

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by WILLIAM S. IVANS, SSA President

Nineteen Directors attended the February 8th, 9th SSA Board meeting in Dallas. Following is a summary of major items discussed and action taken:

A proposal to improve *Soaring* by hiring a full-time editor and increasing page content was approved with 18 affirmative votes and one abstention. Funding of this additional service is to be obtained through sale of the magazine to members only at a 3-dollar yearly rate and by establishing appropriate prices to other classes of membership and subscribers. Member dues will remain at 10 dollars per year. Subscription to *Soaring* will be optional when members next renew after April 1st. An important corollary to this plan is the lifting of the publication workload from the Executive Secretary's duties, thereby giving him more time to devote to the increasingly demanding administrative and promotional activities of his office.

This new schedule of charges to members is a direct consequence of membership demand for a larger magazine with expanded scope of subject matter, and for improved office services. No significant rate changes have been made in more than 10 years, and the steady increase in costs of publication, postage, services and wages during this period has nearly kept pace with the economies and additional income made possible by our broadening membership base. Your Directors were faced with a choice between continuing an essentially status quo operation (wherein we could foresee enough income to hire a separate editor for *Soaring* by sometime in the early 1970's), and providing these services now through support of present membership. Each Director present was asked to state his opinion prior to the final vote, and a number of alternatives were examined and discarded prior to the nearly unanimous eventual decision.

A motion to return to the 5-minute soaring flight (above low point) as sole qualification for issuance of the C Badge (by SSA Instructors only) was approved. At the same time, the importance of the basic ABC training program was empha-



Photo by H. E. Jensen

William S. Ivans, SSA President

sized, and it was agreed that suitable recognition of progression in this program would continue to be required; however, the FAA private glider rating requirement for the B Badge was deleted. Principal argument for return to original C Badge requirement came from training school operators who felt that it would promote SSA membership growth. As it now stands, SSA Instructors have the option of issuing C Badges for either 5-minute soaring flights or as part of the ABC Program.

The new NAA Divisional affiliation fee of 1000 dollars yearly was unanimously approved. We were very pleased to have NAA President William Ong present during discussions on this and other agenda items. Mr. Ong gave a brief speech expressing his satisfaction with present NAA/SSA relationships and outlining his plans for NAA, which emphasize a balanced budget and a greater concentration of effort on FAI charter responsibilities.

Contest Board report included a review of Records Homologation, Rules, FAI Awards, and International Team Committee activities and proposals. The Board confirmed the intention to field a full U.S. team at the 1965 World Championships, to be held at South Cerny, England. As in past years, no membership funds will be used to finance the team; we will continue

to depend upon contributions, and the support of NAA.

A debate on methods of soliciting and choosing sites for U.S. National Championships sharply outlined the two horns of a basic dilemma—how to encourage widespread bidding for sponsorship of the Nationals and at the same time keep alive the interest of the disappointed bidders, who may have expended a great deal of energy and money in preparation of losing bids. Solution adopted by the Board is to solicit bids a year in advance on a letter of intent basis, and to select a preferred area by preferential ballot at the summer SSA Board meeting. Subsequent competition may be held within a limited choice defined by preferential ballot ratings. Initial bidders must simply agree to meet minimum standards set by the SSA Contest Board; no additional bid promotion or expense will be required.

The excise tax liability of soaring clubs which charge more than 10 dollars per year dues, or have an initiation fee which when combined with one year's dues exceeds 10 dollars, was considered as an agenda item. A number of U.S. clubs have already been approached by the Internal Revenue Service with the demand that the 20 percent tax be paid, on the grounds that these clubs fall within the "social, sporting or athletic" club categories subject to the tax.

The SSA will seek competent advice in an attempt to provide general guidance to clubs on defining and limiting their possible liabilities. An effort has been made to obtain categorical exemption of soaring clubs from the excise tax through direct contacts with Congressmen on the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee. So far there has been no indication of favorable action.

The FAA liaison Committee reported a high level of activity and generally cordial relationships with FAA headquarters' staff. A Glider Cloud Flying Rating recommendation is now in the chain of departmental approval, along with cloud flying instrumentation recommendations and an independent proposal to eliminate present towing waiver requirements. A representative from FAA was on hand to discuss the final draft of a new Glider