

# NATIONALS NOTES

by R. TERRY WHITE

An idea that began to germinate during the 1959 Odessa Soaring Camp will reach the harvest stage when the 27th Annual U.S. National Soaring Championships — otherwise known as "the Nationals" — will be held at Odessa from August 2nd through 11th this year.

During last year's informal Odessa Camp, aimed at breaking soaring records and earning FAI badge awards, several campers voiced the opinion that Odessa would be a good site at which to hold the Nationals. The results of the 1959 and 1951 Camps may have proven that perhaps Odessa has something to offer in the way of soaring conditions.

Odessa's Chuck Wagon Gang of the Chamber of Commerce was invited to bid on the 27th Nationals by the SSA Contest Board, and the Odessa bid was accepted.

Factors affecting the choice of dates for the Competition were that the West Texas thunderstorm season is over by August, and that according to records, the weather was generally better, i.e., higher temperatures during the first part of August than any other period.

Terrain wise, Odessa is a great deal like El Mirage, except that there are no mountains nearby and oil derricks replace Joshua trees. And no matter where one lands he is not too far from a ranch house or a drilling rig.

Landing places must be chosen with care, however, for the immediate Odessa area is spotted with dry washes, sage brush and rocky outcroppings. In the plains to the north, where the land becomes more arable, there are open wheat fields which will have been harvested by August.

Air space restrictions in West Texas, though irritating by their arbitrariness, should not hamper pilots in the competition too seriously. Off-airways Air Force jet training areas, with floors at 12,000 feet MSL and ceilings at 26,000 feet MSL, are located to the north and east of Odessa. In addition, low-level jet approach corridors to Reese, Webb and Dyess Air Force Bases are restricted.

The main purpose of the Nationals is to determine a champion and his runners-up. Entry requirements have been set to insure that all competing pilots are seriously trying for the best standing they can achieve, no matter whether they are flying a 40 to 1 laminar-flow, super-duper sailplane or a tired old worked-over surplus trainer. Limitations of the take-off site and expected towing facilities dictated these requirements more than any other consideration. It is more important to insure equitable take-off opportunities for serious contenders than to provide for others in a way that would detract from the Cham-

pionships, no matter how much all of us would like to make it a bigger, more gala affair.

There will be additional informal West Texas soaring camps for the mining of Gold and Diamonds in future years, but the 27th Annual U. S. National Soaring Championships will have to be limited to what its title signifies, competition for the title of national soaring champion.

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS 1960 U. S. National Soaring Championships

The SSA will require volunteers for scoring, turn point identification and related competition duties at the 1960 Nationals in Odessa. If you plan to be on hand for the competition and can help, please write to W. S. Ivans, Jr., Chairman, SSA Contest Board, 2905 Bayside Lane, San Diego 8, California. A brief statement of experience, task preferences and availability will be helpful.

## NATIONALS ENTRY RULES FOR 1960 ONLY

It was not emphasized in last month's announcement of stiffer eligibility requirements for the Nationals that these were intended for 1960 only. If the sponsors of the 1961 contest have a site and tow facilities which can handle a larger number of contestants than the eligibility requirements will no doubt be relaxed so that more pilots can gain experience in this best of all U.S. soaring competitions. For 1960 there was only one bid to sponsor the contest. The Directors voted to accept it, although they could have voted to have no contest. Is your area prepared to offer something better for 1961?

## COVERING MATERIAL

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countered and no marked deterioration has been noted. The cost of Ceconite 101 is \$2.95 per yard for 50" wide fabric and for Ceconite 103, the cost is \$2.88 per yard for 67" wide material. Additional information can be obtained from the author through the SSA office. Thanks are expressed to Mr. Dan Cooper for his help in providing samples and information.

## References:

- (1) Cooper Engineering Report #101
- (2) Cooper Engineering Procedure manual
- (3) Ceconite Sales Literature

