

# 1960 WEST COAST SOARING CHAMPIONSHIP SHIP CONTEST

Sanctioned by the Soaring Society of America, Inc.  
by ROBERT E. KRUSE, Contest Director

(Condensed from a story in the August, 1960 issue of TOWLINE.)

The annual West Coast Soaring Championship Contest was held at Fancher Field, Wenatchee, Washington, from July 4th through the 8th. A Soaring Camp was held in conjunction with the meet, July 2-10. Sponsor of the events was the Seattle Glider Council.

In the Open Class, Bob (Desert Fox) Moore captured top honors in his Schweizer 1-21. However, this year he was hard pressed by Earl Menefee, in his Mg-23, and Joe (Crumley) Robertson flying his sleek Olympia. In fact, the Fox had to fly the last contest day to maintain his lead.

The Californians made a clean sweep in Class II. First place was won by George Asdel of Sunnyvale, California, followed closely by Stan (The Cigar Man) Hall. Both were flying their Cherokee II's.

Team competition was led all the way by Frank (Shorts) Woodward and Joe (Swamp Fox) Richardson in the Boeing Club's 1-26. Second and last in team competition were Tom Davis and Wilson Ribeiro in the Cascade Soaring Society's recently acquired 1-23.

Goal prizes were won by Menefee, who first landed in Spokane; Al Wilson, who first landed at Walla-Walla; and Jim Hard, who flew his 1-19

home to Vista Field at Kennewick.

## Saturday, July 2nd

First Camp day. Mostly local flying to sample the lift and get familiar with the local terrain.

## Sunday, July 3rd

Weather looked fair; a Gold C goal and return to Davenport was suggested for those who desired to try. One pilot elected to fly straight out southeast. Results:

Al Wilson — Wiehe - Davenport to Moses Coulee - 169 miles.

Mark Gorton — 1-26 - Umapine, Oregon - 135 miles.

Stan Hall — Cherokee II - Davenport to Wilbur - 128 miles.

George Asdel — Cherokee II - Creston to Coulee City - 119 miles.

Ron Colly — L-K - Waterville - Quincy-Pangborn - 82 miles.

Al Gregg — L-K - Mansfield - 40 miles.

## Monday, July 4th

Weather looked good but promise of better weather led the task committee to suggest a milk-run race to Mansfield and return, 80 miles total. All 10 ships completed the task. Moore the fastest with 1:51 and Menefee only 8 minutes longer.

## Tuesday, July 5th

Weather still fair to good, so task committee got braver. A 109 mile triangle was set with turn points at

Coulee City and Ephrata. Seven of the eight who tried completed the task, again led by Moore with 2:23.

## Wednesday, July 6th

Weather clear but solar heating provided some thermals. Task committee still holding out for the promised better weather set task to Chief Joseph Dam and return, 96 miles. Proved to be not quite a milk-run this time. Everybody reported having to scratch some. Nine of the ten made it home airborne, fastest being—yes, Moore again, this time in 2:10.

## Thursday, July 7th

Westerlies in at last but also stable air mass. Slight wave activity reported by Kruse after a tow to lookout. Declared no contest day. Everybody disappointed since "Kruse's Wave" only took them to 7000-8000 ft.

## Friday, July 8th

Weather deteriorated further, task committee in desperation declared an open task day. Only three got away. Bob Moore declared a triangular course to Davenport-Ritzville and back along a line thru Fancher Field. He landed 18 miles east of Moses Lake for a total of 161 miles. Earl Menefee declared to Kellogg, Idaho, but turned back near Couer d'Alene, Idaho, because of forest and range fire smoke and landed in Spokane for 140 miles. Joe Robertson landed at Creston for 85 miles, not having left the field until 2:30 p.m. This ended the competition for the championship.

## Saturday, July 9th

Weather not improved. Gold C distance aspirants set a triangle to Almira-Othello and return. Doug McDonald in the Olympia landed at Moses Lake, after having turned the corner at Othello going around in the other direction for 108 miles. Al Wilson landed at Quincy for 170 miles. Several other pilots attempted a Silver C triangle (one completed).

## Sunday, July 10th

Local flying by Soaring Camp participants. Everybody else evaporated to home parts.

All in all, the Contest was successful, but no Gold C legs accomplished due to uncooperative weather. Maximum distances were 169-170 statute miles and altitude gains on the order of 7,000-8,000 feet. Scores follow:

1. Robert Lee Moore, 1-21 4000
2. Earl O. Menefee, MG-23 3486
3. Joseph M. Robertson, Olym. 3045
4. Robert H. Fisher, L-K\* 2585
5. R. Al MacDonald, L-K\* 1769
6. Peter VanGruen, BG-12A\*\* 1517

\* (3 days). \*\* (2 days).

West Coast Championships competitor George Asdel set for take-off at Wenatchee, Washington, in his Cherokee II sailplane.

Photo: Dorothy Asdel

