

## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

by

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This letter is my introduction to you as the new Editor of Technical Soaring, replacing Dr. Paiewonsky in that role. This first issue of Volume VI also marks the transfer of all editorial and composition responsibility from the East coast to the Seattle area. Unfortunately, this transfer does little to reduce the physical distance between the editorial and composition staff and the Los Angeles area production and distribution center. Such are the vicissitudes of producing a journal like Technical Soaring which must depend heavily on volunteer and after hours aid and assistance in its preparation. Our continuing aim, however, is to overcome these obvious difficulties and provide the international soaring community with the highest quality technical journal, specifically devoted to low-speed and motorless flight, that our time, budget and energy can produce. To do so will ultimately depend on the goodwill and support of both our contributors and our subscribers.

Technical Soaring was, and remains, very much the offspring of Bernie Paiewonsky's recognition that soaring is, in many ways, an unfortunate step-child of modern aviation in the United States. While technically sophisticated, the modern sailplane is not a very economically viable device in our domestic market. And yet those of us devoted to soaring continue to dream, and to support this vision. Meanwhile, there remains a need to provide good technical data in our area of special interest. Thus, Technical Soaring was born. Through many trials and tribulations, it has endured for a decade. For this we must thank not only Dr. Paiewonsky, but also Floyd and Francis Sweet. Without the dedication of Floyd and Francis, Technical Soaring would not exist. To them we all owe a substantial debt.

Officially, Technical Soaring is a quarterly publication. Unfortunately, it has not always been possible to adhere to even this limited schedule. It is my sincere intent to again establish publication on a regular four issue per year basis. With the generous help of our new Production Editor, Marion Barritt, this goal can be achieved - with the support

of the international technical soaring community. One of our objectives will be to stimulate, by whatever means possible, the supply of quality technical papers for publication in this journal. It is expected, however, that our main source of supply will remain those papers presented at the various OSTIV Congresses. Your attention is directed to the call for papers for the 1981 OSTIV Congress at the end of this issue.

In the near term, we have no plans to substantially alter the format or content of Technical Soaring. Simply producing the journal on a regular basis seems a substantial enough objective. We would, however, gratefully appreciate any constructive suggestions from our readership regarding possible changes and additions. As the journal continues to evolve and mature, we hope to improve it and greatly increase its distribution. Further, when a more regular publications schedule has been established, we will include items of timely interest. Examples might be editorial reportage of developments and activities which have not yet found their way into formal technical papers. In addition to submitted technical papers, we also welcome technical notes and/or letters which, while less formally prepared than full technical papers, are worthy of publication and dissemination to our readers. In this way we hope to make Technical Soaring more lively and of more immediate interest than would be the case if we continue to produce a simple archive journal.

These then are our immediate plans and objectives. Again, much of the effort devoted to producing this journal is volunteered and in some important respects we are dedicated amateurs. Please help us in "learning the ropes" by sending your comments on the journal and by submitting your manuscripts. We will make every attempt to produce a quality journal on a regular basis and respond to your comments and inquiries as rapidly as possible. We look forward with enthusiasm and optimism to the continuation of a journal unique in our field of interest.