

# 28th ANNUAL U. S. NATIONAL SOARING CHAMPIONSHIPS

By HELEN NAVOY, Scorer

The 28th Nationals held at the Municipal Airport, Wichita, Kansas, came to a dramatic close on August 10th when Andrew J. Smith, of Tecumseh, Mich., and flying an LO-150 sailplane, shot up from third place to win the championship from 35 other contenders in a last-task upset of the scores and standings. William S. Ivans, Jr., of San Diego, Calif., flying a borrowed Skylark 3D, accomplished a similar feat by moving up from fifth place to second place on the final day. Never was a Nationals so keenly competitive. Thirty-six highly competent pilots and serious contenders (including 3 ex-champs) brought to Wichita an array of high-performance sailplanes exciting and beautiful to behold. The uncooperative weather added to the closeness of the competition by introducing a mix of marginal, weak conditions on some days with strong, thermal soaring on other days, making for a diverse and difficult-to-predict contest.

Andrew J. Smith earned the coveted Richard C. duPont Memorial Trophy and the title by turning in a consistent and excellent performance on each of the five contest days, amassing a total of 4564 points, with runner-up Bill Ivans acquiring 4345 points. Following, in close succession and less than 500 points behind were: 3rd, Rudolph Allemann piloting a Ka-6CR, 4294 points; 4th, Paul Bikle, flying a Prue Standard, 4258 points; 5th, Christopher Drew with a Ka-6B, 4218 points; 6th, Richard Johnson and his Adastral II, 4173 points; and 7th Graham Thom-

son with another Ka-6CR, 4157 points. Richard Schreder, flying his newest design, the HP-10, and John Ryan, proud owner of the beautiful and sleek Sisu I, were ranked first and second entering the last day of the contest. Failing to complete the day's task cost them the contest. John Ryan, while winning the award for the longest flight of the contest, finished in eighth place with a total of 4054 points, and Dick Schreder, who was awarded the Stroukoff trophy for the best goal-and-return performance, ended the contest in ninth place with a tally of 4014 points. The top ten places was rounded off by a newcomer to the Nationals, Gale Abels, present owner of Phillip Wills' Skylark-3F. A complete tabulation of contestants, sailplanes, and results is presented in the Table of Scores.

The 28th National Championships was conducted by the Kansas Soaring Association under the sponsorship of the Wichita Chamber of Commerce and the aegis of the Soaring Society of America. The contest occurred during 1-10 August near the geographical center of the United States on the 2,000-acre Municipal Airport at Wichita, Kansas. The field operation was unique in the fact that the soaring activities took place on an active municipal airport with commercial airplane traffic, including Constellations and 707's, simultaneously using the other main runway. The credit for its success was due largely to the cooperative efforts of the FAA and tower officials as well as tow pilots and glider pilots in following procedures and rules established for the occasion. We are happy to report that there was no mishap, near-accident, or infraction of the rules, making for a successful meet and proving that "co-existence

Border: the "Kansas Kwick Tow," depicted by artist John Hankammer who was impressed by the snappy operation at Wichita.

