

TOW HITCH PROGRAM MOVING AGAIN

Robert C. Kidder, chairman of SSA's Technical Committee, has announced the recent appointment of G. H. "Chris" Christiansen to take over the task of organizing an SSA Library of Approved Tow Hitch Installations. A start on this project had been made by the late Jack Devins but, unfortunately, most of the related material he had collected was destroyed after his death late last year.

Chris is a graduate electrical engineer with an MS in electronics from Montana State in 1954. He has been long interested in gliding and soaring and was associated with the Lawrence Tech group in Detroit, before the war. He is a commercial pilot, with instrument and instructor ratings in both power and gliders. His total flight time is about 3000 hours, including 250 in gliders.

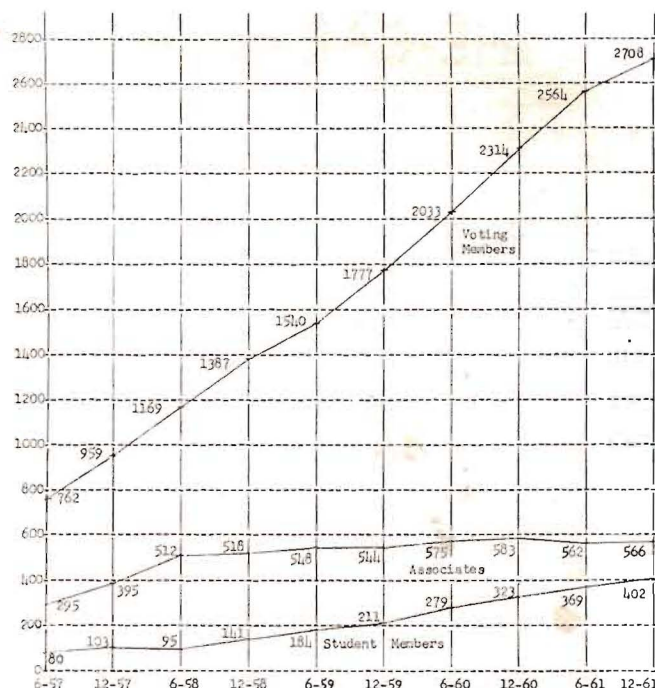
In order to establish an SSA Library of Approved Tow Hitch Installations it will be necessary to acquire sufficient information about each tow hook installation so as to permit the SSA to acquire, under its name, a Supplemental Type Certificate. To accomplish this the SSA must obtain or prepare installation instructions and engineering drawings of such quality and detail as to permit the FAA Engineering Section to evaluate the installation and if, in their judgment, the installation is satisfactory, then a Supplemental Type Certificate will be issued. This means that the drawings that usually appear on the FAA 337 forms which the mechanic prepares in the field at the time an installation is made are not considered adequate for this purpose.

After most of the above work is accomplished and the Library is established, anyone wishing to install a Supplemental Type Certificated tow hook on his aircraft would follow the following procedure:

1. Contact the SSA Tow Hitch Library for the appropriate drawings and installation instructions.
2. Purchase the necessary parts and hardware as detailed on the drawings.
3. Have a licensed mechanic make the installation in accordance with the SSA drawings. The mechanic will make the required entry in the aircraft log and prepare the FAA 337 form for presentation to the local FAA Airframe Inspector or his designated representative. If the pa-

SSA MEMBERSHIP FLOW CHART

SSA's membership continued to grow but at a slightly decreasing net rate during the last half of 1961, as shown in the chart. Total membership on December 31, 1961, was 3646. SSA's best salesmen are its members. All are urged to apply a little more effort in this direction to try and move the voting member curve back up to its previous growth rate.



per work is in proper order then the inspector will only check the installation for quality of workmanship and compliance with the SSA drawings. Incidentally, it will be necessary to compute a new weight and balance unless it can be readily shown that the installation has a negligible effect on the ship's C.G. and gross weight.

To keep the program self-sustaining it is expected that a nominal charge will be made for each request to use an STC'd tow hitch installation from the library.

To get this project underway it is requested that all owners of glider tow aircraft forward to the Chairman of the Glider Tow Hitch Library Project a detailed description of their hitches. This should include drawings, bill of materials, installation instructions and, last but not least, close-up photographs. The address: G. H. Christiansen, NAFEC, Exp. Div., Atlantic City, N.J.

SAILPLANE CENSUS AGAIN

Another reminder for everyone who owns or is building a sailplane in the U.S. to make sure that SSA's new census keeper, C. A. "Gus" Street, Jr., has the N#, make and model and owner's name and address. If you have a sailplane that is not listed correctly in the 1960 SSA Soaring Directory, send the information to Gus at Rte. 1, Strawberry Hill Farm, Advance, N.C.

Whenever you buy a sailplane and fill out the official FAA

forms, or whenever you change your address, let Gus know, too.

J-A 1950 Soarings FOUND

Fifty copies of the July-August, 1950, issue of *Soaring* magazine were recently discovered in the SSA archives when a mislabeled package was opened. This issue has been listed as not available for some time but collectors who are missing it can now purchase copies for 35¢ each.

For those who have been putting off ordering old *Soarings*, the remaining supply of the following issues is now less than 25 and they are going fast: J-F 42, M-A 43, J-F 47, J-F 49, M-A 49, J-F 51, M-A 51, N-D 53, N-D 54, J-F 57 and Nov. 59. Refer to the classified ads for the remaining issues that are still available and ordering information.



The SSA sew-on emblem, 2-7/8 in. in dia., gold-yellow and white on blue, available for 65 cents each, tax included. Order from SSA, Box 66071, Los Angeles 66, California.