

2017 Golden Triangle SPA Contest

May 19th, local weather persons were predicting severe thunder storms over 70 % of the area with winds in excess of 30 mph. I received one e-mail asking if the event was going to be held. My answer was hell yeah. I had already sent e-mails to all participating club members stating, "Even if it's pouring rain when you get up Saturday morning, go to the field."

Saturday morning, 0500 hrs, I looked out my front door and it was cloudy, and very humid. I packed the van and headed to the field. Upon arrival, I could tell that there had been some rain, but no evidence of anything within the last hour or two.

0700 hrs club members began arriving and got straight to work setting up the field. That's the nice thing about the club members that participate in club functions. They don't complain, or hesitate standing around drinking coffee and scarfing the donuts - they know what they are to do and get right to it.

I had stated in e-mails to all the possible contestants that we were going to have the pilot's meeting at 0800 hrs and first flights to start at 0830 hrs. However, at 0830 hrs contestants were still arriving and signing in. The weather was cloudy, with a light breeze from the north. Humidity was around 100 % so many of the pilots were tuning engines. Pat Ensign was already in the air as usual.

First flights got started around 0900 hrs right after group pictures of the pilots and club volunteers.



Club members from left to right, Frank Flores, Joe Anderson, Fred Taylor (Club President), Ben Bergman (Club Safety Coordinator), Randy Mays (Club Vice President), Robert Wilson, Gary Pannel

We had one entry in Novice, Rolla Roy who goes by the name Gene. I think that the weather may have scared the others off. But we had 3 entries in Sportsman, 4 in Advanced, 2 in Expert and one in Senior Expert.



In the Novice class, Gene Roy, even though flying alone, put in some impressive flights.

In Sportsman, Paul Mayhan gave Tommy Scarmardo a fight for first place staying right on his 6 until the 4th round when Paul took the round by 33 points.

In Advanced Class, Bernie Olson took first in each round except round 4, when Tony Stelly beat him by 32 points. Chris Berardi, had some bad luck with flame outs and came in 4th following Tony and Gary Alphin.



In the Expert class, Pat Ensign ran away with top gun in all four rounds with Wayne Galligan following by 168 points to take 2nd place.



Ken Knotts was the only entry in Senior Expert, however, he still flies like he's competing against a dozen other pilots.



Tony Stelly and Bernie Olson judging a round for Pat Ensign while Gene Roy calls.



Talking airplanes is another enjoyment of attending a contest.



World Models sent me an email stating that they will be getting a shipment of Intruders in. They just didn't know the exact date.

Thanks to Venom Batteries, Dubro, Tower Hobbies, Servo City, LazerWorks, Bob Smith Industries, APC Propellers, TruTurn Spinners, Sig Hobbies, and Sullivan Products that helped make our event a success. The recipients really appreciated the products that these hobby suppliers donated.

Frank Cox, CD