

AMERICA'S SOARING SCHOOLS

BRIEGLER SOARING SCHOOL

by JOHN C. WOLFE

The Briegleb Soaring School was founded in 1940 and has operated continuously since then (except for the war years). It is located in the heart of the great Mojave Desert where all types of soaring conditions may be found. It is not unusual to have students soar and achieve their C badge on their first solo flight. In 1946 the Briegleb Soaring School moved to its now famous base at El Mirage Field. Located between the rapidly growing communities of Lancaster-Palmdale and Victorville-Adelanto, El Mirage offers a unique and outstanding site for basic as well as advanced soaring. The field is composed of 4 paved runways and is adjacent to a four-mile long dry lake bed which is ideal for auto-towing. Due to location and since the field, school and all other facilities are owned by the managers, it is one of the few places where soaring can be enjoyed without competition from other flying.

Facilities include motel, bunk house, lunchroom, pool and overhaul shops. Within 30 minutes driving time and 15 minutes flying time of the field, one may find the beautiful Apple Valley Inn, the Hesperia Inn and many motels and motor lodges complete with pools and other fine attractions. Ten thousand foot mountains lie to the south of El Mirage and contain numerous beautiful and interesting mountain resorts. Fifty-three airline miles to the southwest lies the heart of Los Angeles with its many interesting and world famous attractions; Hollywood, Disneyland, Knotts Berry Farm and Marineland are but to name a few.

Because of the fine all year-round climate, the Briegleb Soaring School is able to remain open 12 months of the year and suitable accommodations, either at the field or nearby are always available. Although most of the courses involve more dual and solo time than given by other schools, it has been the operator's experience that their graduates are better equipped for all types of soaring conditions. Wave, shearline, cloud and thermal soaring are experienced frequently on the "Mojave." An FAA Examiner is available on the field for glider pilot

flight tests during school hours.

Excellent freeways and roads provide easy transportation from all parts of the country to El Mirage. Air line service is also readily available with Bonanza stopping at nearby Apple Valley and Pacific Southwest at Palmdale. Transportation from either to El Mirage is available. The nearest rail and bus stops are in Victorville but arrangements can be made for transportation from Palmdale or Lancaster.

Four courses are offered; all are complete from ground school to the flight examination. They are priced from \$95 to \$375 depending upon the student's prior experience, if any. Learning to soar at El Mirage can be accomplished as a part of the

family vacation. Competent instructors and complete facilities are at your service.

Beginning about mid-June, the newly organized El Mirage Soaring Club will begin operation. School students, course graduates and other qualified pilots may join this group which will promote more cross-country soaring. The club will rent/lease fully insured ships from the school and hire out all maintenance. Tentative fees are \$75 to join, \$4/mo. and \$4/hr. There is a TG-3A available now, another being overhauled, another being purchased and a BG-6 now being overhauled. Plans are to order either a Slingsby Swallow kit or Skylark II kit and add it to the fleet.

El Mirage is also the home of the Briegleb BG-12A high-performance sailplane which is available to the home builder from plans or kits.

For complete information address inquiries to: Briegleb Soaring School, El Mirage Field, Box 101, Adelanto, California.



The Briegleb fleet at El Mirage. At left, Kenny and Ross Briegleb by the nose of the Briegleb BG-8, which is now out of service; the venerable Cinema, workhorse of the school; Carl Ziler's Briegleb BG-12A; the two PT-23 tow planes; and a Taylorcraft BC-12D used for power instruction, occasional towing and parachute jumping. Not shown is a Schweizer TG-3A now in use by the school.



Looking east at El Mirage Field, elevation 2865 ft. Buildings and hangars at lower right, four-mile long dry lake to left in front of low Shadow Mountains.