
EDITORIAL

by

John McMasters

With this, the third issue of Volume VI, the new editorial staff of *Technical Soaring* would like to take this opportunity to briefly assess the state of affairs of the journal and to ask that readers who may be so inclined take a few moments to write us a brief note in response. It is our belief that only by maintaining an ongoing dialogue with our readers will a journal like *Technical Soaring* achieve its full value to the soaring community. A monologue from us to you will produce little more than a dry archive journal.

The new editors began Volume VI with the modest goal of continuing what we think is a useful service to those with a serious technical interest in our sport - producing a quality journal devoted to the technical and scientific aspects of motorless flight, on a regular publication schedule. The reader must judge for himself at this point the degree to which we have so far succeeded. We need your constructive criticisms on this matter.

Our first issue of Volume VI was straight forward, with no innovation intended. The number two issue was an attempt to respond to several reader requests for tutorial information in addition to the usual OSTIV papers. Thus, we chose to republish an expanded version of a paper on airfoil design. While this paper had been published earlier in a NASA conference proceedings report, several new figures were added to the *Technical Soaring* version to increase (it is hoped) its value as a tutorial overview of a complex topic. Is this the sort of material our readers want included at prudent intervals? One last note on this particular paper. The faults in editing are mine alone and, as experience is gained, I hope to improve this situation. Marion Barritt is to be credited with the layout of the articles and our timely submission to our printer - who bears responsibility for the fact that the second issue was not quite "quarterly" as per our original schedule.

One happy consequence of the delay in printing the number two issue was that it allowed us to switch to the new cover which

was designed for us by our good friend Jack Olson. While perhaps a mere cosmetic improvement, it remains a substantial one in our view and we thank Jack for his efforts on our behalf.

In this third issue of Volume VI we have incorporated two additions. A Technical Note section, with the first prepared by Dr. Gorisch, is included. These notes will continue to be published as received. All readers are encouraged to submit items of this nature, so that the journal can be made more timely. Also, we draw your attention to the very important OSTIV paper by Wiestaw Stafiej in this issue on the topic of consequences of deployment of airbrakes. Robert Lamson, Chairman of the SSA Technical Board, felt so strongly about this poorly appreciated topic, that he was compelled to add some editorial comments on the paper and the topic. We encourage this sort of response as well.

Neither publication of technical notes or guest editorial comments can be considered in any way innovative, but we believe they do add an air of timeliness to the journal. We shall continue to attempt to hold up our end of the bargain by maintaining a regular publication schedule. In so doing, we can also publish announcements of events of particular interest to our readers. One example was the announcement, in the second issue, of the SSA sponsored Homebuilt Sailplane Design Competition. It should be of interest to our readers to learn that at present (February 1981) there are forty-one official letters of intent to participate in this competition. In addition to a large number of U.S. entries, letters of intent have also been received from Australia, Germany and Great Britain.

With this issue, we have completed publication of our share of the OSTIV papers presented at Chateauroux in 1978, with the exception of one that will appear in the final issue of this volume. At that point, we will immediately begin publication of the 1981 Paderborn papers. Again, however, we eagerly solicit papers which may have been prepared independently of the OSTIV Congresses.

Let us hear from you.