

1964 TORREY PINES MEET

by DALE H. TRUCKENMILLER, Meet Chairman

Ideal soaring conditions, good spectator weather, 20 sailplanes and 29 competing pilots combined to provide the SSA-sanctioned 18th Annual Pacific Coast Midwinter Soaring Championship with the proper ingredients for a successful meet at Torrey Pines Gliderport, just north of San Diego on Saturday, February 29th, and Sunday, March 1st. The meet, which is held on the famed and beautiful ocean cliff Torrey Pines site, was sponsored by the Associated Glider Clubs of Southern California and the San Diego Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Winner of this year's Meet was Ray Proenneke of Lynwood, California, flying his Cherokee II, who made good use of the conditions and events to pile up a total of 443 points. He was followed by Sterling Starr of San Diego, flying a 1-23D, who tallied 431 points for second place. Third place went to Larry Bell, flying his modified L-K, with 254 points.

Brisk on-shore winds and obvious unstable conditions met the pilots as they drove into the site to set up sailplanes. Competitors came from all points in California and, in addition, Arizona, New Mexico and Washington state, as well as one pilot from Washington, D. C. (Ted Sanford, who was

official scorer of the Torrey Pines Meet for many years and who is now with the FAA in Washington, D. C., entered the event with his BG-7), were represented at this annual event.

On Saturday, immediately following the pilots' meeting, the first winch tow of the day was made by AGCSC's Don McCormick in the club 2-22C flying the Meet Queen, Miss Lenore Plummer. Kirk Harris, with the number one take-off spot, was in the air with his Baby Bow-lus at 10:35. He landed at 5:00 p.m., the end of the contest day, with 6 hours and 25 minutes in the air to claim the duration event. After Harris took off, the line-up for take-off was "processed" and soon all aircraft were airborne, each dropping a sand bomb at the bomb target after making his first turn following release from the winch tow. The day progressed well with about 15 sailplanes in the air most of the time. Spot landings, bomb drops and duration continued throughout the day. Spectators and contestants were treated to the sight of three sailplanes breaking away from the cliffs from winch tow for distance tries. Fred Hefty in his L-Spatz-55 and Sterling Starr in his 1-23D caught a thermal and slowly drifted upward and inland together. Ray Proenneke broke away

shortly thereafter. Starr claimed the best distance of the day with a 50-mile flight to 6 miles south of Winchester. Proenneke had a 41-mile flight to near Temecula for the second-best flight. Shorter distance flights were made by Fred Hefty, John Williams and Larry Bell.

A get-together at Point Loma Inn provided a respite for contestants, crews and friends Saturday night and since Proenneke was leading the Meet by only 4 points, much speculation was had as to who might wind up as the Meet Champion.

Sunday dawned with little breeze and it appeared that it might be a poor day at the Pines; however, just after take-off time, the on-shore wind picked up and pilots noted a milky condition just east of the field. More than 9,000 spectators watched the soaring pilots as they attempted the bomb drop and spot landing events or just soared for duration above the cliffs. Starr again left the area early on a distance try and his flight of 41 miles to 3 miles southeast of Cuyamaca Peak earned him the best distance for the day. Proenneke was right behind him with a 31-mile flight to the vicinity of Ramona. Both disassembled and returned to Torrey Pines before the end of the Meet in order to attempt to add points to their total score from other events.

The Meet came to a close at 4:00 p.m., Sunday, March 1 and when Scorer Glenn Whitley, with the assistance of AGCSC's hard-working Don McCormick, computed the scores, trophy presentations were made to the winners by Walter E. Mooney, AGCSC President.

Winners of the events were as follows:

Distance (Solar Trophy): 1st, Sterling Starr, 50 miles; 2nd, Ray Proenneke, 41 miles; 3rd, Fred Hefty, 25 miles.

Altitude (Convair Trophy): 1st, Ray Proenneke, 5,000 ft.; 2nd, Sterling Starr, 4,600 ft.; 3rd, Fred Hefty, 4,250 ft.

Spot Landing (Rohr Trophy): 1st, Larry Bell, 2- $\frac{5}{8}$ in.; 2nd, Robert Gurr, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.; 3rd, Ray Proenneke, 5 in.

Two-Place Distance (Essery Trophy): 1st, Larry Bell, 20 miles.

Bomb Drop (Saron Trophy): 1st, Larry Bell, 6 ft.; 2nd, Earl Seagars, 8 ft.; 3rd, Sterling Starr, 10 ft.

Duration (Ryan Trophy): 1st, Kirk Harris, 6:25 hr; 2nd, Ray

The winners of the 18th Annual Torrey Pines Meet with their "hardware" and the queen, Miss Lenore Plummer, "Miss Glider Meet 1964." From L. to R., Sterling Starr, runner-up, Miss Plummer, Ray Proenneke, Meet Champion, and Larry Bell who placed third.

