



# Soaring

The Journal of The Soaring Society of America, Inc.  
SSA is a Division of the National Aeronautic Assn.

## A Message From the President

by WILLIAM S. IVANS, SSA President

This issue of *Soaring* features a first-hand story of the Argentine World Soaring Championships. Our team made the best U.S. showing in recent years; we can be justly proud of them.

Our pilots flew metal sailplanes, designed and constructed by three talented Americans. Until little more than a year ago, none of these individuals—Len Niemi, Irv Prue and Dick Schreder—had engaged in glider construction as a business. Dick Schreder not only designed and constructed his own ship, but also flew it to highest U.S. honors in the Championships, third place in the open category.

The U.S. team is in other ways representative of our country and our way of life. Pilots are chosen by balloting among the top Nationals contenders in the years just preceding a World Championships; this may well be the most effective and democratic method of team selection now in use in any country. Pilots, once chosen, have essentially complete freedom in their choice of crews and equipment. At the contest, each pilot makes his own choice of take-off and route, in strict adherence to the principle of individual competition. Nevertheless, each is a member of the U.S. team, subject to such discipline as may be imposed by the Team Captain, and each is expected to provide help for the team effort, consistent with his own individual freedom to advance his own standing. Finally, the expensive expedition to Argentina was financed in large measure by contributions, large and small, from private individuals and organizations who believe it important that our country be well represented at a world soaring competition.

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Lloyd M. Licher - Editor

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Cover photo: Another close-up, this time of Wally Scott circling in a Schweizer 1-26 sailplane over Odessa, Texas. Uninitiated viewers should be able to feel a close identification with the pilot and perhaps sense some of the thrill and satisfaction he experiences by cavorting about the sky so effortlessly. As announced in Schweizer's back cover ad in this issue, 200 of this model have now been sold, a sizeable percentage of the estimated 550 airworthy sailplanes in the U.S. Photo by Sandor A. "Alex" Aldott.

\$5 will be paid for any picture submitted if used for the cover.

Material published in *Soaring* magazine is contributed by individuals for the reading pleasure of other soaring enthusiasts. Anyone is invited to contribute and make reports on soaring in his area. Such material will be acknowledged when possible but no guarantee can be made that it will be used. A self-addressed, stamped envelope should be enclosed if the material is to be returned.

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