

# MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL SOARING CHAMPIONSHIPS AND 6TH ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC STATES SOARING MEET

Sanctioned by The Soaring Society of America, Inc.

by NELSON J. MACLEOD

The sixth annual Mid-Atlantic States Soaring Meet was held May 30 to June 2, 1963, at Westminster Airport, Westminster, Maryland, under the joint auspices of the Mid-Atlantic Soaring Assn., Inc., and the Cumberland Soaring Group. This meet was sanctioned by SSA as the first Regional Championships, and Stan Smith of Delaware was named Regional Champion. All individual pilots, including those not eligible to enter the Regional Championships, competed for the Kelley-Springfield Trophy, which is a perpetual award. In first place was Stan Smith; Lanier Frantz of Virginia took second place; and Otto Zauner of New Jersey was third place winner. The team entries competed for the Bendix Trophy; final standings were Nash and McGonigle

in first place, and Baird, Elliott, and Brennan in second place.

Meet activity began at the airport on Tuesday, May 28th, when Colonel and Mrs. Ray Olsen drove in from Hampton, Virginia, with L-K N 54191, and swung into high gear on Wednesday afternoon as M-ASA members arrived for last-minute preparations. On the morning of May 30th, Memorial Day, it was evident that the weather was cooperating. The low overcast that had held for several days moved out. Twenty-six sailplanes and five towplanes were on the line, and the task committee, composed of John Firth, most recently of Lasham, Otto Zauner, Mario Piccagli, Bill Holbrook and Val Brain, found that a universally acceptable task was probably impossible, considering that the

field comprised everything from an LO-150 to a pair of 2-22's. Their response was to set a first-day task that would be suitable for a 1-26, distance along a fixed course (goal-and-return to Leesburg, Virginia) with final leg option (followed by free distance from Westminster). The Meteorological briefing was by Dave Limbert, who received his weather data each day from Washington, D.C.

Stan Smith left at 11:30 with the confidence one expects of a National Champion, completed the 89-mile goal-and-return, and went on to Dover, Delaware, for a total distance of 175 miles during a seven-hour flight. Conditions during the day were not especially good, and, if anything, Dave Limbert was a little optimistic in his forecast as almost half of the aircraft failed to score. Four aircraft completed at least the out-and-return part of the task, including Ben Greene who thereby earned the state open G & R record.

On Friday, May 31st, the task was set as free distance. Convection started early, and the departure of Wilburn in an L-K at 11:10 encouraged most of the experienced pilots to leave before noon. Most aircraft scored although a few were brought down prematurely by temporary overconvection early in the afternoon. Top scorers were Smith, Greene and Frantz, all of whom landed at Emporia, Virginia, 202 miles away. A Diamond goal leg was earned by Del Miller for his 192-mile flight to Keysville, Virginia. Del's flight was a state open goal record, Greene's was a state open distance record and Frantz' was a state senior distance record.

The forecast for Saturday was good, with bases rising through the day and only light winds making it an ideal day for a speed triangle, especially in view of the late return from the previous day. Accordingly, a 77-mile triangular task was set with turn points at Gettysburg, Pa., and Frederick, Md. Again, the majority of the pilots had no difficulty in getting away, and the launch crew, under Dave Stone, was hard-put to maintain a three-minute launch cycle. High clouds forming in the east early in the afternoon caused some concern, but Stan Smith appeared at 3:00, and Ben Greene finished shortly afterward. In all, nine pilots completed, with

Chief figures at the awards ceremony of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Soaring Championships. Standing, L. to R., are Burt Elliott and Joe Brennan, Bendix trophy, 2nd team; Stanley Smith, Regional Champion and Kelley-Springfield, 1st; Otto Zauner, K-S, 3rd; George Nash and John McGonigle, Bendix, 1st team; and Lanier Frantz, K-S, 2nd. Kneeling, L. to R., are Harrison Baird; George Church, awards chairman; and William C. Holbrook, representing the Cumberland Soaring Group.

Photo by Gene Kelley

