

# MASA'S 1961 MEMORIAL DAY WEEK END SOARING MEET

Sanctioned by The Soaring Society of America, Inc.

by TERRY ROACH

The 1961 Memorial Day Soaring Meet at Wurtsboro, N.Y., was intended to be a sociable get-together with some contest flying and plenty of fun and food. It turned out to be just that and the flights were of higher caliber than had been expected.

The first day of the meet was the first unflyable Saturday we have had this season and unflyable it was; the proverbial felines and canines were definitely descending, possibly accompanied by others of doubtful origin. High winds were experienced by the members of the Long Island group on the way to the meet. Their 1-26 was dislodged on its trailer by a strong gust while crossing the Tappan Zee bridge. Fortunately only slight damage was suffered and the aircraft was soon made airworthy. Even with the miserable weather conditions which persisted all Saturday, the group gradually assembled and the steak barbecue was well received by sixty hungry souls later in the evening.

## Sunday

The morning was clear and bright and a good weather forecast prompted the contest committee to make the task Plymouth, Mass., which is Gold C distance from Wurtsboro. Those who registered were James Norton, Karl Nassauer, Dick Padgett, Loris Charchian, Terry Roach, Gleb Derujinsky, Ev Keeler, Rolf Bahrenberg, Paul Smith and Doc Bundy. The take-off line opened at 12:00 a.m. with tows at 10 min. intervals. Charchian took the first tow in the L-Spatz and after sitting over the

airfield for an hour, set course. He landed at Hopewell Junction which gave him his Silver C distance leg. Ev Keeler was aloft for 90 min. and landed back at the airfield to take a second tow. This time he went home and landed in his front garden in Connecticut. The landing reports were coming in fast by now; Karl Nassauer down at Montgomery Airport, Doc Bundy made it over the Hudson to Greenhaven, Paul Smith in his 1-23G landed at Wallkill, Gleb Derujinsky down at Poughkeepsie.

The day's points were:

E. Keeler	42 mi.	1000
F. Bundy	31 mi.	740
G. Derujinsky	27 mi.	642
L. Charchian	26 mi.	620
P. Smith	14 mi.	334
K. Nassauer	3 mi.	72

(Note: the discrepancies in these mileages and the actual distances flown were due to "off course" corrections.)

## Monday

Was declared a no contest day. Five of the ships went up to sample the excellent frontal soaring which was available during the afternoon. The barbecue in the evening served hot dogs and hamburgers plus the trimmings. To round off the day on an enjoyable note we were entertained by the excellent movies which Ernst Massey made during his round the world trip.

## Tuesday

Tuesday was selected to be the second contest day and the weather cooperated completely. It was declared an open day. Dick Padgett

and Ev Keeler declared Plymouth, Mass., as Diamond goal. Derujinsky declared Richmond, Va., as Diamond distance. Paul Smith did not have a crew so he declared Silver C duration.

By mid-day a stiff N.W. breeze was going, giving excellent ridge lift and the thermals were strong but broken by the wind. Paul Smith was seen to fall back to the ridge several times during the afternoon but this was only to warm his feet up as the temperature was quite low at altitude. Paul's flight was successfully completed. Then Dick Padgett and Ev Keeler called in from Plymouth, reporting no great difficulty on the trip, but anyone knowing the terrain in the area will acknowledge them good flights. Gleb Derujinsky landed at Nottingham Md.

The final points were:

1. E. Keeler	1897
2. G. Derujinsky	1483
3. F. Bundy	740
4. K. Nassauer/D. Padgett (Team Prize)	1072
5. L. Charchian	620
6. P. Smith (Clanger Prize)	334

Above this were collected two Gold C distance legs with Diamond goals, one Silver C distance leg and one Silver C duration.

An event of this nature requires considerable effort on the part of the organizers both before and during the meet. We should like to take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation to the many people whose hard work made this contest the success it was.

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A scene at Wurtsboro Airport during MASA's Memorial Day Weekend Soaring Meet. At far left is a Ka-7; at near left, Paul Smith's 1-23G; in center (behind trailer), the Bundy/Bovenkerk 1-23D; and at right, Gus Scheurer's 1-19.

Photo by Alex Dawdyoff

