

## The Hawaiian Scene

Dear Lloyd:

Last Sunday afternoon I had the quite memorable experience of a soaring flight along the famed "Pali" (cliffs) on the windward side of Oahu. Perhaps a word or two about what I learned about soaring in our newest state will be of interest to you.

Col. W. Brewster Morgan, Commanding officer of the Civil Air Patrol in Hawaii was kind enough to give me a cordial invitation to observe the soaring activities of his unit at Bellows Field. At the field I met a friendly group of enthusiasts who welcomed me with typical Hawaiian "Aloha."

Geza Vass is chief flight instructor for the group. Originally from Hungary, Geza is a delightful person to meet and a top-notch pilot and instructor. With him I soared for an hour in the Unit's Pratt-Read, enjoying the fabulous lift generated against the steep windward cliffs of the Koolau Range by the Booming Northeast Trades. Steady lift of nearly 1000 fpm was encountered at several spots and Geza frequently had occasion to use the P-R's effective spoilers to drop us below cloud base.

The Trades blow almost year around, and the conformation of the cliffs is such that good soaring is available year around, also. Vass recently surpassed the duration mark set so many years ago here by Lt. Cocks. Thermal soaring is not uncommon and the leeward Waianae Range offers slope lift with the added advantage of higher cloud base or frequent clear days. As for wave conditions, Geza soared to 12,000 ft. ASL in what was probably a secondary lee wave generated by the Koolau Range.

The C.A.P. Unit has a 2-22 and a Pratt-Read flying. The day of my visit an L-5 and an L-19 were available for tows. Of particular interest and importance to the soaring movement is the fact that the Hawaiian C.A.P. intends to take advantage of the unexcelled year around conditions by conducting all ab initio flight training in sailplanes.

A. C. RUIGH

SS Hawaiian Wholesaler, Kahului, Hawaii

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