

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.

Arizona Soaring Association A Chapter of SSA

The April soaring in the Valley of the Sun has been great. Two and a half to four hour flights have been the regular thing on our Sunday operations.

Regularly seen on the line are the LO-150 of Marcel Godinat, John Ryan's SISU I, Jim Turnbow's L-K and the Harrell/Simon/Day Baby Bowlus. The club 2-22C has been getting a real workout too, with Van Grunsven, both Dotys, Cushman and lots of visitors to keep it going.

On April 25th, the FAA examiners came out and four of the gang got ratings. Chuck Doty got his private, and John Ryan, Jerry Van Grunsven and Paul Simon got their commercials.

We just took a count and we find we have 15 sailplanes in the valley. Six are active, seven inactive and two are under construction. We should have four more active by late summer.

CHUCK DOTY

Columbia Basin Soaring Assn. A Chapter of SSA

Training activities are in full swing in this area with four active instructors, a 2-22C, and six students; two of which have soloed and one who has earned his C Badge.

The proud owner of the new C Badge is Fred Porter who made it with a 50-odd-minute flight on March 25th. We expect to see many two-hour flights from the group of new soaring pilots this spring.

The lineup of competing sailplanes at the April 29-30 Regatta for 1-26's and Cherokee II's at Sky Sailing Airport Fremont, Calif. From L to R: Don Fisher (winner), Irving Taylor, the three Cherokee II's of Carlton Kibler, George Asdel and Stan Hall, Jim Freese, Lloyd Licher, Bob Gomes, Hugh Rodman and Mike McVey.

Photo by Charles M. Fiedler



Paul Pallmer and Ed McClanahan are the new instructors; having passed their commercial exams on March 28th. They are presently sharing the training load with Rudy Allemann and Bob Moore, thus forming a very impressive collection of experienced and respected teachers.

Proof that spring is truly here was evidenced by Gene Rudock, CBSA president, leaving his basement projects long enough for a hop in his 1-19.

Conditions are still poor here with maximum reported thermal strength of 700 f.p.m. and highest cloud base about 6,000 ft. We have confidence that conditions will improve.

Kennewick's Vista Field is still home base for soaring activities in this area even though airport manager Bob Gilbride is off to Japan, Korea, etc., courtesy U.S. Army. Mrs. Gilbride is holding down the fort in a creditable manner during Bob's absence.

JIM HARD

Denver Soaring Club A Chapter of SSA

The 1961 soaring season was officially launched in the Denver area at East Colfax Airport on April 9th when the DSC TG-3A returned to the skies after a winter of major overhaul which put it in excellent condition, complete with new paint scheme.

The ship is now kept in a T-hangar by removing one wing. This should halt the previous rapid fabric deterioration.

As of April 30th the club logged 45 training and soaring flights in the TG-3A via the club winch originally conceived and built by Joe Greenbaum and club members almost six years ago. Several 1500' launches have been made in spring winds.

The Boulder group has also been flying at East Colfax and using the DSC winch with their 2-22. A group-owned 1-26 has also utilized the winch this spring.

The 4th Annual Rocky Mountain Soaring Contest is planned for the Labor Day Weekend as usual.

Out-of-state pilots and visitors are welcome to visit and fly with us at any time, and are especially welcome to our annual meet.

R. B. SUNDQUIST

A letter just received from the Soaring Society of Boulder offers a free launch to all out-of-state western soaring pilots who wish to attempt to soar to the National Championships in Wichita, a distance of about 450 miles. Interested pilots are encouraged to write L. Gale Abels, 3091 Sixth St., Boulder, Colorado, for further particulars. These free tows are sponsored by the Denver Soaring Club and the Soaring Society of Boulder. —Ed.

Northern Calif. Soaring Assn.

A busy spring season is in full swing in Northern California. Les Arnold's 1-26 Regatta at his Sky Sailing Gliderport was a huge success, enjoyed by all. Don Fisher won the trophy for the best home-built 1-26, as well as first in total points, piled up by lots of duration and a goal and return flight. Bob Klemmedson came in second with duration points added to those earned by a goal flight. George Asdel came in third, in a Cherokee II, with the longest flight of the Regatta. Lloyd Licher won the spot landing contest and two free tows for having come the longest distance (400 miles from Los Angeles) to compete.

The Ames Club lost its TG-3A to the old trap of high rate of sink on the lee side of the ridge. The ship was totaled but both occupants, though injured, will fly again.

The early spring favored us with good local thermal and wave days with flights to 10,300 ft. in the latter and many four to five-hour flights.

Dick Cook completed his Silver C with a duration flight. Dorothy Asdel and Lyle Hoag also made their duration legs.

The tow plane is down for a "Top" on the engine, which allowed time to organize a work party for needed repairs on the hangar and painting and refurbishing the club room, as well as much relicensing of ships.

We are all looking forward to the Memorial Day weekend contest to be held at Oroville and hosted by the Sacramento Club. This should usher in our short season of cross-country weather and completion of Gold C legs.

GEORGE ASDEL

Odessa Soaring Club

This new club in world famous Odessa, Texas, held its first meeting on March 4th. Robert Bacon was elected president and Jo Ann Bates is secretary. Mark Bates is making his L-K sailplane available to the club until it can purchase a ship of its own.

The club has 10 members whose first project is the construction of a winch under the supervision of Roy Schlemeyer. At present, a winch owned by Al Parker is being used for launching. On a recent weekend, 40 flights were made, the last one being the highest, 1410 feet.

On April 1st, Jo Ann Bates soloed and logged six flights that weekend. The club hopes to have a lot of news for Soaring and expects to submit frequent reports on activities.

JO ANN BATES

Owyhee Soaring Association

After a meeting on April 12th, the Owyhee Soaring Association, located at Gowan Field in Boise, Idaho, was staffed with officers for the year. They are Pres-

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