

A REVIEW OF SSA'S ABC TRAINING PROGRAM

In order to assist soaring clubs in setting up a complete flight training program and to provide realistic soaring goals for the student glider pilot, SSA inaugurated an ABC training program. Since its beginning in June, 1962, some 83 A, 22 B and 95 C badges have been issued. At present there are 46 SSA-approved instructors, 11 with soaring schools and 35 in local clubs. Bob Forker handled the administration of the program from its beginning until this summer when he resigned as Chairman of the SSA Flight Training Subcommittee. The SSA office has been handling the administrative details until a new chairman is appointed.

Detailed requirements for the issuance of each badge were listed in the June, 1962, issue of *Soaring* magazine and are given on the back of the application form for the A, B and C badges, SSA Item #45. In brief, the holder of an A badge has received instruction in the various responsibilities and procedures necessary for him to safely solo a sailplane and has actually soloed. To earn the B badge, the student must have demonstrated his ability to carry out simulated cross-country landings in restricted areas and have passed the written and flight tests for his private pilot certificate. The C badge pilot must have demonstrated his soaring ability by a solo flight of at least five minutes duration above his starting point or 30 minutes duration after release from a 2000-ft. tow. In addition, he must have had soaring instruction and practice in the techniques for soaring thermals, ridges and waves, have knowledge of cross-country flight procedures and glider assembly and disassembly.

The responsibility for the operation of the ABC program rests with the resident "SSA Instructor" at each club or school. It is intended that this instructor normally be the most experienced in the group although this need not necessarily be true. The various organizations choose their own SSA Instructor.

Qualifications for approval of an instructor for a group are as follows:

1. He must have been a member of SSA for at least one year prior to application. (This is not intended to require continuous membership or membership in the immediately preceding year.)

2. Flight experience: 50 hours of glider flight time, including 100 flights; or 35 hours of glider flight time, including 150 flights or equivalent compensating power INSTRUCTOR experience when specifically approved by the SSA Flight Training Subcommittee.

Those clubs or schools wishing to institute this training program should choose their instructor and send a list of his qualifications with a \$10 pin deposit to the SSA Flight Training Subcommittee, P. O. Box 66071, Los Angeles, Calif. 90066. Upon approval by SSA, the instructor will be sent a kit of pins, certificates, forms, etc., and a copy of Chapter 2 of the *American Soaring Handbook*. The latter contains a complete flight-training syllabus for use by the instructor. The A, B and C pins are to be given free to those students earning them by the instructor. The \$10 deposit will be returned when the organization notifies the SSA that it no longer wishes to participate in the program and returns the remaining supplies. A charge of \$1.00 each will be made for pins that are not accounted for with bona fide applications.

SSA TO PARTICIPATE AT KITTY HAWK

by FLOYD J. SWEET

The Society will be participants at the 60th Anniversary celebration of the Wright Brother's first powered flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. The two-day celebration will include four major events: A Flight Seminar for Youth on the morning of December 16th; an Anniversary Ceremony at the Museum and Visitors Center that afternoon, which will include the presentation of a full-scale reproduction of the Wright Flyer airplane to the National Park Service by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and the unveiling of a me-

morial plaque to the Wright Brothers by the Soaring Society of America; an Anniversary Banquet at the Carolinian Hotel that evening; and the dedication of the First Flight Airport at Kill Devil Hill the morning of December 17th, with an extensive fly-over and aerial demonstrations by both military and civil aircraft, including several sailplanes.

The plaque to be unveiled on December 16th is the work of Capt. Ralph S. Barnaby, USN (Ret). SSA President William S. Ivans will make the presentation to the National Park Service, custodians of the Wright Brothers National Memorial, and he will be assisted by Capt. Barnaby.

Sculpturing is one of Capt. Barnaby's many talents. His works are on display at the US Naval Academy, Annapolis; Mariners Museum, Newport News; Naval Air Station, Pensacola; and David Taylor Model Basin, Washington. Capt. Barnaby first flew on August 18, 1909, and holds the first glider license to be issued in the United States.

Capt. Barnaby has been President of SSA on three different occasions and is currently an honorary vice-president of the Society. Since his retirement from the Navy in 1947, he has been on the staff of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Vote!

This is to remind SSA voting members in regions 2, 4, 8, 9, 10 and 12 of the election now going on to select one SSA Regional Director in each region. Only ballots in the SSA mail box on or before Monday, December 30, 1963, will be counted so vote now if you haven't already done so. Results of the election will be published in the February *Soaring*.



The SSA lapel emblem with screw-post or woman's pin back. \$1.00 each, tax included, from SSA, Box 66071, Los Angeles, Calif. 90066. All new full Members receive one free.

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