



# Soaring

The Journal of The Soaring Society of America, Inc.  
SSA is a Division of the National Aeronautic Assn.

## NATIONALS NEWS

As this issue went to press, the 1962 U.S. National Soaring Championships at El Mirage Field, Calif., were a little more than half over. A brief summary of action to that point follows:

July 24th; 1st contest day; task, distance along a fixed course (236-mi. triangle) with final leg option; John Ryan in the Sisu I earned the 1000 points with 446.8 mi., landing at Kingman, Ariz.; 4 of the 33 entrants exceeded 400 mi., another 11 exceeded 330 mi., another 15 exceeded 200 mi., 9,714 total miles flown.

July 25th; 2nd contest day; task, 191.2-mi. G&R to Baker and back; only 6 made it, led by Bud Mears in a Prue Standard with 53.2 mph; Dick Schreder took over the lead with 1875 points.

July 26th; 3rd contest day; task, distance along a fixed course (386-mi. G&R) with final leg option; Dick Johnson in the Adastra earned the 1000 points with 272 mi. to take over 1st place with 2762 points; Mears was 2nd with 2645 and Paul Bikle 3rd in another Prue Standard with 2573.

July 27th; rest day.

July 28th; 4th contest day; task, 156-mi. triangle to Tehachapi and Johannesburg and return; 5 finished: Ryan at 51.3 mph and Mears, Johnson, Bikle and Ray Parker in the T-Bird from 38.8 to 32.5 mph; Johnson retained 1st with 3601, Ryan jumped to 2nd with 3524, Mears 3rd with 3486 and Bikle 4th with 3412.

July 29th; 5th contest day; task, distance along a fixed course (409-mi. G&R) with final leg option; Johnson's 342 mi. was best so he widened his lead (4601), Ryan 2nd with 4499 (333 mi.), Mears 3rd with 4350 (295 mi.) and Bikle 4th with 4297 (302 mi.); 19 exceeded 300 mi., another 6 exceeded 200 mi., 8191 total miles flown.

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Lloyd M. Licher - Editor  
Peter M. Bowers - Associate Editor

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Cover photo: One of the newest British sailplanes, the Slingsby Skylark 4, now in full production as a successor to the 3 series. The fuselage height is 9" less than the 3's, resulting in a slightly reclined seat. A new airfoil section in the wing tips permitted the removal of all aerodynamic twist, thereby giving more performance at the higher speeds. Structure is of wood with the wing in three pieces. Basic specifications are: Span, 59.6 ft.; wing area, 173 sq. ft.; aspect ratio, 20.5; empty weight, 570 lb.; gross weight, 830 lb.; wing loading, 4.56 lb./sq. ft.; airfoils, 63(3)-620 root, 6415 tip; stall, 29 kt.; min. sink, 1.8 ft./sec. at 35 kt.; 6 ft./sec. sink at 82 kt.; and best glide ratio, 36 to 1 at 41 kt. Photo by Charles E. Brown.

**\$5 will be paid for any picture submitted if used for the cover.**

Material published in Soaring magazine is contributed by individuals for the reading pleasure of other soaring enthusiasts. Anyone is invited to contribute and make reports on soaring in his area. Such material will be acknowledged when possible but no guarantee can be made that it will be used. A self-addressed, stamped envelope should be enclosed if the material is to be returned.

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