

to the local pub? I waited. Nothing happened. Let me tell you, if I hadn't started yelling, waving my arms and whistling, I'd be there yet. Sailplanes were no novelty here. They had seen plenty the past two weeks, and I didn't look any different. The darn county was dry, anyhow, local option you know.

Norm Smyer, the airport manager, proved to be a great guy, like most airport managers. How can they smile when they have to work so hard to stay off relief? Seriously, anyone out for diamonds should start from somewhere that will end you up at Strother Field. It is indeed a great spot for flyers, especially glider guiders.

I tell you this dreadfully uneventful story so that you may see how easily diamonds may be earned. To be sure, it isn't always this easy, but, you too can fall into that proverbial hole and come up smelling like a rose, or better yet, wearing another DIAMOND.

NEW VHF TRANSCEIVER

Sailplane owners and operators will be interested to learn of the availability of the Airphone RT-17/b VHF transceiver and its companion Porta-Pac DC-14/a portable battery supply manufactured by Avitron, Inc., Box 431, Sunflower, Kansas. This is the only U.S. 2-way VHF communications system designed especially for sailplanes and aircraft without electrical systems. Avitron has very generously donated one of each of these, plus crystals for 123.3 and 121.5 mc., to SSA as the grand prize in SSA's current membership contest.

The transceiver is built for panel mounting, weighs only 3 lbs. 3 oz. and is 3-1/8 x 5-1/4 x 7-5/8 inches in size. The use of tubes permits a transmitter output of 2 watts maximum. The crystal-controlled transmitter has provision for 17 channels. The receiver tunes 108-134 mc., features whistle-stop tuning and separate loudspeaker. Price of the basic Airphone, including antennas, loud speaker and cable, is \$248.33. Crystals are \$6.67 each.

The separate power supply contains a 12-14 volt, spillproof, leak-proof battery and has a built-in circuit for recharging from any 100-volt AC line. Its output capacity is 6 amp-hr. Size of the handy carrying case is 4-1/2 x 4-3/4 x 7-1/2 inches and it weighs 9 lb. 7 oz. Price of the Porta-Pac is \$99.50.

SSA MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

Prizes galore! Over \$1200 worth in SSA's current membership contest! Earn a share of them by signing up new members as per these rules.

Contest Rules

1. The Contest starts June 1st and closes Dec. 31, 1962.
2. There will be two contest sections, one for Number-of-Members-Obtained and one for Suggestions.
3. Any individual, except SSA employees, officers, directors and members of the Membership Committee, may compete by sponsoring new members and, optionally, submitting a suggestion entry with each. Each new member sponsored is permitted to submit a suggestion entry, also.
4. Any person not an SSA member between Jan. 1, 1962, and May 31, 1962, will qualify as a new member; however, points credited for former members that rejoin will be at 1/2 the regular scale.
5. Each suggestion entry shall be limited to a 25-word constructive suggestion on how to promote soaring and/or SSA. Prizes will be awarded for the three best suggestions submitted, as determined by the SSA Membership Committee. All entries become the property of SSA.
6. A new membership application must include name, address, phone number and appropriate dues and have noted thereon the sponsor's name and the word "SPONSOR." If suggestion entries are included, each must be on a separate piece of paper with the name of the author printed below it.
7. In awarding prizes for the number of new members obtained, scoring shall be done on the basis of:

Full Member	1
Family Member	1/2
Associate Member	1/2
Student Member	1/2
Life Member	10
Sponsoring Member	3
Industrial Member	3
8. Winners will be notified by mail in Jan., 1963, and their names will be published in the Feb., 1963, issue of *Soaring*.

Prizes for Suggestions

A Cook electric variometer, **donated by Schweizer Aircraft Corp.** Value: \$167.50.

A new back-pack parachute, **donated by Midwest Parachute.** Value: \$75.

A sensitive airspeed indicator for

sailplanes, **donated by Getabery Glider Gauges.**

Prizes for Number-of-Members-Obtained

The prizes to be awarded for numbers of members obtained are as follows (in order of scoring, one prize per person):

An Airphone RT-17/b VHF airborne transceiver with crystals for 123.3 and 121.5 mc. and Porta-Pac DC-14/a portable battery supply, **donated by Avitron, Inc., Box 431, Sunflower, Kan.** Value: \$361.67!

A Narco VT-4 self-contained, VHF emergency transmitter, **donated by National Aeronautical Corp.** Value: \$89.50.

Christmas cards (250) with winner's sailplane printed thereon, **donated by Mode Air Card Co.** Value: \$55.

A complete set of Aero-Progress Recordings (8 LP records) on flying, **donated by Aero-Progress Inc.** Value: \$53.86.

A set of 8 to 10 aviation books published by donator (winner's choice of \$50 worth), **donated by Aero Publishers, Inc.**

A CSG-1A pocket-size slide graphic computer and one Jeppesen J-AID Manual with one year revision service, **donated by Jeppesen & Co.** Value: \$50.

A Boulevard TC-2 Low Frequency Weather Radio for car radio, **donated by Boulevard Electronics, Inc.** Value: \$49.50.

A variometer of the recipient's choice in the \$40 to \$50 price range. Anonymous donation.

A Sky-Lyfe Model 200A portable oxygen system, **donated by Cooper Industries, Inc.** Value: \$39.50.

A total energy compensator, **donated by Graham Thomson.** Value: \$15.

Three prizes: "Pocket Johns" (portable relief bags), **donated by Simplex Supply Co.** Value: \$7.95 each.

Four prizes: Deluxe Loose Leaf VFR Pocket Pal airport directories with revision service, **donated by Southwest Aviation Underwriters.** Value: \$7.45 each.

Eight prizes: 15 inch x 15 inch x 2 inch life preserver cushions, **donated by Adolph Kiefer & Co.** Value: \$6 each.

A nylon aircraft (or car) seat belt (cam-lock buckle), **donated by Don Santee.**