

New England Combat News

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 1 JUNE 2008
THE CONTROL LINE COMBAT NEWSLETTER OF NEW ENGLAND



Now Celebrating our 20th year of Publication

Wompatuck Ice Breaker

**NEIL SIMPSON, BRIAN STAS &
JEFF VADER TAKE THE TROPHY SPOTS**

APRIL 27, 2008 -HINGHAM, MA– This was it, opening day of the 2008 New England control line combat season. Conditions were cloudy and cool with a light breeze, a good day for combat, except for one pesky rain shower early on. Seven New England pilots were on hand to get the season off to a good start. We were ready for four rounds of Formula GX Combat action.

Round one saw Neil Simpson get off to the best start posting a three cut to one win over Joe Fustolo in a match that was hard fought buzzer to buzzer. In round two Neil posted a one cut win while both Brian Stas and Jeff Vader emerged as contenders also posting good wins. Round three started with Neil getting past Jeff two cuts to one in a really well flown match. In the next match Brian got past Glenn Simpson, also two cuts to one, in yet another well flown match.

Going into round four Neil had 2175 points followed by Brian (1655pts), Jeff (1330pts) and Glenn (1220pts). The final three matches of the contest seemed destined to determine the outcome. In the first of these Paul Kubek and Rick Clark matched up. It was a very good match with Paul getting past Rick two cuts to one. Paul, who was flying well, without good results, used this match to, ultimately, propel himself into fourth place. Next, Jeff Vader got an airtime win over Glenn Simpson, Glenn experiencing engine problems in this one. In the final match Brian was leading Neil by a cut when a mid-air ended the match, prematurely. When the scores were tabulated the final order of finish was Neil Simpson in first, Brian Stas was second, Jeff Vader third and Paul Kubek fourth.

Thank You to all who shared in the judging and a special thanks to Rick Clark who CD'ed the event, secured the site and did all the great prep work that made this a fun contest.

(details on page two)

Granite State Invitational

**NEIL SIMPSON, PAUL KUBEK
& BRIAN STAS ARE TOP THREE
SHAY VADER TAKES SPORTSMAN**

May 4, 2008 – FRANKLIN, NH – The Granite State Invitational is the first of two contests scheduled to be held in Franklin, New Hampshire this season. Seven 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 just terrible right up until the 10:00 am start time when the rain let up and then stopped leaving us cloudy and cool but very glad to be dry. All and all not a bad day for combat.

Round one saw Matt Stas and Neil Simpson post three cut wins both getting off to fast starts. In round two they faced each other and mid-aired early bringing them both back towards the field. Meanwhile Jeff Vader earned a two cuts to one round two win over Paul Kubek. This was his second win and with it he assumed the contest lead. In round three Neil got past Jeff with a one cut win. Matt and Brian Stas flew to a one cut apiece draw while Paul Kubek and Glenn Simpson flew to a one cut apiece draw, as well. Going into the final round it was Neil with 1650 points followed by Matt (1445pts), Jeff (1345pts), Brian(1220pts) and Paul (1210pts). In round four Paul got a two cut win over Shay Vader to move into contention. In the semi-final Jeff and Matt mid-aired knocking each other out of contention. In the final Brian earned a one cut win over Neil moving himself into a trophy spot. When it all sorted out Neil held on for the win followed by Paul and Brian.

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.

(details on page two)

Wompatuck Ice Breaker - Formula GX Combat
 7 Contestants (6 from MA) (1 from NH)
 14 Matches - 2 mid airs

(E) Neil Simpson – E. Brookfield, MA	2275pts
(A) Brian Stas-Kingston, MA	1855pts
(A) Jeff Vader-Franklin, NH	1850pts
(A) Paul Kubek-Brockton, MA	1535pts
(E) Joe Fustolo-Stoughton, MA	1520pts
(E) Glenn Simpson-Worcester, MA	1320pts
(A) Rick Clark-Hingham, MA	1310pts

Granite State Invitational - Formula GX Combat
 7 Contestants (5 from MA) (2 from NH)
 14 Matches-3 mid-air

(E) Neil Simpson - E.Brookfield,MA	1950pts
(A) Paul Kubek-Brockton, MA	1935pts
(A) Brian Stas - Kingston, MA	1840pts
(E) Glenn Simpson - Worcester, MA	1735pts
(A) Matt Stas - Kingston, MA	1640pts
(A) Jeff Vader - Franklin, NH	1545pts
(S) Shaylene Vader - Franklin, NH	1115pts



The trophy winners at the Wompatuck Ice Breaker were Neil Simpson (1st), Brian Stas (2nd), and Jeff Vader (3rd)



Glenn Simpson



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

2008 Granite State Championships

Franklin Elks Lodge Field
 South Main Street
 Franklin, NH
 June 15th, 2008

Formula GX Combat Four Rounds
 Prizes for top Three plus first in Sportsman
 First Match 10:00 am
 AMA Sanctioned

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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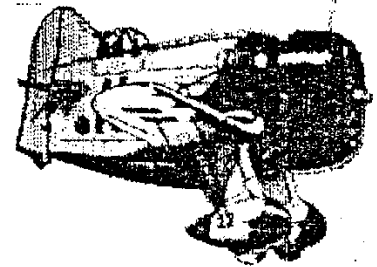
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F2D News - May 2008

Mark Rudner
rudner@mit.edu

Houston, we have a problem. Phoenix, we have a problem. Chicago, Detroit, Lubbock, Jacksonville, we all have a problem. But fear not, men and women, this is a problem that has something very positive at its origin, and that I believe can be solved in a way that will in the end in fact make us even stronger. Before I explain, however, let me not take credit for what's below. This month's column is the product of a recent email exchange that I had with Neil Simpson, in which he presented the problem to me and his ideas on how to deal with the situation. I think he hit upon some very important issues; therefore I am now using this platform to spread the message, reinterpreted from my point of view, and supplemented by some of my own thoughts on how we may best proceed.

"Who is this Neil Simpson?" you might ask. If you're from New England, you would most definitely not ask this question. For those of you who are not from New England or who have never had the opportunity to fly here, Neil Simpson is the life-blood of control line combat in New England. Without Neil, there would be no combat here. He is an indefatigable man of infinite energy and limitless powers of organization. He is also a very thoughtful and observant man, and a very good combat pilot.

To many (probably most) of the combat pilots in this country, Neil Simpson is an enigma, wrapped in a mystery, wrapped in mylar covering and a streamer – a dark horse of sorts. For the last several years, Neil has finished #1 in the MACA Top Twenty rankings (for Neil's perspective on the Top Twenty, I urge everyone to read his article "MACA Top Twenty – A Time for Change" that I hope will appear soon in the "MACA News"). How did it come to pass that a figure, relatively unknown to the national competition scene, could so consistently garner the ranking of our country's #1 pilot? Certainly it was no accident. To paraphrase Neil's words, he earned the crown through consistent participation and solid performance in Speed Limit Combat (Formula GX), which is the dominant event in this neck of the woods. Let me add that he has been a consistent and tough competitor in our single-airplane F2D competitions as well.

This finally brings me to the central point: our community has become fragmented, both geographically and by type of event predominantly flown. I believe it is safe to say now that F2D has taken over as the premiere combat event in this country. While the Bladder Grabber and possibly a few other Fast combat contests live on, the vast majority of the large, prestigious competitions drawing pilots from all over the country have turned over to F2D. This is a great thing in my opinion, but also it seems that if our national ranking system is supposed to mean anything, the pilots at the top should be the ones winning in these premiere events. Neil's solution (and one that I think is quite reasonable) is to do away with the overall Top Twenty ranking, and to keep it separated by event, perhaps recognizing the top 5 in each event at the end of each season. Furthermore, because F2D is the most prestigious and hardest-fought event, this event should be singled out and those top pilots identified as the "major leaguers" of our sport. I propose to take this one step further.

There has been plenty of talk and steadily building support for a complete restructuring of the F2D Team Selection process in this country, and I believe that we are almost ready for it. I propose that we give the MACA F2D Top Twenty a real and tangible significance, and replace it with the MACA F2D Team Points. Discussions are ongoing to debate how to set up a multiple-contest team selection system, but once such details are worked out we will have a well-defined system for calculating these MACA Team Points. The top scorers will be rewarded with trophies or medals, and, if eligible, the prestigious position of representing the United States in the Control Line World Championships.

However, I said that we are almost ready for this change; I didn't say that we are ready. What's holding us back is the geographic fragmentation/isolation mentioned above. A large fraction (not all!) of the top F2D pilots in this country live in the southwest (Houston, Dallas, Lubbock, Phoenix, Los Angeles, San Diego, ...). As a result, a large fraction of the activity, in particular of the big competitions with national draw, is localized in the southwest (2 Phoenix contests per year, last two Team Trials in Lubbock, Houston's yearly meet that just took place last weekend). Don't get me wrong, all this activity is great, and the energy these people are breathing into the event by hosting these contests is awesome. The guys in Chicago have been hosting a late-summer event in their area for a few years too, and the Duane brothers are doing a great job supporting the southeast with their yearly contest

in Jacksonville. Contests like this in places like Jacksonville which are still developing as hotbeds of F2D are great because they give new local pilots, who may feel that they are not yet ready to travel great distances to compete, the chance to experience national-level competition. This experience is the Red Bull that will energize these new pilots, feed their enthusiasm, and help get them the preparation they need to be able to compete on the national circuit.

In New England we have a handful of pilots with the potential to become national-level competitors, but with the majority of activity so far away, it's a tough mountain for them to climb to gain the experience needed to become prepared for those contests. As one step towards helping this situation, I hope to bring the competition to New England. We are currently having a bit of flying site trouble, but if we can get it sorted out I tentatively propose to host a high caliber F2D competition here next June (2009). For those of you who know me, you know that when I decide to do something I'm going to make sure it's done right. If we can make this happen, I will do everything in my power to make it a first-rate contest, and sincerely hope that as many of you as possible will come to participate.

One other way to help close the geography gap, and which addresses another long-standing problem, is to revitalize the Nationals. The combat Nats lost its luster long ago, and is basically in the ICU right now. In fact, the situation is so bad that, when one of our readers from Europe emailed me a few months ago to say that he would be in Indiana around the time of the Nats and wanted to know if he would be allowed to enter, I was ashamed to tell him that, although he would be allowed to enter after buying an AMA license, I couldn't guaranty that there would be even 5 pilots in F2D. What is that? That's an embarrassment. However, the Nationals may be the solution to our geographic dilemma.

Right now we have several great competitions dotted around the map, but they are all roughly equally prestigious and none of them stands out as *the* contest to attend for a slightly wary new pilot. Think about it: Muncie is quite centrally located in the country. That makes it a roughly fair commitment for everybody from California to Washington to Florida, and New England. One problem that plagued the Nats was how time consuming it was to travel there and spend an entire week to fly all of the events (Fast, Slow, F2D, 1/2A). This basically killed all of the events. Instead of trying to build the whole thing back up, which may be an insurmountable task, why don't we just focus on building up one event, F2D, and make the Nats into the country's top F2D event? We can talk to the AMA and have F2D run on Saturday and Sunday like all other contests, with 1/2A and/or Speed-Limit run on Friday before as a bonus for anyone who can come early (like what the Phoenix guys do).

If we all agree to commit to revitalizing the National F2D Championships, it could become a really great contest. We could even encourage participation by offering a bonus team point for entering the Nats. Singling out this centrally-located, well-attended contest (not to mention the beautiful site and the presence of all the other events going on simultaneously) would give new pilots a clear goal to shoot for, and a real reason to pick one far-away contest to attend in the year.

It's too late to try to change the Team Selection Program (TSP) for 2009-2010, so next year we will need to hold a Team Trials in our usual format. Let's put the wheels in motion right now to draft a new TSP for 2011. In the meantime, if we agree that we want to revitalize the Nats, perhaps we can kick off the new-and-improved National F2D Championships by combining it with the 2009 Team Trials. Who's in?

2008 Wompatuck Ice Breaker

Jeff Vader Photos



Brian Stas And Rick Clark



Paul Kubek and Joe Fustolo



Rick Clark and Paul Kubek



Brian gets Rick airborne



Joe Fustolo

2008 Granite State Invitational - May 4th

Jeff Vader photos



Paul Kubek and Brian Stas



Just a nibble please



Team Vader . . . Jeff and Shay



Team Stas . . . Brian and Matt



Neil and Glenn Simpson



Jeff Vader and Paul Kubek

Rumors Facts Etc

CONTEST FUND: This month we received very generous donations from Rick Clark, Joe Fustolo, Brian Stas, Glenn Simpson and Chris Sarnowski. Thank You Gentlemen. We're back in the "black".

2008

Eastern Mass Invitational
Silver Lake Regional High School
Kingston, MA
June 8th, 2008

F2D Combat
Single Airplane Rules
Prizes for top Three
First Match 10:00 am
AMA Sanctioned

NECN CONTEST FUND 1/1/2008 Through 5/10/2008

Date	Payee	Category	Amount	Running Total
1/1/2008	balance		289.00	289.00
3/4/2008	New England Championships	Permit/Sanct Expense	(45.00)	244.00
3/10/2008	Fall Finale	Permit/Sanct Expense	(45.00)	199.00
3/28/2008	Will Rogers	contribution	60.00	259.00
4/4/2008	Granite State Invitational	Permit/Sanct Expense	(25.00)	234.00
4/12/2008	Eastern Mass Invitational	Permit/Sanct Expense	(130.00)	104.00
4/12/2008	District I Championships	Permit/Sanct Expense	(130.00)	(26.00)
4/17/2008	Middlesex County Invitational	Permit/Sanct Expense	(45.00)	(71.00)
4/26/2008	All Four Wompatuck Contests	Permit/Sanct Expense	(168.00)	(239.00)
4/26/2008	Rick Clark	contribution	68.00	(171.00)
4/27/2008	Joe Fustolo	contribution	40.00	(131.00)
4/27/2008	Brian Stas	contribution	10.00	(121.00)
4/27/2008	Wompatuck Ice Breaker	entry fees	70.00	(51.00)
4/27/2008	Wompatuck Ice Breaker	trophy expense	(51.00)	(102.00)
5/5/2008	Granite State Invitational	trophy expense	(68.00)	(170.00)
5/5/2008	Granite State Invitational	entry fees	70.00	(100.00)
5/5/2008	Chris Sarnowski	contribution	100.00	0.00
5/5/2008	Glenn Simpson	contribution	40.00	40.00
5/7/2008	Granite State Championships	Permit/Sanct Expense	(25.00)	15.00
GRAND TOTAL			15.00	15.00

2008

Middlesex County Invitational

Middlesex County RC Flyers Club Field
Vietnam Veteran's Park
Treble Cove Road
Billerica, MA
Saturday May 24th, 2008

F2D Combat Single Airplane Rules
Prizes for top Three
First Match 10:00 am AMA Sanctioned

2008 CONTEST SCHEDULE
All GX Combat unless noted otherwise
This is a work in progress -All dates are tentative

4/13 Middlesex, NJ - Speed Limit and 1/2A
4/20
4/27 Wompatuck Ice Breaker - Hingham, MA
5/4 Granite State Invitational-Franklin, NH
5/11 Mother's Day
5/17* Hershey, PA-CD Phil Cartier
Speed Limit & 1/2A Combat—Saturday Contest
5/24* Middlesex County Invitational-Billerica, MA
F2D Combat - Saturday Contest
6/1
6/8 Eastern Mass Invitational - Kingston, MA
F2D Combat
6/15 Granite State Championships – Franklin, NH
6/22 Len Minick Memorial Combat Challenge – East Hampton, CT
6/29
7-5&6 Wompatuck Fun Fly-Hingham, MA
7/13-18 U.S Nats F2D/Speed Limit/1/2A/Fast
7/20 Ron Connors Memorial – Wrentham, MA
Now GX Combat
7/27
8/2* East Coast Championships -Hershey, PA-CD Phil Cartier
Speed Limit & 1/2A Combat) - Saturday Contest
8/10 Eastern Mass Championships - Hingham, MA
8/17 District I Championships – Kingston, MA
F2D Combat
8/24 Salmon River Shootout - East Hampton, CT
8/31 New England Championships - Worcester, MA
9/6* Middlesex County Shootout -Billerica, MA
F2D Combat-Saturday Contest
9/14 Middlesex, NJ – Speed Limit and 1/2A
9/21
9/28 Wompatuck Invitational - Hingham, MA
10/4* October Air War-Vincentown, NJ-CD Roy Glenn
single elimination 1/2A and Speed Limit-Saturday Contest
10/12 North County Shootout - Leominster, MA
10/19 Fall Finale - Worcester, MA
10/26
11/2 Wompatuck Fall Fly-Off / Post Season Contest - Hingham, MA

* Saturday Contests

For more info contact: Neil Simpson
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***Len Minick Memorial
Combat Challenge***

June 22nd, 2008

**Salmon River State Forest— East Hampton, CT
AMA Sanctioned**

Formula GX Combat—Four Rounds

**Trophies for top three plus First in Sportsman
Registration 9:30am - First Match 10:00am**

Located on Route 16 approximately halfway between Routes 149 and 196

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