

August 30, 2019

August 2019 WNYFFS Thermal Journal Update

Great Grape Gathering

Thought we should put this up front before the contest report on the Pirate Challenge. Our next local meet (last of the season) is the Great Grape Gathering which is scheduled for September 6 through 8. We're looking forward to a great close for the season.

Pirate Challenge 2019

Hard to believe but this year was the seventh annual running of the Pirate Challenge. Attendance at this contest has been running at about a dozen competitors with a high water mark last year of 15 flyers. Attendance this year was down but the weather was good and competition and flying were better than ever. We were most pleased to have FAC's CINC Dave Mitchell attend.

Friday was a bit breezy but very flyable. Many models made their way into the crops. All but one, Wally Farrell's Two Bit, King Harry, were eventually recovered. Jim DeTar won the Two Bit event with his Morgan Spirit. Jim's model went missing but was recovered with the aid of a radio tracker. Jim purchased a Wildlife Materials, Inc. (formerly Walston Retrieval Systems) radio tracker earlier this summer. At this meet, Jim used the tracker on his Morgan Spirit. Much to his dismay he needed the tracker on the Morgan's last flight when the DT apparently hung up. Jim kept the model in sight for 4 plus minutes as it drifted to the SSE. By the time Jim lost sight, he couldn't tell if the model was in the corn, in the trees beyond the corn or beyond Route 20A and up the ridge! Fortunately, the receiver provided a signal in the direction Jim had last seen the model

drifting. After taking off with radio in hand and making several stops to confirm that the errant model hadn't been bypassed, the model was spotted on the other side of Route 20A resting in a pasture. Jim's Morgan Spirit was worth retrieving. It aced out your editor's FA Moth by one second for first in the Two Bit event. Congratulations Jim.

Friday also saw two mass launch events. First up was combined Race Planes. As the photo shows we may rename the event to Mr. Smoothie Mass Launch. From left to right: Henry Toews, Wally Farrell, Mark Rzdca, Matt King and Jim DeTar. Note Matt King's composed and calm attitude. Way to take it in. Although Matt's model looks like a Smoothie, it is a Brown B-2. Jim is flying an Altair. After three rounds, Wally Farrell took first with his Smoothie.



The next photo shows our second mass launch event, Modern Military. From left to right: Henry Toews, Wally Farrell, Matt King, Jim DeTar and Mark Rzdca. Wally took first place flying his Arsenal VB 10. Matt took second with a Skyraider from, of all things, a Guillow's 900 series kit.

We were assured by wunderground.com that Saturday would be the best day of the weekend. Surprise, surprise, though the details were wrong, Saturday was the best weather day. Clouds were heavy and at times magnificent. Thermals were not too plentiful but winds were down and it wasn't too hot. In fact, temperatures for the weekend remained moderate; we never resorted to the canopies. Saturday saw the most flying; an event for Half Wakefield was added to the schedule when Lynn Miller showed up with a Half Wake model of Korda's Wakefield. Fortunately we had two other flyers suitably equipped. Wally took first place with his Flying Cloud. That's Lynn with his very nice looking Korda in the photo on the right.



Rubber Scale was closely fought. Top honors went to CINC Dave Mitchell with his Argosy and a total score of 147. Wally Farrell was not far behind with his Waco QDC and 143.75 points while Jim DeTar was a very close third with 140.5 points flying a Great Lakes Special.



Dave was also able to best the field in Phantom Flash. In the Photo below Dave shows how it is done. No worries here. Dave uses the cambered air foil on his Flash. Your editor may have to reconsider his choice of the simpler flat wing after seeing Dave's performance. Well done.



No Cal was easily taken by Wally Farrell with his Dauntless. His second flight was over six minutes. Of course Wally could not have known it at the time, but that one flight was enough to take the event on its own. He added an impressive 102 seconds on his last flight. A six minute flight is not easy to overcome; a total of 8 minutes plus is really tough to beat.

Sunday started with cooler temperatures and somewhat more breezy conditions. Still very flyable except that the direction shifted throughout the day. It did make for more misplaced models but once again, Wally was the only one to permanently lose a model. To take a little of the sting out of his loss, Wally's third and last flight on his Piper Pacer was a max and won Modern Civil for him.

Below is a photo of Henry preparing his Focke Wulf TA-152 for WW II Combat. Not the most commonly used subject for WW II but Henry made it look easy. Although Henry did not finish in the money in WW II, his model looked very good in the air. Even when using a 3 bladed prop he was able to get some very impressive flights.

WW II was won by another infrequently seen model. Matt walked off with the kanone flying an EKW C3603 from the Volare kit. The next photo shows the final round of WW II with Matt's model clearly seen to the left while Wally's He 100 is in center and Jim's Dauntless is on the right. It was a real horse race for Matt and Wally. Vet Thomas can be seen doing a great job as usual running the event.



As is often the case, Jet Cat saw the most competitors and easily the largest number of flights. You cannot beat these painted up slabs of balsa when it comes to fun to effort ratio! Henry came through in this event with his Miles Student. His first flight of 49 seconds established a lead that proved impossible to overcome.



If we were to name a grand Champion for the meet, it wouldn't take much number crunching to zero in on Wally Farrell. He came equipped with a model for most nearly every event and he was ready to fly each of them. That takes a lot of preparation, energy and persistence. He earned an impressive 9 kanones for his efforts. Congratulations Wally!

Despite the modest turnout we can safely say that we all had a real good time. Thanks to Vet Thomas for once again fulfilling Master of Mass Launch duties as well as performing scale judging duties. Photos from Matt, Julie Farrell and Mary Jo Rzadca make putting this update together much easier – they are all appreciated. Thanks most of all to everyone who came out and made the 2019 Pirate Challenge such a fun contest. Hope to see everyone again next year. In fact bring a friend.

Parting Shot

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Our last photo shows Matt King launching his power scale Hurricane. Matt's last flight was most impressive. He was equipped with two power models; in addition to the model pictured he also brought and flew a Fokker Dr-1. Both turned in impressive flights powered by .049 glow engines. (Both ended up AWOL for a time and were eventually recovered, but that's another story.)



That is all for now. See you at the GGG!

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