

NATIONAL NOTES

Accomplishments to date indicate a very good national contest is in the making. While El Mirage does offer some disadvantages as a contest site, being located quite a distance from the nearest town, it does offer excellent soaring and since the airport is used exclusively for soaring there are no interfering factors that are all too often encountered elsewhere. There are now over 30 persons actively engaged in the planning and execution of all the details necessary to a good contest. One of the big factors is the excellent support of our sponsors, the Victorville Chamber of Commerce. Each of the groups (Chamber of Commerce and the soaring organizations) are taking on the jobs that are of primary interest to them. The Chamber of Commerce is handling the publicity and its allied facets along with the major portion of the fund raising in addition to furnishing (by one means or another) the many things we need. This leaves we of the soaring fraternity free to do what interests us most; organizing a good contest.

Cooperation of George Air Force Base has been obtained from which we will receive many support items including the very important meteorology facilities. All housing accommodations will be in and around Victorville. It was originally intended to set up a temporary trailer camp at the airport but early this year new laws requiring expensive support items made this uneconomical. The many fine motels in the Victorville area will offer better accommodations at a cost probably no more than a temporary trailer village, but some driving will be required.

Registration forms have been

mailed to all known possible contestants. Anyone who has not received this information should request it immediately from the Chamber of Commerce, Box 997, Victorville, California. The reaction has been better than expected, therefore it is extremely important that anyone who intends to compete or to attend the contest, get in those reservations now. It appears that we may have to limit the number of contestants to about 50 and it looks like that number will have registered very soon. Since accommodations are also somewhat limited, don't wait until the last minute as you can be disappointed. All motels are cooperating with us but they cannot be expected to hold rooms for unknown guests.

Pilots should realize that only those who preregister will be mailed additional information. Also, if the number of contestants must be limited, naturally the preregistrants will have priority so let's handle as much of the paperwork as we can by mail before the contest starts.

Pilots be sure to bring tie-down kits as the existing tie-downs cannot handle all the expected ships. It is felt that we can put our efforts and funds to better use than installing tie-downs that will be used for a very few days. Another important point is that every pilot should make sure that he is legal in every respect. Representatives of FAA and FCC will be on hand so have everything in order, registration, airworthiness, chute pack, all form 337's required including oxygen and radio installation and the radio station licenses. Everything will be closely checked by the contest inspector to avoid any trouble.

Readers are reminded that Nationals Daily Bulletins will be available.

There will be no charge for the

bulletins. To receive your copy each day, print your name and address clearly on the front of twelve envelopes, bearing postage for the type of mail service which you desire, and send them to 29th U.S. National Soaring Championships, El Mirage Field, Adelanto, California.

Another pilot who has signified his intent to compete is A. R. "Don" Fisher, Jr., with a 1-26.

There is every indication that this will be an excellent contest so make your plans now and get those reservations in.

One final note, we will be more than happy to accept the services of anyone who can help during the contest. Drop a line to Jack Wolfe, Contest Manager, Box 481, Van Nuys, Calif.

CQ, CQ, CQ, CQ

CQ, in the language of the radio amateur "ham" means a "general call, someone answer please." During the 29th Annual U.S. National Soaring Championships at El Mirage Field this July, the call will become CQ SN, a general call for the Soaring Nationals.

A Santa Monica, California, Ham, Shirley, WA6RXH, will be operating her station from El Mirage during the Nationals to transmit information about the contest. (She says she doesn't have anything else to do anyway, since her husband will be crewing for Lloyd Licher.) If you or your club would like to receive news of the contest and your local participating pilot, contact a ham in your area. He can then contact Shirley (P. O. Box 298, Santa Monica, California) for details.

Shirley says that she will be operating single side band on 15, 20, and 40 meters, and that she will try to schedule a daily round table at a convenient time and frequency.

This daily, country-wide net will make it possible to get the latest information on the day's task and the standings of the various pilots, as well as to convey messages to and from them and perhaps talk to them in person. It will also be good practice for developing a net to be used during the Internationals in Argentina next winter.

If you are unable to contact a radio amateur in your locale and would like additional information, drop a card to WA6RXH, unless by chance you're a ham, then just give her a short CQ.

EL MIRAGE FIELD, HOME OF THE BG-12's



ADELANTO, CALIFORNIA (See classifieds)