

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

by

Bernard Paiewonsky

Nearly ten years have passed since we began work on *Technical Soaring* in the summer of 1970. In this time we have produced five volumes of four issues each. Ten years is time enough for any one individual to be associated with a volunteer project and I am pleased to inform you that a new Editor-in-Chief, John McMasters, will take over, beginning with volume six. I will remain associated with *Technical Soaring* for a while as a Contributing Editor but henceforth all *Technical Soaring* correspondence should be addressed to John McMasters, Rt. 2, Box 248, Burton, Washington 98013, USA.

John has been an Associate Editor for several years. He has contributed many outstanding articles to *Technical Soaring* and other aeronautical journals. I am confident that *Technical Soaring* will be in strong hands, the technical quality maintained and the production schedule improved.

I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to all of the people who helped get *Technical Soaring* started and who kept it going through the years. First of all, I want to thank the authors; without their papers we would not have had a journal.

Col. Floyd Sweet, his wife, Frances, and my late wife, Sabina, contributed their time and energy from the beginning, when it actually was a kitchen table project. They organized the production and financing, maintained the subscriber roster as well as addressing labels, licking the stamps and mailing the issues.

The soaring technical community is relatively small compared to the total readership of *Soaring Magazine*. In 1970, as Chairman of the SSA Technical Board, I had received many papers which were important to sailplane designers, builders, and pilots, but could not be published in a popular magazine such as *Soaring*. *Technical Soaring* was started in 1970 to provide a journal for longer and more specialized articles. We received a helpful boost from OSTIV who allowed us to publish papers from the OSTIV Congresses in exchange for help in preparing the manuscripts for printing in Congress proceedings. *Technical Soaring* began on a volunteer basis and bootstrapped itself. It was financed entirely by subscriptions without any financial aid from SSA or other sources. The SSA ran an ad for us in *Soaring* and the advance subscription orders paid for the printing of Vol. I No. I. It became self-sustaining because of low overhead and volunteer assistance. In late 1975, we transferred the production to the SSA office in Los Angeles under the supervision of a Production Editor.

I want to thank Rose Marie Licher who began the L.A. production effort and Don Monroe who took up where she left off: Rose Marie and Don did a magnificent job in spite of the difficulties generated by the journal being composed on both the East and West coasts of the U.S. - nearly 2500 miles apart.

I want to thank the readers and subscribers for their help and patience throughout the years. You have kept the journal alive and provided an outlet for important papers that might not have reached the technical community. I also want to thank the Associate Editors, Jim Nash-Webber, and our reviewers for their assistance.

Finally, I want to thank John McMasters for being willing to take on all the varying responsibilities that go with being Editor. I wish him all the best of good fortune in editing *Technical Soaring*. I am sure he will enjoy it. I know I did.