



Soaring

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

Licensing Clarification

The following letter, which was addressed to Richard Schreder, SSA Airworthiness and Licensing Committee Chairman, by Mr. M. W. Leaphart, Chief of Quality Standards Branch of the Flights Standards Service of F.A.A., provides a very necessary and welcome clarification of government policies regarding home-built aircraft and should be carefully noted by any individuals engaged in building sailplanes which they hope to license in the amateur-built category.

This is in reply to your letter dated March 23, 1966, concerning use of prefabricated kits for amateur-built gliders.

The Agency policy with regard to the definition of an amateur-built aircraft, and the use of prefabricated kits, is contained in Advisory Circular No. 20-27, para 5a(1) through (4). The "major portion of the aircraft," as used in the advisory circular is considered to mean more than fifty percent of the aircraft. Paragraph 5a(4) permits use of kits provided that the "major portion of the aircraft," that is, more than fifty percent, has been fabricated by the builder.

In order for a kit to be eligible under these criteria, the major portion of the kit must be composed of raw stock, such as lengths of wood, tubing, extrusions, etc., which may have been cut to an approximate length but not otherwise prefabricated. Such a kit could contain a certain quantity of prefabricated parts, such as heat-treated ribs and bulk heads, provided that the applicant can show to the satisfaction of the Federal Aviation Agency Inspector that completion of the aircraft is not merely an assembly operation and that the builder must still fabricate the major portion of the aircraft.

We trust the foregoing will satisfactorily clarify the points in question.

VOL. 30

JULY 1966

No. 7

Richard Miller — Editor

CONTENTS

JACK LAISTER REVISITED	Sylvia B. Colton 10
SAILPLANE EXAMINATION PROCEDURES	Rudy Mozer 15
DRAG REDUCTION IN SAILPLANES (Pt. II)	Dr. F. X. Wortmann 20
AUDIO-PAGE	Pat Page 24
USING POLYURETHANE FOAM	Stan Hall 25
18th WRIGHT MEMORIAL MEET	A. C. Levinson 28

SOARING FEATURES

BIBLIOGRAPHY	3
CALENDAR	4
F.A.I. AWARDS (U.S. & CANADA)	5
ABC PROGRAM	5
LONG SOARING FLIGHTS	6
THE SAILPLANE FLEET	6
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR	8
WORLD NEWS	16
SAFETY CORNER	27
NEWS NOTES	30
WAVE FLIGHTS	31
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING	32

COVER PHOTO: During the 1964 National Soaring Championships at McCook, Nebraska, both Don Morgan and Len Boyd (owners of the K-6 on the cover) were too busy on the ground, as part of the contest management, to do any flying. Since then, however, they have been very busy, and this spring, flying out of McCook, they both completed their Diamond badges in 8705R.
Photo by John Altberg

\$10 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 soaring enthusiasts. Anyone is invited to contribute articles or reports on soaring activities. Material will be acknowledged when possible but no guarantee can be made that it will be returned. A self-addressed envelope should be enclosed if the material is to be returned.

Soaring magazine is the publication of The Soaring Society of America, Inc., editorial office and address of the Society: P.O. Box 66071, Los Angeles, Calif. 90066 (Room 9, 3200 Airport Ave., Santa Monica, Calif. 90405). Telephone (213) 398-9894. Soaring is published monthly. Second-class postage paid at Los Angeles, California. Subscriptions to individuals in the United States only if SSA members (on an optional basis) at \$3/yr. Membership in The Soaring Society of America, Inc., is open to anyone interested in the art, the science or the sport of motorless flight. Annual dues: Member, \$10; Family Member (Member status for any person in same family and household of a voting member), \$5; Associate, \$3; Student Member (enrolled full-time in academic school), \$1; Sponsoring Member, \$50 (includes free subscription to Soaring); and Industrial Member, \$50 (includes free subscription to Soaring). Life Member fee, \$200 (may be four \$50 quarterly payments; includes free subscription to Soaring). Subscription price, \$5 (in the U.S., available only to libraries and institutions). Soaring magazine is printed by Parker & Son, Inc., 241 E. 4th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90013.

Circulation of the June, 1966, issue was 5922.

JULY . . . 1966