

NATIONALS NOTES

by MARSHALL CLAYBOURN, Contest Manager

There are countless items that have come to mind recently that I felt would be of interest to possible competitors in the 28th but limited space here and the fact that only 50 or so pilots are concerned dictates that only the most important be published. Every effort will be made to supply any interested parties with answers to specific questions directed to 28th Annual U.S. National Soaring Championships, 8034 Levitt, Wichita 7, Kansas.

The contest will be held on the Wichita Municipal Airport. The flying from this airport will be limited to contest flying. *There will be no air show or other types of sailplane operation other than by duly entered contestants on scheduled competition flights.* For those contestants who wish to come early for warm-up flights or for those who plan to complete the qualifications — Silver C with Gold C distance is required — arrangements have been made to have a tow plane available at all times at the soaring site normally used by the Wichita pilots. Mr. Norman Smyer at Strother Field will provide these tows at the usual \$3.00-to-two-thousand-feet fee. Strother Field is located 38 miles SSE of Wichita, between Winfield and Arkansas City, Kansas. It is an excellent site with 5800 foot hard surface runways. Norm may have limited hangar facilities. Inquiries should be directed to: Smyer Aircraft Co. Inc., Strother Field, Winfield, Kansas.

Looking south at the Wichita Municipal Airport, site of the 1961 Nationals. Operations will be from middle of runway 14 on right, adjacent to headquarters. Gliders land between runway and taxiway, tiedown to west of runway. Right hand pattern, release over farm field at right. Foul line runs approximately parallel to main runway on left, through administration building.

Photo by W. C. Webster



Each contestant will be allotted a 50 foot square tiedown area for his sailplane and trailer, on a first come, first served basis.

The wind does blow in the plains. Bring adequate tie down provisions. Plan to carry them with you on your flights. We have found the 4 inch diameter screw-in type to be adequate. These are available at Standard Products, Inc. Municipal Airport, Wichita, Kansas, at a price of less than \$10 for a set of three screws. The hangars in Wichita are full so your sailplane *must* be tied down or in a trailer. Since the trailers and sailplanes will be in close proximity it will also be required, in fairness to the adjacent owners, that the trailers also be tied down.

There will be a zone on the east side of the airport that is forbidden for gliders. Anyone crossing this foul line will be disqualified from further competition. This rule will be rigidly enforced. This zone is required because powered aircraft will be operating simultaneously off the other runway. Also to the east is the city of Wichita and beyond that is an area of heavy flight activity with Cessna and Beech aircraft factories as well as, and more importantly, the heavy B-47 traffic from McConnell AFB. The McConnell traffic is routed east so it should be no problem to our operation. Again it should be emphasized that crossing of the foul line is forbidden and en-

forcement of this regulation will be rigidly and impartially enforced. If this does happen to you, do not expect any leniency or sympathy. The local rules will be covered in detail at the pre-contest pilot's meeting which will be held on July 31st.

In general, it is expected the contest tasks will result in flights to the west of Wichita. While there are some areas unsuitable for easy landings and retrieves the vast majority of the area west is laid out in square mile sections which are mostly wheat farms or pasture land. By contest time the wheat will be cut. The stubble fields should be excellent thermal producers and are almost invariably good landing fields.

There are ample motels in the area. However, the Kansas Centennial celebration will be in full swing, therefore it is important each contestant make his reservations before July 10th. Betty McNay, 1615 Alta, Wichita 16, has visited a number of the 72 motels in Wichita, compiled the following motel information and volunteered to answer any of your specific questions: Eight recommended motels, all on W. Kellogg (St. no. in parens) within 1½ miles of the airport are Western Trails (4701), Town & Country (4702), Branding Iron (6601), Airline (7201), Sands (8401), Western Holiday (8925), Top Hat (9027) and Tyler (9500). All are air conditioned and have restaurants or are close to one; all but Airline and Tyler have pools; rates range from \$5 to \$8.50 for singles and \$6.50 to \$9.50 for doubles. Get your reservations in now!

The rules for the Nationals are generally the same as last year. Copies of the rules, furnished by SSA, will be in each contestant's package of forms he receives when he registers. The changes in the rules are given in the last issue of *Soaring*. Should you have need for a set of rules prior to the contest you will be sent a set upon request. Please note that the Directors of SSA have forbidden the use of gyro instruments and that FAA rules will obtain, including the requirement that no aircraft on VFR may approach to within 500 feet of the bottom of a cloud.

Most everyone will be pleased to learn that E. J. Reeves has been appointed as Competition Director for the Nationals by the SSA Contest Board.

Additional details on the contest will be covered in the July issue.