, another two are captains who flew liaison type aircraft during WW II and two other officers who are licensed sailplane pilots holding private and commercial FAA certificates.

Aerojet-General Corp., Azusa, Calif., has awarded flight scholarships to the aviation education program of the squadron.

L to R: Capt. Eugene A. Salternik, Squadron 23 commanding officer, of Arcadia; Cadet Don Heisler of Glendora; Cadet Mike Kniest of Azusa; Cadet Terry Wood of Covina; Cadet Sgt. Gary Cordrey of Covina; Cadet Robert Beener of Glendora; Cadet Robert Marincic of Azusa.

Photo: David W. Lester



NAA National Aeronautic Association

The U. S. National Aero Club and representative of FAI which has delegated authority over sporting soaring in the U.S. to SSA.

Annual dues of \$6.00 include a subscription to NAA's monthly magazine "National Aeronautics," reduced aviation insurance premiums and reduced aviation magazine subscription rates.

SSA Members may become active members of NAA for annual dues of \$3.00.

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