

New England Combat News

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 5 OCTOBER 2007
THE CONTROL LINE COMBAT NEWSLETTER OF NEW ENGLAND



Granite State Invitational

**GLENN SIMPSON, BRIAN STAS,
JEFF VADER & NEIL SIMPSON
ARE TOP FOUR**

SHAY VADER TAKES SPORTSMAN

August 19, 2007 – FRANKLIN, NH – The Granite State Invitational was to be the first of two 2007 contests scheduled to be held in Franklin, New Hampshire this season. A rainout on May 20th forced it to be re-scheduled for this date. Six contestants were on hand for this event hosted and cd'ed by Jeff Vader. Jeff, as he always does, had coffee and doughnuts waiting for everyone as we arrived. Weather conditions were partly cloudy, warm, not hot with low humidity. A very good day for combat.

Round one saw Brian Stas post the high score while Glenn Simpson did likewise in round two. In round three Glenn and Brian squared off and flew each other to a one cut apiece draw emerging as the clear co-leaders going into the final round, both with three round totals of 1745 points. In round four Glenn flew his brother Neil and squeaked out a one cut win. In the final match Brian and Jeff Vader faced off. Brian got an early cut but later found the ground during a line tangle costing him some airtime points. The match ended in a low scoring draw giving Glenn the victory. Brian retained second followed by Jeff and Neil. Shaylene Vader, on this day, took home the sportsman "gold". Thank You to everyone who shared in the judging and Thank You to the Vaders for a yet another good contest.

Granite State Invitational - Formula GX Combat
6 Contestants (4 from MA) (2 from NH)
12 Matches-1 mid-air

(E) Glenn Simpson - Worcester, MA	2365pts
(A) Brian Stas - Kingston, MA	2155pts
(A) Jeff Vader - Franklin, NH	1950pts
(E) Neil Simpson - E.Brookfield,MA	1630pts
(S) Shaylene Vader - Franklin, NH	1520pts
(A) Ken Hargreaves - Worcester, MA	1320pts

New England Championships

**NEIL SIMPSON, GLENN SIMPSON
JEFF VADER & BRIAN STAS
ARE THE TOP FOUR**

**VINNIE LANGELLA IS THE SPORTSMAN
WINNER**

SEPTEMBER 2, 2007-WORCESTER, MA -This year's New England Championships attracted twelve pilots for the eighteenth annual running of this very successful Formula GX happening. The location was Boynton Park in Worcester, Massachusetts. The weather was perfect, warm not hot, low humidity with little or no breeze.

(continued on page two)

Salmon River Shootout Formula GX Combat August 26, 2007

**CONTEST REPORT ON
PAGE SEVEN**

District I Championships F2D Combat September 9, 2007

**CONTEST REPORT ON
PAGE SEVEN**



The trophy winners at the Granite State Invitational were Glenn Simpson (1st), Brian Stas (2nd), Jeff Vader (3rd), Neil Simpson (4th) and Shaylene Vader (1st Sportsman)



Team Vader, in action, at the Granite State Invitational

NE CHAMPS (continued from page one)

Jeff Vader got off to the best start posting a three cut round one win. Lloyd Seymour was in close pursuit posting a two cut round one win of his own. In round two Jeff and Lloyd mid-aired allowing the rest of the field to catch up. Brian Stas and Neil Simpson took full advantage posting three cut round two wins. Round three started with Brian and Neil flying to a one cut apiece draw. Later in round three Glenn Simpson got a three cut win over Jeff Vader while Ken Hargreaves was earning a two cut win over Lloyd Seymour. This put both Glenn and Ken very much in contention. Going into the final round it was Neil (1960pts), Brian (1850pts), Glenn (1755pts), Ken (1545pts) and Jeff (1430pts). The final three flights of the contest would prove meaningful. In the first of these Jeff got a one cut win over Vinnie Langella. In the semi final Ken and Brian faced off and mid-aired early hurting both their cumulative scores. In the final Neil and Glenn flew to a low scoring draw. When it all shook out the top four were Neil (2370pts), Glenn (2165pts), Jeff (2050pts) and Brian (1950pts). Vinnie Langella took home the Sportsman "gold" edging out Richard Sherman and Aaron Seymour.

The top four flyers plus the sportsman winner received beautiful awards. Every competitor received a T-shirt to commemorate their participation in this annual GX happening. In addition, every pilot also received a raffle prize which included an OS Max engine, ready to fly airplanes, kits, fuel, props, GRW tanks, balsa wood and luggage. GRW Model Products, J&J Sales, The Core-house, Hog Heaven Hobbies and the Connecticut Ringer Model Airplane Club all made serious cash or merchandise contributions. Thank You to all these great sponsors from all of us. A special thank you to Ken Hargreaves who donated two beautiful brand new GX foamies as raffle prizes and Dick Sherman who donated some great merchandise as well.

New England Championships

Formula GX Combat

12 contestants (10 from MA) (1 from NH) (1 from CT)

24 matches - 4 mid-air

(E)Neil Simpson-E.Brookfield, MA	2370pts
(E)Glenn Simpson-Worcester, MA	2165pts
(A)Jeff Vader-Franklin, NH	2050pts
(A)Brian Stas-Kingston, MA	1950pts
(E)Lloyd Seymour-Leominster, MA	1735pts
(A)Ken Hargreaves-Worcester, MA	1645pts
(A)Paul Kubek-Brockton, MA	1645pts
(E)Dick Sherman-Andover, MA	1635pts
(E)Joe Fustolo-Stoughton, MA	1620pts
(S)Vinnie Langella-Meriden, CT	1535pts
(S) "Lil-Sherm"-Andover, MA	1510pts
(S)Aaron Seymour-Leominster, MA	1200pts

FROM THE EDITOR: New England Combat News exists, not to make a profit, but rather, to promote control line combat in New England. It is distributed without charge to those readers who participate in New England combat contests or who support these contests through donations to the New England contest fund. The subscription rate is \$10.00/year for people who do not meet the above criterion. If you have information you would like to see in this newsletter please call or write:


NEIL SIMPSON 129 PODUNK ROAD EAST BROOKFIELD, MA 01515
PHONE: 508-867-8702 (Home after 6:00pm) E-MAIL: podunk129@charter.net

If you make a donation or if you subscribe to this newsletter make the check payable to NEIL SIMPSONDonations go into the New England Contest Fund and are used to cover the cost of running New England control line combat contests. IF YOU WANT TO RUN A CONTROL LINE COMBAT CONTEST IN NEW ENGLAND AND YOU NEED HELP (FINANCIAL OR OTHERWISE) CALL OR WRITE NEW ENGLAND COMBAT NEWS. We want to continue to help make New England a "Hot Spot" for control line combat. New England Combat News is your newsletter-USE IT. Control line combat is your sport-PROMOTE IT.

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F2D News - September 2007

**Mark Rudner
rudner@mit.edu**

This is the US Team Trials edition of the F2D News. It's already been a couple of weeks since the Team Trials finished, but that's the way it goes. We may not be the first to break the stories for you, but at least we do break something...

For the second time in a row, the Lubbock Llano Estacado Model Airplane Club hosted the Team Trials. The effort was headed by experienced Team Trials participants Andy and Bobby Mears and Larry Driskill. These guys know what it takes to run a successful Team Trials, and have proved it once again. With so much at stake, the Team Trials is always an event on the verge of some sort of blow-up. However we made it through the weekend relatively smoothly, and by Sunday evening selected an undisputed team of 3 very capable pilots. Pretend you didn't already hear the results 3 weeks ago and hold your breath for a few seconds to get your pulse up... ok there. The team members are: Andy Mears, Richard Stubblefield, and Michael Willcox.

While things ran very smoothly for a Team Trials, that's not to say that the weekend was without controversy. I'm not going through this to complain about anyone or the job that was done, I just feel that it's instructive to bring problems out in the open so that they can be discussed and hopefully avoided in the future.

The first issue came up before the contest even started, at the pilot's meeting Friday night. This infamous ``what-if'' meeting has been a Team Trials tradition dating back as far as I'm aware. The question, however, is whether or not attendance is mandatory. I had the impression that it was, but without a copy of the official Team Selection Program in front of me I can't say for sure. Aside from going over various administrative details and rules interpretations, the draw is always done during this meeting (more on this later).

A problem arose when one pilot who had pre-registered for the contest wasn't present at the meeting. Nobody knew for sure whether or not he was planning to show up for the contest Saturday morning. Because he had registered and paid his money, however, the decision was to include him in the draw as a regular contestant. When he in fact didn't show up at all for the contest, his opponents in the first three rounds were given free wins. At a contest where team placement is at stake, this could be quite a boost. Incidentally, a nearly identical problem came up while I was in England last month... maybe I'm cursed.

At the time there were arguments going both ways about whether to redraw without him in the morning or to let him stand in the draw; I don't fault anyone for keeping him in, but in the future I'd like to see the no-show contestant taken out of the draw. If the contest has already started and then a pilot disappears and misses his 4th round match, that's his problem and his opponent ``deserves'' his free lunch. Regardless of whether or not an entry fee was paid, however, a complete no-show at the contest should probably just be thrown out from the start. For the Team Trials, my suggestion is to just make the Friday night meeting mandatory and draw those and only those pilots who are present or have made specific arrangements with the contest organizers beforehand to be included.

The second issue that came up was actually not unrelated to the first. For those who aren't familiar with the US Team Selection program, the draw is not done in the traditional random way. Instead we use something called the "Matrix Matching System," which is a completely deterministic matching system kicked off by a random seed. The whole thing always seemed somewhat pointless to me, until for some reason in a moment of epiphany this year I understood the reasons why it was originally put in place.

Historically, a lot of the Team Selection Program was laid out by Paul Smith in the late 1970s. He was a very thoughtful individual, and spent a lot of time considering how to write a rigid system that would guaranty a fair and unbiased team selection process. The best way to ensure that the contest is set up in an unbiased way is to minimize the amount of human intervention. When cards are drawn at random to determine matches, in principle it is extremely easy for someone to fiddle with the matchings. It's not that I think it would happen, but *in principle* it could happen and thus opens the door to possible spurious accusations and arguments.

Enter "The Matrix." In the matrix system, each contestant is assigned a random number at the pilot's meeting before the contest starts. The contestant keeps this number throughout the competition. These numbers are then placed on a large grid and matches are determined simply by pairing up neighbors on the grid. There is a well defined procedure for shifting the columns around between contest rounds so that the neighboring pairs get mixed up and a fresh group of matchings is obtained. In Paul Smith's vision, this grid would be displayed in public view at all times so that any interested party could walk up to it and clearly see who should be flying whom, etc. Once the wheels are set into motion with the initial draw, everything proceeds completely mechanically (like clockwork?) until finally the winners are determined.

This Matrix has certain somewhat undesirable properties, however. The most relevant is that while the algorithm is designed "to avoid repeat matches," after a few rounds it is not guaranteed to do so. This often results in pilots flying each other more than one time in the same contest, even when other possible matchings could avoid this repeat. The significance of this problem is open to debate.

When constructed according to the prescription in the Team Selection program, the numbers of rows and columns in the Matrix are determined by the number of contestants. When adhered to, this should eliminate the possibility of repeat matches within the first three rounds of the triple elimination contest. I heard a few explanations, but for whatever reason this time we ended up with a large number of duplicate matches in the 1st and 3rd rounds and later. Probably there was some deviation from the algorithm, most likely in terms of the dimensions used to set up the Matrix.

Although it's quirky, I actually don't have much against the Matrix Matching System. It's actually extremely simple to implement on the computer. By the next Team Trials, it would be cool to have some sort of laptop system set up to just handle it all on the fly and make some nice printouts to display. In fact if we're going computerized, though, there's no reason not to go back to the random draw method. Assuming a robust computer program is available to handle all of the matchings, again there should be no need for human intervention thus eliminating one source of possible complaints.

All in all, I felt it was a well run and successful Team Trials. A big thanks goes out to the Llano Estacado Model Club and all the others who came to help out, especially center marshal Pat Willcox and chief administrator Sheila Cranfill.

Salmon River Shootout

NEIL SIMPSON, JEFF VADER,
GLENN SIMPSON AND JOE FUSTOLO
ARE TOP FOUR

VINNIE LANGELLA TAKES SPORTSMAN

AUGUST 26, 2007 – EAST HAMPTON, CT – Six New England combat pilots were on hand for this one. The weather was most cloudy, hot and humid with no breeze.

Glenn Simpson jumped into the early lead with a three cut round one win. In round two, Neil Simpson turned in the best score posting a two cut win. At the halfway point Glenn and Neil were in a virtual tie well ahead of the pack. In round three Neil got past Glenn with a one cut win. In the next match Jeff Vader and Joe Fustolo had a great match that ended in a two cut apiece draw. Great job by both pilots. Going into the final round Neil had 1965 points, Glenn had 1650 points while Jeff and Joe were within range with scores in the 1400 point range. In the semi-final match Jeff got past Glenn with an airtime win. In the final Neil and Joe had a great match that went non stop buzzer to buzzer with Neil sneaking past Joe two cuts to one. On this day, Vinnie Langella took home the “Sportsman Gold”.

Salmon River Shootout
Formula GX Combat

6 contestants (4 from MA) (1 from CT) (1 from NH)
12 matches – no mid-air

(E) Neil Simpson-East Brookfield, MA	2690pts
(A) Jeff Vader-Franklin, NH	1945pts
(E) Glenn Simpson-Worcester, MA	1850pts
(E) Joe Fustolo-Stoughton, MA	1835pts
(A) Paul Kubek-Brockton, MA	1530pts
(S) Vinnie Langella-Meriden, CT	1120pts



The trophy winners at the Salmon River Shootout were Neil Simpson (1st), Jeff Vader (2nd), Glenn Simpson (3rd), Joe Fustolo (4th) and Vinnie Langella (1st Sportsman)

District I Championships F2D Combat

NEIL SIMPSON, MARK RUDNER AND GREG WORNELL TAKE THE TROPHY SPOTS

SEPTEMBER 9, 2007 – MIDDLEBORO, MA – This was the location and date, the time and place for the annual District I Championships for F2D Combat. There were eight pilots on hand for the fourth annual running of this event.

In Round I Ken Hargreaves and Mark Rudner had an excellent match with Ken getting the nod two cuts to one. In Round II Mark squared off against Neil Simpson in a full four minute war. Mark got one last cut in the final five seconds to prevail three cuts to two. This annual event was closely contested. As round three drew to a close only three pilots had been eliminated with the remainder of the field tied with one loss apiece. Three pilots succumbed to a loss in their fourth match causing a three way tie for third. Third place was settled with a fly-off for that position. Two matches later Greg Wornell had survived the fly-off, getting past Paul Kubek and Jeff Vader to take home the third place “gold”. This set the stage for a final match, between Mark and Neil, who each had one loss. Neil got a cut early and then mid-air contact disabled Mark’s machine while Neil’s was wounded, but still airborne accumulating airtime points and an ugly win.

District I Championships-F2D Combat-8 contestants

1. Neil Simpson, E Brookfield, MA	4 wins / 1 losses
2. Mark Rudner, Cambridge, MA	4 wins / 2 losses
3. Greg Wornell, Wellesley, MA	2 wins / 2 losses
*won fly-off	
4. Paul Kubek, Brockton, MA	2 wins / 2 losses
5. Jeff Vader, Franklin, NH	2 wins / 2 losses
6. Ken Hargreaves, Worcester, MA	1 win / 2 losses
7. Rick Clark, Hingham, MA	0 wins / 2 losses
8. Brian Stas, Kingston, MA	0 wins / 2 losses



District I Championships-September 9th– The top three are Neil Simpson(1st), Mark Rudner(2nd) and Greg Wornell (3rd)

**2007
New England
Championships**

The trophy winners were
Neil Simpson (1st),
Glenn Simpson (2nd),
Jeff Vader (3rd),
Brian Stas (4th),
and
Vinnie Langella
(1st Sportsman)

Below: Brian Stas launches
Dick Sherman's machine.



Rumors Facts Etc

CONTEST FUND: This month we received very generous donations from Vinnie Langella, Will Rogers, Jeff Vader, Brian Stas and Len Thibault. Thank You Gentlemen.

2007 Regular Season Points Championship (thru 10 contests)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Total Accum Points</u>	<u>Total Possible Points</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Simpson, Neil	89	100	890
Hargreaves, Ken	48	60	800
Simpson, Glenn	69	90	767
Vader, Jeff	72	100	720
Clark, Rick	35	50	700
Stas, Brian	34	50	680
Fustolo, Joe	30	50	600
Seymour, Lloyd	6	10	600
Kubek, Paul	47	80	588
Vader, Shaylene	21	40	525
Sherman, Dick	16	40	400
Langella, Vinnie	11	30	367
"Lil Sherm"	12	40	300
Fustolo, Joey	3	10	300
Seymour, Ar-ron	0	10	0

Position in the season point standings is determined by the percentage column. The formula to determine percentage is total points accumulated divided by total possible points. Points are awarded in descending order for the first ten places in each contest (1st Place = 10pts, 2nd Place = 9pts etc.) Total possible points is the number of contests participated in multiplied by ten. Participation in no less then 50% of the New England regular season GX meets is the eligibility requirement for a season championship award.

2007 CONTEST SCHEDULE

All GX Combat unless noted otherwise

9/30 Wompatuck Invitational - Hingham, MA
10/7 North County Shootout - Leominster, MA
10/14 Fall Finale - Worcester, MA
10/21 The Last Shootout - F2D Combat - Hingham, MA
10/28
11/4 Wompatuck Fall Fly-Off / Post Season Contest - Hingham, MA

For more info contact: Neil Simpson Phone: 508-867-8702 E-Mail: podunk129@charter.net

The Last Shootout

October 21st, 2007

Wompatuck State Park
Hingham, MA

AMA Sanctioned - Rick Clark CD

F2D Combat

Trophies for top three - First Match 10:00am
Mark's Single Airplane Rules

Route 3 south to exit 14 - Pick Up Route 228
for about 4 or 5 miles to Free Street which is a
right hand turn off of Route 228-State park
entrance is about 3/4 mile on the right- signs
will be posted from entrance to combat site



Jim Carpenter

The Wompatuck Invitational

September 30th, 2007
Wompatuck State Park
Hingham, MA

AMA Sanctioned - Rick Clark CD

Formula GX Combat

Trophies for top three plus 1st Sportsman

Route 3 south to exit 14 - Pick Up Route 228 for
about 4 or 5 miles to Free Street which is a right
hand turn off of Route 228-State park entrance
is about 3/4 mile on the right- signs will be
posted from entrance to combat site which is 4
to 5 miles into the park.

2007

North County Shootout

Leominster High School - Leominster, MA
October 7th, 2007

Formula GX Combat Four Rounds
Prizes for top three plus first in Sportsman

First Match 10:00 am AMA Sanctioned

NECN CONTEST FUND

Date	Payee	Category	Amount	Balance
	Opening Balance			247.00
3/15/2007	Streamer String - 10 Rolls	Streamer Expense	(20.00)	227.00
3/16/2007	New England Championships	Permit/Sanction Expense	(45.00)	182.00
3/16/2007	Fall Finale	Permit/Sanction Expense	(45.00)	137.00
3/18/2007	Wompatuck Ice Breaker	Permit/Sanction Expense	(42.00)	95.00
3/18/2007	Wingbuster Spring Kickoff	Permit/Sanction Expense	(20.00)	75.00
3/18/2007	Eastern Mass Championhips	Permit/Sanction Expense	(20.00)	55.00
3/18/2007	Wompatuck Invitational	Permit/Sanction Expense	(42.00)	13.00
3/18/2007	The Last Shootout	Permit/Sanction Expense	(42.00)	(29.00)
3/18/2007	Wompatuck Fall Fly-Off	Permit/Sanction Expense	(42.00)	(71.00)
3/18/2007	Rick Clark	contribution	108.00	37.00
3/28/2007	Granite State Invitational	Permit/Sanction Expense	(45.00)	(8.00)
4/16/2007	Len Minick Memorial	Permit/Sanction Expense	(45.00)	(53.00)
4/18/2007	Eastern Mass Invitational	Permit/Sanction Expense	(45.00)	(98.00)
4/29/2007	Glenn Simpson	contribution	60.00	(38.00)
4/29/2007	Joe Fustolo	contribution	50.00	12.00
4/29/2007	Ken Hargreaves	contribution	100.00	112.00
4/29/2007	Wompatuck Ice Breaker	trophy expense	(80.00)	32.00
4/29/2007	Wompatuck Ice Breaker	entry fees	90.00	122.00
4/30/2007	Granite State Championships	Permit/Sanction Expense	(45.00)	77.00
5/6/2007	Wingbuster Spring Kickoff	trophy expense	(128.00)	(51.00)
5/6/2007	Wingbuster Spring Kickoff	entry fees	160.00	109.00
5/27/2007	Ron Connors Memorial	trophy expense	(128.00)	(19.00)
5/27/2007	Ron Connors Memorial	entry fees	130.00	111.00
5/31/2007	Salmon River Shootout	Permit/Sanction Expense	(45.00)	66.00
6/10/2007	Eastern Mass Invitational	trophy expense	(80.00)	(14.00)
6/10/2007	Eastern Mass Invitational	entry fees	80.00	66.00
6/16/2007	District I Championships	Permit/Sanction Expense	(20.00)	46.00
6/16/2007	Rick Clark	contribution	20.00	66.00
6/24/2007	Ray DuFour	contribution	30.00	96.00
6/24/2007	Vinnie Langella	contribution	25.00	121.00
6/24/2007	Rick Clark	contribution	10.00	131.00
6/24/2007	Len Minick Memorial	trophy expense	(80.00)	51.00
6/24/2007	Len Minick Memorial	entry fees	70.00	121.00
7/29/2007	Granite State Championships	trophy expense	(80.00)	41.00
7/29/2007	Granite State Championships	entry fees	50.00	91.00
8/2/2007	Ernie Carosella	contribution	25.00	116.00
8/12/2007	Eastern Mass Championhips	trophy expense	(128.00)	(12.00)
8/12/2007	Eastern Mass Championships	entry fees	130.00	118.00
8/12/2007	Rick Clark	contribution	20.00	138.00
8/19/2007	Granite State Inv/2nd Date	Permit/Sanction Expense	(45.00)	93.00
8/19/2007	Granite State Invitational	trophy expense	(80.00)	13.00
8/19/2007	Granite State Invitational	entry fees	60.00	73.00
8/26/2007	Salmon River Shootout	trophy expense	(80.00)	(7.00)
8/26/2007	Salmon River Shootout	entry fees	60.00	53.00
8/26/2007	Vinnie Langella	contribution	25.00	78.00
8/27/2007	North County Shootout	Permit/Sanction Expense	(25.00)	53.00
8/30/2007	Will Rogers	contribution	50.00	103.00
9/2/2007	Jeff Vader	contribution	30.00	133.00
9/2/2007	New England Championships	entry fees	360.00	493.00
9/2/2007	New England Championships	trophy expense	(352.00)	141.00
9/2/2007	New England Championships	t-shirts	(153.00)	(12.00)
9/6/2007	Len Thibault	contribution	25.00	13.00
9/9/2007	District I Championships	trophy expense	(48.00)	(35.00)
9/9/2007	District I Championships	entry fees	80.00	45.00
9/9/2007	Brian Stas	contribution	10.00	55.00
		GRAND TOTAL	(192.00)	55.00

2007
Fall Finale
Formula GX Combat

Boynton Park - Worcester, MA
(near the Paxton, MA line)
October 14th, 2007
Registration 9:30am - First Match 10:00 am
AMA Sanctioned

Take 495 or the MASS PIKE to Interstate 290 In Worcester pick-up 122 North towards Paxton

Near the Paxton line just after the entrance to the Worcester Airport take a right hand turn marked

Mower Street (442-512) Follow Mower Street into the park

NEIL SIMPSON
129 PODUNK ROAD
EAST BROOKFIELD, MA 01515