

CLUB NEWS

Edited by NIKKI DELP

Contributions to "Club News" should be sent to Nikki Delp, 5545 Rab St., La Mesa, Calif., before the 10th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue. Clubs and associations are requested to send their newsletters and other publications to Nikki Delp, also. Photographs are welcome.

Antelope Valley Soaring Club, Inc. A Chapter of SSA

The Antelope Valley Soaring Club started the year with the election of new officers and an increase in membership to 35. New officers for 1960 are: President, Jim Robinette; V.P., John Krey; Sec.-Treas., Paul LaFrenier; and other Directors, Paul Bikle, Jim Moeller and Bob Gravance.

The first day of the year was a boomer at El Mirage with flights to 8500' ASL, and was only the promise of better things to come. The club flew a total of 60 hours in January on the three ships. February was not quite as good but with a few wave flights and scattered thermals, we managed to log 45 hours.

Summer-type soaring started on

March 19th with altitudes up to 14,500' and durations of 5½ hours being flown. AVSC took advantage of these tremendous conditions and logged over 60 hours for the month.

"The One Hundredth 1-26" now has over 145 hours on it, all in seven months of winter-type soaring. A trip to Torrey Pines for the Mid-winter Soaring Championships helped add up the hours.

J. R. Gravance

Associated Glider Clubs of Southern California, Ltd.

The AGCSC once again has the distinction (at least until someone comes along with a better claim) of having the youngest solo glider pilot in the country, and a female to boot! Robin Stark of San Diego soloed at Torrey Pines on her 14th birthday, March 30th. She did a fine job of flying the club's 2-22C, and made a graceful landing right in front of the TV cameras. Her brother Walter and John Williams' son Roger are probably two of the youngest private glider pilots to date, both having received their private licenses in March.

A sight familiar to many west coast glider pilots — the Torrey Pines gliderport, San Diego, Calif. This location generally boasts soarable winds during the early part of the year when the AGCSC holds its annual West Coast Soaring Championships. Most contestants enjoy not only the flying, but the esthetic beauty of the ocean and the cliffs.

Photo: Gene Kazikowski



On the less pleasant side, the AGCSC is in danger of losing its traditional training site at Torrey Pines. After almost 30 years of continuous operation (except for the war years), we may finally have to give way to progress. Dr. Jonas Salk, the famous developer of the polio vaccine, is hoping to build a medical research laboratory in San Diego, and has been struck by the beauty of the Torrey Pines area. At present the club has a committee of three working with the city to try and engineer a compromise between our needs and those of Dr. Salk. We are doing everything in our power to prevent the loss of this famous soaring site which is an asset both to San Diego and to soaring in general.

NIKKI DELP

Columbia Basin Soaring Assn. A Chapter of SSA

During the March club meeting at Ed McClanahan's house the constitution was approved by the members in its final form. Also, new officers were elected for 1960. They are: President, Tom Clark; Secretary, Ira Jacobson; Treasurer, Gene Rudock; and Contest Director, Paul Pallmer.

The contest is slated for the three day Memorial Day weekend, and will probably be held at Vista Field, Kennewick, Wash. The CBSA is showing signs of lots of enthusiasm this spring and we are looking forward to a good season.

Soaring this March has not been too good. The best days did not coincide with the weekends so we just looked longingly out of our windows for the most part. Jim Hard and Gene Rudock were out trying anyway with at least 50 auto tows, but the longest flight was only 15 minutes. Watch their smoke in April!

Iroquois Soaring Assn., Inc.

(Concluded from last month)

Flying the 1-26 on the winch at Ballston Spa gave us the opportunity to try the CG hook. Francis Bundy took the first launch and was duly impressed. This writer then took a turn and can recommend it as a worthwhile addition to any 1-26 doing any winch or auto towing. Dr. Bundy confirmed the opinion that 1800' to 2000' winch tows should be a reality with the set-up as it is at Ballston Spa with 4000' of wire out.

So much for last season (1959). 33 hours in the 1-26 mostly at the Nationals, some at Ballston Spa, and some at Wurtsboro. And the grand