

Club News

Edited by PETE HARVEY

Club reporters should submit items for this column to Pete at 17 Cawfield Lane, Huntington Sta., L.I., N.Y. Please try to limit news to one page of double-spaced typing on a separate sheet as it might appear in print (as regards capitals, indentations, etc.). Subject matter ought to cover that which is thought to be of general interest. Clubs with newsletters are requested to put Pete on the mailing list for same, in addition to Soaring.

Metropolitan Airhoppers Soaring Assn., Wurtsboro, N.Y., Airport A Chapter of SSA

The two months just ended (June and July) constituted a period of both joy and sorrow for the soaring group at Wurtsboro. We were all saddened to learn of the death of Frazer Welsh last month. Frazer was Vice-President of Sail Flights, part owner of a Ka-6 and a very active participant in soaring activities at Wurtsboro. His untimely passing has certainly created an unfillable void in our soaring fraternity. Also on the debit side of our ledger is the loss of Gene Foxworthy to a company promotion and transfer. Gene was President of Sail Flights, and did a great deal to organize our operation on a business-like basis. The resulting organization did much to improve and increase our flying activity; a fact for which we are deeply indebted to Gene.

On June 21-23, Nature blessed us with some fabulous weather, and during that 3-day period, 10 FAI legs and four badges were earned. Bill Stewart made a 190-mile goal-and-return flight to complete his Gold badge and Goal diamond. The next day, Giles Gianelloni flew to Plymouth, Mass., to earn Gold distance and Diamond goal. The same day, Jack Hill made his five hours and Silver altitude on the same flight, while Gunars Bumars remained aloft for his Silver duration. Walt Burd then rounded out the day by flying 38 miles to Stormville to complete his Silver badge. On the third

day, Jack Hill also flew to Stormville, thereby completing his Silver badge in two days. Finally, Francis Popp flew his BG-12A 95 miles to Snyders, Pa., to complete his Silver badge. What a weekend!

Soaring activity continues at a high pitch. There are now 22 sailplanes based at Wurtsboro: two 2-22's, three 1-23's, two 1-26's, three Ka-6's, two Ka-7's, five Ka-8's, an L-Spatz, a Pratt Read, the HP-8, a BG-12A, and a Sisu 1A. As of August 1st, over 1,200 aero tows have been made by our two towplanes, the 450-HP Stearman and the 150-HP Super Cub. We are eagerly looking forward to our first 2,000-tow season this year, and extend a warm invitation to all soaring buffs to drop in and fly with us while we pursue this goal.

DON HOPKINS

Midwestern Soaring Assn. 7714 Woodson, Raytown 38, Mo. A Chapter of SSA

The Midwestern Soaring Association is moving ahead. Lou Simmons from Tulsa, Jim Burke of SCSA, Bob Johnson of FAA and Cy Willock, a veteran pilot about the Midwest, joined the soaring movement this month.

Our first Silver badge was claimed by Frank Lilly, followed the next day by Sheldon Stafford, both flying their Ka-6 at Marfa, Texas.

Frank Lilly is our SSA Instructor. Lilly and Stafford are Glider Flight Instructors. Lilly recently went over 200 glider flights and 100 hours in gliders in less than two seasons of glider flying, and is trying for a Diamond before two full years of soaring.

Steve Underwood on first solo was up for one hour. Larry Swinney's first flight in a 1-26, his third solo flight, was for 45 min. Bob Johnson soloed for 56 min.

As soaring booms into being, the need for a good two-place trainer is apparent.

FRANK LILLY

Pikes Peak Soaring Assn. Rte. 4, Box 78, Colo. Spr. A Chapter of SSA

The Pike's Peak Soaring Association Annual Meeting was a huge success with 36 members and guests attending the

dinner at the Moors in Colorado Springs. A, B and C badges were awarded, and the following were elected as officers for the following year: President, Wally Leland; Vice-President, Art Greenwood; Correspondence Secretary, Tom Ricker; and Treasurer/Recording Secretary, Janie Oesch.

Many good flights have been made by our members during April and May, although the uncooperative wind has slowed down the training program. Cross-wind launches have been giving the winch operators fits!

Dave Johnson achieved his leg for Diamond altitude in the 1-26 on March 26th with a gain of 16,700'. Dave is now the holder of two legs on his diamond, lacking only his X-C.

Mark Wild climbed to 13,500', with a barograph this time, making an altitude gain of 4800', to earn his Silver badge.

Ken Kolstad has made several outstanding flights, including soaring for over an hour off a cable break at 900'.

Wally Leland is still trying for his cross-country!

Ground activity has been tremendous—telephone connections at the clubhouse and between the winch and the club house (underground)—quite a radio set-up—fences coming down—new roads—and the most rewarding accomplishment of all, we lengthened our field, stretching our cable to a full 6600', giving us tows to 2800'. Many thanks to all concerned.

Wave conditions in the Pikes Peak vicinity attracted several out-of-state visitors and some tremendous records were established.

Dr. Wylie Mullen of the Chicago Glider Club spent several days challenging the waves. On March 28th he achieved his diamond altitude gain with 18,374' in the 1-23H, left the wave to attempt his X-C leg and reached Oberlin, Kansas, just falling short of his Diamond distance. This one day in March will remain on our records for a long time to come as three Diamond altitude legs were established, the other two by Neal Ridenour in the 1-26 and Dick Sundquist in a Skylark. Dick's flight set a new Colorado state altitude gain record of 21,150', also.

Dr. Bruce Synder from McCook, Nebraska, visited us for a few days. Their newly formed Soaring Club has been very busy, building and flying a 2-22C. At present, they are using an ex-A.F. base with 8000' of paved runway.

We also had Bob Bauer and Winston Smith from Toledo, Ohio, as visitors. Bob made his Gold altitude and Win made just enough for his Diamond altitude.

Major Bill Stewart of the Wurtsboro club made a good wave flight but already had his Gold badge and couldn't quite scrape the extra needed for a Diamond.

We have added two new active members to our List, Jack Carney and Monty Dunn of Colorado Springs. Also, two new associate members, General William Seawell of Washington, D.C., and Maj. A. Kearns of Colorado Springs. We will miss Maj. Wes Kimball, who is being transferred to Japan and wish lots of luck to him and his family.

The Soaring Dutchmen Kutztown, Pa., Airport

The Doctor, Yund that is, made an-

Five "Aces" of the Midwestern Soaring Assn. with the club's TG-3A. From L. to R., Larry Swinney, Frank Lilley (CFI and SSA Instructor), Bob Johnson, E. L. "Jack" Bates (MSA President and SSA State Governor for Western Missouri) and Steve Underwood.

Photo by Vic Burcham

