

August 21, 2017

WNYFFS August 2017 Update

Empire State Free Flight Championships

With the exception of an awful two hours or so on Saturday, we had splendid weather for our Empire State Free Flight Championships earlier this month. Friday was very warm and humid while breezes were mostly quite light. Saturday started out the same but right around lunch time, all heck broke loose. Rain fell in buckets and the wind picked up and threatened our canopies. Once the front passed over, we were treated to almost ideal conditions for the remainder of the afternoon. Naturally the wind had shifted but what was left was so light that we were not obliged to change our flight line. Your editor was able to take advantage of change in weather to challenge Jim Detar's very good flight times in FAC Dime Scale. Jim had put in his flights prior to the big blow. When the front came in Jim departed for the afternoon with plans to return for the dinner at the Yard of Ale. When the calm followed the bluster, it seemed like a good chance to put up my delayed Dime Scale flights. Despite my best efforts, Jim kept his lead to win by a mere 2 seconds. It's about time something besides a Beechcraft won Dime Scale!

My fortunes were a bit better on Sunday. The weather was excellent all day. Even the temperatures moderated making retrievals much more comfortable. Late in the afternoon I had still not put in any times for the FAC O.T. Rubber Fuselage event.

Matt King had the lead but there were only two fliers as of about 3 PM. Figuring the polite thing to do would be to pull out Miss Canada to make the event official.

Once the first flight was in with a pretty good time, Matt King would not leave well enough alone, insisting that it wasn't much of a victory for him if the other two flights weren't put up. On her second flight, Miss C did not do so well. That meant the third flight had to be practically a max to snatch victory from Matt. For the last flight, Miss C was treated to the max amount of winds; full War Emergency Power, risking a blown motor in the interest of putting forth the best effort. The increased torque almost made for a calamity as the increased thrust really showed that an excess of down thrust had been built in. Once off the table Miss Canada dived down and skimmed along at grass top level for 30 or so feet. Eventually she turned her nose up and headed in a much more comfortable direction. All the extra turns worked out. A long motor run and a very good climb out resulted in a very comfortable max. Matt was a bit disappointed but reiterated that the victory won as a result of a halfhearted effort by the competition would not have been so sweet anyway. There's a lesson in there.



First up in our pictures from the ESFFC is Dave Acton from the Sky Scrapers. Dave is holding a Pirate stick model from a Monogram kit. Dave made a point of showing off the model since it was purchased from Jack Barker estate last year. Dave picked up the kit without a strong intention of building it right away. Like everybody else, he intended to look over the kit for a while and see what interest might develop. The Pirate is unusual for a couple of reasons. Monogram is known for plastic models, not for flying models. Dave looked up a bit of history and found that the Pirate and a number of their other first flying models were kitted up in a garage shop, like many model kits are again today. In addition, the Pirate has solid sheet balsa sides that are notched for the cross pieces. This would seem to lead to a heavy model for a duration ship but Dave reports that the wood was all excellent quality and the model is quite light. In fact Dave used everything from the kit except for the counter weight for the single bladed prop assembly. The only adjustment needed was just a bit of positive on the stab. Dethermalizer duty is handled by a pop off wing actuated by a fuse. TNice job and thanks for the good information Dave. It is a pleasure to see one of Jack's models being used as intended.



Our next picture is of Rob Blair holding his model of the Percy (not sure of

the spelling) based on a plan from Aero Modeler. Rob is a voracious builder and flyer who does not always follow the crowd (as evidenced by Percy) when it comes to choosing his model designs. Percy qualifies as an Embryo. It exemplifies the more creative nature intended for the Embryo event with crescent wings reminiscent of a Taube.

Finally, we have a photo of our well known advocate for the Half Wakefied event, Dave Pishnery. Dave is currently advocating for balsa sheet scale models as exemplified by his Miss Chambermaid. Dave laid out the model based on the dime scale version of the model from Retro RC. This type model looks like a lot of fun for the modest building time required. They may be just a bit heavier than we are used to but they are easy to build and are a bit more rugged as well. Dave's Chambermaid is finished with Design Master Floral spray paint and "decals" made from an ink jet printer. The "decals" are actually plain paper and simple pasted on the model. Check out the variety of all sheet models available on line. Let the editor know if you are interested in adding this to the Pirate Challenge next year. Could be a very simple fun event that lends itself to flying at smaller fields.

Complete results for the ESFFC will be posted after the Pirate Challenge wraps up.



Next up – Pirate Challenge!

This year's FAC Non Nationals introduced a significant change in scale judging as well as model inspection routines. These were covered a bit in the last update. From the perspective of those hosting contests which include FAC judged or inspected events, a terrific reduction in labor can now be achieved. Using scale scores from previous Nationals or Non Nationals contests significantly reduces the demand for scale judging at all subsequent meets. For this year's Pirate Challenge we will definitely be flying in formation with the FAC GHQ and accept scale scores for previously judged models. Everyone who flew at the Non Nats should have access to scale scores for models flown at any of the last three FAC Nats/Non Nats. Therefore, it is officially requested that you bring your scale scores for those models intended for any judged events at the Pirate Challenge. That applies to Jet Catapult event as well.

For events requiring inspection, including use of the Pilots Pre Launch Checklist (PPLC) we will utilize the typical Pirate Honor System. The Pirate Challenge is not the Big Show, we are flying to have fun. So if anyone is not sure of how a rule should be interpreted, they should not be afraid to ask. We've all been confused and made honest mistakes at one time or another. Anyone cheating to win at a model flying contest has missed the point.

Here's a bit of clarification regarding the "Golden Age Combined" event called out on the Pirate Challenge flyer. When the contest flyer was put together, this event listing was held over from flyers for previous years. The original intent was to combine Golden Age military and civilian aircraft. With current FAC rules those types are no longer separate events; instead, there are now separate events for Golden Age single and multi-wing aircraft. For this year "FAC Golden Age Combined" refers to multi and single wing aircraft of the appropriate era. At this time we do not anticipate seeing too many multi-wing models for this event. This will at least allow multi-wing models to be flown in a competitive event at the Pirate Challenge. When we see an uptick in the number of Golden Age multi-winged models we can split the event into the two types as provided for in the rules.

Wrap Up

Following the Pirate Challenge, there is only one event left on the National Warplane Museum Series of Outdoor Free Flight Events. That's right, it is time to Gather Great Grapes while ye may. It may not be exactly as Robert Herrick wrote it but I'm sure he would have if he had had a chance to fly at the Great Grape Gathering. Don't miss your chance on September 8 through the 10th.

Do check out the very nice coverage the ESFFC received from the Livingston County News: <http://www.thelcn.com/lcn01/flying-aces-model-airplane-enthusiasts-mark-48th-year-in-geneseo-20170819> Some of the notes are a bit scrambled but the sentiment is certainly positive. Fame and fortune through model aviation; the dream lives on.

Build light, build straight and fly often,

Mark C. Rzadca, Editor, Western New York Free Flight Society Thermal Journal