

April 15, 2019

April 2019 WNYFFS Thermal Journal Update

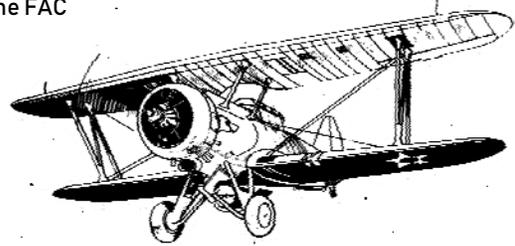
Here is the latest from the Western New York Free Flight Society.

Rules for Electric Event at ESFFC & GGG

In the January update it was noted that the ESFFC and the GGG would both include a Faux FAC Power Simple Scale event. Faux FAC means it is NOT an FAC event. Rules for the event have not been published yet because they had to be made up. Based on input from several interested readers, we are happy to announce the rules at this time. In the interest of simplicity, much has been borrowed from the FAC rules to define this event. To keep it straight forward, we will dispense with bonus points. For the utmost simplicity, build a powered scale model and fly!

Faux FAC Power Simple Scale

- ❖ Power must be glow, diesel, gas, CO2, electric, Rapier or Jetex, etc.
- ❖ This is a scale event; models must meet the requirements of the FAC Pilot's Pre Launch Checklist (a.k.a., PPLC)
- ❖ Any size model allowed.
- ❖ Unlimited engine/motor run time.
- ❖ Official flight: 20 sec. minimum, 120 sec. max.
- ❖ Max may be reduced if conditions warrant.
- ❖ Unlimited number of attempts.
- ❖ One point per second for flight score.
- ❖ Score will be the sum of three official flights.
- ❖ If conditions warrant, scoring may be the best flight of three official flights.
- ❖ Highest score wins.



Can it be any simpler? A copy of the PPLC is included with this update. PPLC is also available from the FAC web page; it is included in the official rule book. If interest suggests, this event can be continued. The rules can be modified (become more complicated) for next year if the demand is there.

Thanks to everyone who made suggestions for this event.

Electric Motor Controller

If you are considering the Faux FAC Power Simple Scale event, you might be in the market for a motor run timer. It just so happens that such a device turned up in a recent web search. The E-Zee Electric Free Flight Timer is manufactured in England but available in the US through Stevens AeroModel.

While there are many Free Flight electric motor timers available today, most are directed towards use in duration events. That means the run times supported are typically short; say on the order of 20 seconds or less. With the E-Zee timer motor run times up to 90 seconds are available. Note that Mk4 version of the E-Zee is required to achieve this duration. Mk3 is limited to 60 seconds motor run duration.

In addition to timing the motor run duration, this device allows adjustment of the motor speed and actuation of a DT function. These capabilities require external Electronic Speed Control (ESC) and Servo, respectively. Power for the timer is supplied by the Battery Eliminator Circuit (BEC) from the user's chosen ESC. One weakness of the timer (pointed out very clearly in the manual) for the timer is that the supply voltage to the timer (sourced from the BEC) must NOT exceed 5.5 volts. This is unfortunate as many BEC circuits output 6 volts. Choose your ESC carefully.



Here is a link to the E-Zee timer: <https://www.stevensaero.com/product/e-zee-electric-free-flight-timer-eff/>

A link is available on that same page to the Product Manual as well. Read the manual carefully before purchasing.

In the interest of full disclosure, your editor does not own one of these units. It is an appealing alternative to the long discontinued Smoothie motor run timer. The E-Zee is lighter, cheaper and the use of a servo for DT is appealing. (The Smoothie relied on a bit of nichrome wire which was heated to burn through a rubber band to actuate DT function.) On the other hand, the E-Zee is more cumbersome to program; it uses a single button for input and a single LED for feedback. Motor run speed is conveniently set up using a potentiometer. One small additional feature of interest is the option for ramping down the motor at the end of the motor run. This should make the transition from power phase to glide a bit more gentle. Additionally, the ramp effectively extends the run time a wee bit beyond the 90 second limit.

Also, for those interested, this timer also supports radio DT but you editor has not looked into that feature.

Cloud Bunny Plans

This year's Pirate Challenge has a number of events directed specifically for Junior Modelers. Some time ago, Bill Warner released designed up a simple model called the Sky Bunny which happens to be one of the events slated for Juniors at the PC. Plans for same are included with this update. It is a simple model and should be easy to build and trim.



Unfortunately, the plan does not include a scale which would make it easy to insure the print from which you are building is the correct size. Instead, note that the wingspan is 17-3/4" as described in Bill's original instructions for his postal contest. My efforts to print the plan on ledger size (11" by 17") paper results in a half wing span of 8-11/16"; about 1/16" short of desired. Close enough. In keeping with Bill's design intentions, wings must be double covered and stock wood sizes as shown must be used.

If you are planning on attending with a Junior Modeler, let the editor know so we can be sure to have merchandise awards on hand for all contestants. Be sure and mark your Sky Bunny in accordance with AMA guidelines.

Time to wrap it up

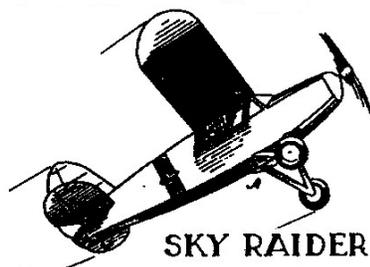
There will be no TJ update for May 2019. The editor will be on the road, and away from email, much of the month.

See below for Spring Opener dates in May. Empire State Free Flight Championships start on May 31 and continues through to June 2. Hope to see everyone there.



That is all for now.

Mark C. Rzacca, editor Western New York Free Society Thermal Journal



Western New York Free Flight Society Dates of Interest for 2019:

Spring Opener (a.k.a., Hobo meet):	May 4 & 5
Spring Opener Rain Date	May 18 & 19
ESSFC	May 31, June 1 & 2
Greatest Show on Turf!	July 12 - 14
FAC Non Nationals	July 17~20
AMA Nationals (in Muncie)	August 5 through 9
Pirate Challenge	August 23, 24 & 25
GCG	September 6, 7 & 8