

# SPA West Championships

September 27-28, 2014

Thunderbird Field – Ft. Worth, Texas



Light winds, mild temperatures and partly cloudy skies greeted the pilots competing for places in the 2014 SPA West Championships. Eighteen pilots came to show their skills and enjoy the fun and fellowship that is so evident at SPA meets.

All airplanes survived the six rounds of competition, although a few dead-stick landings had to be made after engine failures. The light winds at the north-south runway switched blowing from the north to the south and from northeast to southeast but mostly directly into our face from the east. That made for some interesting landing approaches.

Tim Reed started things early with a judges school beginning at 8:00 am and covered some specifics that really helped judging. Judging correctly is really tough, especially if the judges do not know the specifics of every maneuver in the class they are judging. Thanks to Tim and I hope we can make this a tradition.

Flying started in Novice with first time contestant 14 year old Grant Schroeder putting in a very good flight. Grant finished like he started besting good pilot and excellent builder Bernie Olson with Gerry Stanford taking third place and accumulating enough points to win the 2014 Novice Points Championship. Upper classes better watch for Grant as this kid can really fly.





Sportsman class had six contestants and some really close competition. Tony Stelly took first place and the 2014 Points Championship. Tony bested Bobby Zikes by less than 17 points for second place. Only five points separated third place winner Tim Reed from Bill Vogeley who took fourth.

In Advanced class, AMA pattern pilot Wayne Galligan flew his electric Dirty Birty ARF to a first place victory over Gary Alphin who took second and Chris Berardi took third. Gary earned enough points to win the 2014 Points Championship. Advanced class had six contestants with three different pilots winning a round.



Expert class had fierce competition between winner Bill Rutledge and Pat Ensign. Bill flew a beautiful Intruder with an OS .91 that ran beautifully. Pat won the 2014 Points Championship. Ken Knotts was a distant third. Ken did however win the ARF Dirty Birdy raffle prize.

To have a great contest always takes a lot of people in the background. Gary Alphin and I had great support from the grounds crew, cooks, registration, raffle ticket sellers, air bosses, score data entry, award certificate printing, pilot judges, and helpers of all kinds. A lot of thanks to everyone who flew and a special thank you to everyone who pre-registered. That makes life a lot easier for the CD to have that done before the rush on Saturday morning.

Ken Knotts