

SOARING

1944

MOTORLESS FLIGHT CONFERENCE

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Membership dues of individuals are \$4.00
per year.

Soaring has been classed a sport for the past two decades. Despite the handicap of this misnomer motorless flight has contributed much to aviation, meteorology and to the applied sciences. Realizing the importance of advancing the frontier of soaring as a science, the SSA has, in the past two lean flying years of the sport, followed a policy of building up a background of scientific knowledge to be used in post-war soaring. With the accrual of advanced technique we hope to see many world soaring records fall to American sailplanists.

History vividly illustrates our leaning on continental developments for the extension of our soaring attainments. This fact is true despite the fact that the fundamental work of Langley and Huffacker preceded that of the European scientists. We are indebted to our foreign co-workers for the techniques of ridge soaring, of storm front soaring, of thermal soaring and of air wave soaring. It seems that there is little left for us to contribute in the field of soaring science,—yet there remains the most interesting form of soaring to be exploited by us, dynamic soaring. There is also left the development of exploring techniques for finding air mass discontinuities from which the sailplanist absorbs energy. Actually what we can contribute to the science and sport depends on the interests of each individual enthusiast. As a group we can contribute a coordinated program of development fostered through the mutual interchange of ideas.

Such a contribution was made in the Motorless Flight Conference of the Soaring Society of America which was held on August 5 and 6 of this year. The site of these meetings was the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, where a deep interest in motorless flight has been apparent for years.

The Motorless Flight Conference of 1944 in addition to offering specific technical advances demonstrated the general trend of our soaring toward the scientific approach. Every participant in this conference left after a very full two days with knowledge that will make itself felt with the immediate resumption of flying.

For the moment no crystal gazer can say how much this conference has extended the world's distance record or the altitude record but we can say that the success of this conference has extended this form of ground flying so that we can look forward to this annual conference.

August Raspet.