

New England Combat News

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 1 JUNE 2006
THE CONTROL LINE COMBAT NEWSLETTER OF NEW ENGLAND



Wompatuck Ice Breaker

**NEIL SIMPSON, GLENN SIMPSON,
BRIAN STAS & RICK CLARK
TAKE TOP FOUR SPOTS**

SHAYLENE VADER WINS SPORTSMAN

APRIL 30, 2006 - HINGHAM, MA— This was it, opening day of the 2006 New England control line combat season. Conditions were sunny and warm with a strong breeze, almost perfect. Ten 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 Jeff Vader get off to the best start posting a two cut to one win over Joe Fustolo, a very well flown match. Other good starts in round one included Neil Simpson (620 pts) and Ken Hargreaves (520 pts). Round two started with Neil getting past Jeff with a two cuts to one win. Ken then got past Paul Kubek with a two cuts to one win to keep pace. At the halfway point Neil had the lead with 1245 points followed by Ken (1145 pts) and Jeff (1125 pts). Round three started with Neil getting past Ken with a three cut win, in a match that was action packed and much closer than the final score might seem to indicate. Round three also saw Glenn Simpson post his second good win in a row to move into second place, while the rest of the field bunched up right behind him. Going into round four Neil had 2075 points followed by Glenn (1545pts), Ken (1445 pts), Paul (1430 pts) and Jeff (1325pts). Brian and Matt Stas were also close with cumulative scores in the 1200 point range. Every match in the final round would impact the final order of finish. First Rick Clark and Joe Fustolo flew to a two cuts apiece draw. Next, Shay Vader and Brian Stas flew to a one cut apiece draw. The next two matches were mid-air, first Paul and Matt and then Ken and Jeff knocking all four pilots out of the top four. In the final match Neil Simpson earned a one cut win over his brother, Glenn, to take home the contest win. The final order of finish was Neil, Glenn, Brian Stas and Rick Clark. Brian and Rick settled third and fourth via a coin flip after finishing in a dead heat. On this day Shaylene Vader was the Sportsman division winner.

(continued on page two)

Wingbuster Spring Kick Off

**NEIL SIMPSON, JOE FUSTOLO,
BRIAN STAS & JEFF VADER
ARE TOP FOUR IN FORMULA GX**

MARK RUDNER, KEN HARGREAVES AND MATT STAS TAKE THE TROPHY SPOTS IN F2D

MAY 6 & MAY 7, 2006 - MIDDLEBORO, MA – Again, this year, the Wingbuster Spring Kick Off was a two day affair featuring Formula GX combat on Saturday and F2D combat on Sunday. The weather was great both days.

On Saturday morning the GX event got off to a fast start with Glenn Simpson, Neil Simpson and Joe Fustolo showing the way with good round one scores, however all that was for not when all three pilots had round two matches that ended in mid-air. At the halfway point it was still anyone's contest for the taking. Round three saw both Neil and Joe re-assert themselves each posting a three cut win. Going into the final round Neil had 1855 points, followed by Joe with 1655 points with Rick Clark, Jeff Vader and Brian Stas just off Joe's pace.

The final three matches of the final round would determine the outcome. In the first of these matches Brian got past Glenn Simpson with a one cut win. Next Jeff and Rick squared off, Jeff got two cuts early and then crashed missing the last two airtimes. It was just enough to squeak out the match win and a fourth place finish. In the final match Joe and Neil went toe to toe for the full five minutes with Neil just squeaking out the win in an action packed affair. The final order of finish was Neil (2475pts), Joe (1955pts), Brian (1945pts), and Jeff (1865pts).

(continued on page two)

WOMPATUCK ICE BREAKER (continued from page one)

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.

Wompatuck Ice Breaker - Formula GX Combat
10 Contestants (8 from MA) (2 from NH)
20 Matches - 4 mid airs

(E) Neil Simpson-East Brookfield, MA	2695pts
(E) Glenn Simpson-Worcester, MA	1845pts
(A) Brian Stas-Kingston, MA	1730pts
(A) Rick Clark-Hingham, MA	1730pts
(A) Ken Hargreaves-Worcester, MA	1645pts
(A) Paul Kubek-Brockton, MA	1630pts
(A) Jeff Vader-Franklin, NH	1625pts
(A) Matt Stas-Kingston, MA	1530pts
(S) Shaylene Vader-Franklin, NH	1520pts
(E) Joe Fustolo-Stoughton, MA	1415pts

WINGBUSTER KICK OFF (continued from page one)

On Sunday, we were back to fly F2D Combat. As the day unfolded there were a lot of good matches, as everyone was flying very well at the end , after showing signs of rust in the early matches. When it was over Mark Rudner took first, Ken Hargreaves second and Matt Stas third. Mark Rudner, particularly towards the end of the day, was showing his world class form with both Ken and Matt clearly better then the rest us pretenders.

Thank You to Rick Clark who cd'ed this contest and did a lot of work behind the scenes to bring it to fruition. Thank You to the Wingbuster Model Airplane Club for the use of their great facility.

Wingbuster Spring Kick Off
Formula GX Combat

7 contestants (5 from MA) (2 from NH)
14 matches (2 mid -airs)

(E) Neil Simpson-E.Brookfield, MA	2475pts
(E) Joe Fustolo-Stoughton, MA	1955pts
(A) Brian Stas-Kingston, MA	1945pts
(A) Jeff Vader-Franklin, NH	1865pts
(A) Rick Clark – Hingham, MA	1830pts
(E) Glenn Simpson-Worcester, MA	1330pts
(S) Shaylene Vader-Franklin, NH	1200pts

F2D Combat

7 contestants (6 from MA) (1 from NH)
12 matches

1. Mark Rudner-Cambridge, MA	4 wins / 1 loss
2. Ken Hargreaves-Worcester, MA	3 wins / 2 losses
3. Matt Stas Kingston, MA	3 wins / 2 losses
4. Rick Clark, Hingham, MA	2 wins / 2 losses
5. Brian Stas, Kingston, MA	0 wins/ 2 losses
6. Neil Simpson, E.Brookfield, MA	0 wins/ 2 losses
7. Jeff Vader-Franklin, NH	0 wins / 2 losses

**2006
Granite State Invitational**

**Franklin Regional High School
115 Central Street
Franklin, NH
May 21st, 2006**

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

Take 93 North to exit 17. Follow the off ramp around to the right and continue on Rte 4 thru a small town called Boscawen. Rte 4 will fork to the left, stay straight on Rte 3 Daniel Webster Hwy. About 10 miles down the road you'll come to a traffic light where Rte 3 takes a right and crosses over the Merrimack River. Once over the bridge, the Franklin High School is an 8th of a mile up the road on your right. Turn in the driveway as you go past the school and we'll be at the lower field on your left.

**The F2D trophy winners at the
Wingbuster Spring Kick Off were
Mark Rudner (1st), Ken Hargreaves (2nd)
and Matt Stas (3rd)**



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:


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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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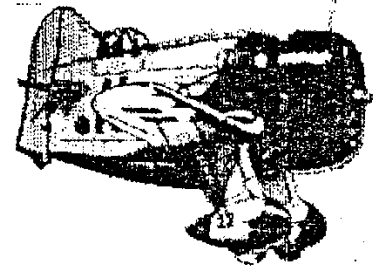
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F2D News - April 2006

Mark Rudner
rudner@mit.edu

Finally the 2006 combat season is underway in New England. The combat weather gods shined on us last weekend and provided beautiful weather for the Wingbuster Spring Kickoff in Middleboro, MA. Seven pilots showed up for Formula GX combat on Saturday, and seven more (a non-mutually exclusive group) showed up for F2D on Sunday.

One thing that I have to say about this contest is that I was very impressed with the level of flying all around. Although this was the first contest after a very long winter break, the quality of flying did not seem to suffer one bit. In fact, the quality of combat probably was even a little bit higher than where we left off at this very same field last October. Great job guys, keep it up!

At the same time as I deliver this praise, I can't skip mentioning some old habits that seem to die hard. In the past I have written about the proper way to enter the circle on launch. Fortunately this time around there was no rain or mud, but I noticed that a few pilots still had a bit sloppy technique. Occasionally this leads to some awkward situations. Taking off is probably the most simple thing you will do in a match, and a near-incident here might disrupt your concentration and leave you vulnerable at the start of combat.

If you've found yourself getting out of sorts on launch or while trying to meet up with the other pilot in the center circle, try this method: as the mechanic releases the model, take a step, radically inward, toward the center of the pilot's circle. Your first step should not be tangential (around the circumference). What I witnessed on a few occasions was pilots slowly spiraling in towards the center of the circle over more than an entire lap. I think this behavior is due to some habits formed in Formula GX combat where the slower models are more forgiving. Regardless of the origin, however, this is a very simple matter to correct, so next time I hope to see this go a little smoother.

As another public service announcement, I'll remind everyone that the penalty for unintentionally stepping out of the circle is 40 points, but the penalty for intentionally stepping out is actually a disqualification from the match. If you're not familiar with the event already, it's probably not obvious what constitutes "intention" of stepping out. Unintentionally stepping out is when, in the course of normal combat, one pilot may wander a bit too far and place his foot outside the circle. Intentional stepping out is interpreted to mean leaving the circle to gain an unfair advantage over one's opponent. By precedent, this includes leaving the circle if your engine flames out, or running backward out of the circle to regain line tension if the model comes slack. After years of flying combat in the US where the procedure is to leave the circle after your engine quits running, it can be difficult to remember that in F2D you absolutely must stay inside the circle. Difficult though it may be, you just have to use whatever tricks you can to get it permanently imprinted into your brain.

Today I had the fortune of receiving a visit from Goran Olsson, team manager of the Swedish C/L team and host of the world's premiere website for information about FAI control line competition (www.go-cl.se/cl.html). If you haven't seen this webpage, it's definitely worth a visit. Goran and a colleague were on their way to a meeting at the University of New Hampshire and took some time to stop by for a peak at the living conditions of a graduate student in the US and for some interesting discussions about shutoffs and various other aspects of the state of affairs in F2D today.

As Goran's area of expertise is electronics, I asked him what he thought about certain proposals for an electronically operated shutoff system. Some have suggested that it might be possible to design a shutoff that would be triggered remotely by a ground-based range-finder. In Goran's eyes, the range finding technology is not the technological hurdle to overcome in this sort of setup. A much more difficult problem to overcome is the design of the airborne actuator mechanism. He has done some research into this and found that such mechanisms do in fact exist, but are prohibitively expensive (more than \$100 per unit). Because of this, it seems that more research should be put into purely mechanical systems.

We discussed many other things, but I will leave you with one intriguing idea for the month. Goran suggested that most of the dangerous/dirty flying that goes on in F2D occurs in the situation where one pilot has cut off his opponent's entire streamer and feels desperate to cause some sort of mess to keep himself in the match. What if, he asked, the streamer had no string -- i.e. the paper extended all the way to the back of the model. In this case, a pilot would always have something to shoot for and would rarely feel much pressure to fly dangerously rather than go for additional cuts. Some may worry that having an active scoring zone right up to the back of the model would lead to many more crashes; as it is now, once one pilot takes the lot off his opponent he will often try to smash the other pilot's model anyway.

It's certainly an interesting idea to ponder. If you have any thoughts about it, I'd be happy to hear them. I need to think about it much more deeply before forming an opinion either way. One thing is clear however, and it is that we all need to take a serious look at the F2D rules and see where they might be cleaned up and adjusted to ensure a healthy future of our sport for years to come.

8/1/05 Through 5/13/06

Date	Payee	Category	Amount
8/1/05	Balance		420.00
8/14/05	Eastern Mass Championships	Trophy Expense	(120.00)
8/14/05	Eastern Mass Championships	Entry Fees	160.00
8/24/05	Larry Scarinzi	Contribution	10.00
8/28/05	Salmon River Shootout	Entry Fees	90.00
8/28/05	Salmon River Shootout	Trophy Expense	(75.00)
9/4/05	New England Championships	Entry Fees	410.00
9/4/05	New England Championships	Trophy Expense	(400.00)
9/4/05	New England Championships	T-shirts	(157.00)
9/11/05	Colchester Combat Challenge	Trophy Expense	(75.00)
9/11/05	Colchester Combat Challenge	Entry Fees	80.00
9/24/05	Mass Cup Championship	Entry Fees	160.00
9/24/05	Mass Cup Championship	Trophy Expense	(120.00)
10/1/05	Larry Scarinzi	Contribution	20.00
10/2/05	Wingbuster Invitational	Entry Fees	90.00
10/2/05	Wingbuster Invitational	Trophy Expense	(75.00)
10/9/05	North County Shootout	Trophy Expense	(75.00)
10/16/05	Conrad Wondolowski	Contribution	50.00
10/16/05	Fall Finale	T-shirts	(119.00)
10/16/05	Fall Finale	Trophy Expense	(75.00)
10/16/05	Fall Finale	Entry Fees	80.00
10/23/05	Wingbuster Fall Shootout	Entry Fees	90.00
10/23/05	Wingbuster Fall Shootout	Trophy Expense	(90.00)
10/23/05	Glenn Haynes	Contribution	30.00
10/23/05	Wingbuster Airplane Club	Donation Expense	(75.00)
11/6/05	Wompatuck Fall Fly Off	Trophy Expense	(75.00)
11/6/05	Wompatuck Fall Fly Off	Entry Fees	110.00
11/6/05	Season End Awards Trophy	Expense	(184.00)
11/6/05	Brian Stas	Contribution	10.00
11/6/05	Rick Clark	Contribution	10.00
11/14/05	Roy Glenn	Contribution	20.00
11/17/05	Streamer String-10 rolls	Streamer Expense	(21.00)
11/17/05	Len Thibault	Contribution	20.00
1/8/06	Ken Hargreaves	Contribution	100.00
1/16/06	Gil Merriman	Contribution	25.00
1/17/06	Will Rogers	Contribution	50.00
2/27/06	New England Championships	Permit/Sanct Ex	(45.00)
3/6/06	Fall Finale	Permit/Sanct Ex	(45.00)
3/12/06	Streamer String-5 rolls	Streamer Expense	(10.00)
3/12/06	Len Minick Memorial	Permit/Sanct Ex	(45.00)
3/20/06	Salmon River Shootout	Permit/Sanct Ex	(45.00)
3/21/06	Granite State Invitational	Permit/Sanct Ex	(45.00)
3/22/06	Granite State Championships	Permit/Sanct Ex	(45.00)
4/9/06	District I Championships/F2D	Permit/Sanct Ex	(45.00)
4/12/06	Rick Clark	Contribution	60.00
4/12/06	Wingbuster Spring Kick Off	Permit/Sanct Ex	(20.00)
4/12/06	Eastern Mass Championships	Permit/Sanct Ex	(20.00)
4/12/06	Wingbuster Invitational	Permit/Sanct Ex	(20.00)
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4/12/06	Wompatuck Ice Breaker	Permit/Sanct Ex	(40.00)
4/12/06	Wompatuck Fall Fly Off	Permit/Sanct Ex	(40.00)
4/12/06	Ernie Carosella	Contribution	25.00
4/29/06	Glenn Simpson	Contribution	50.00
4/30/06	Joe Fustolo	Contribution	40.00
4/30/06	Ken Hargreaves	Contribution	20.00
4/30/06	Wompatuck Ice Breaker	Permit/Sanct Ex	(78.00)
4/30/06	Wompatuck Ice Breaker	Entry Fees	100.00
5/7/06	Rick Clark	Contribution	10.00
5/7/06	Wingbuster Spring Kick Off	Trophy Expense	(124.00)
5/7/06	Wingbuster Spring Kick Off	Entry Fees	140.00
5/13/06	Conrad Wondolowski	Contribution	100.00
	GRAND TOTAL		157.00

Rumors, Facts Etc.

CONTEST FUND: Since our last issue we have received very generous donations to the contest fund from Ernie Carosella, Glenn Simpson, Joe Fustolo, Ken Hargreaves, Rick Clark and Conrad Wondolowski.

HOT RUMOR: word has it that Conrad Wondolowski could be at the June 11th GX meet in Wrentham. Still waiting for David Parizo, Dave Webber, Gerry Pompeii, Dana Lord, Ernie Carosella, Dick Sherman, Jim Carpenter and Will Rogers to make their first 2006 appearance.

How about Lloyd and Brian Seymour ?

Ron Connors Memorial Spring Stunt Trials

June 10th & 11th, 2006

NEST Wrentham State School Flying Site
Wrentham, MA

AMA Sanctioned

Saturday-AMA 1/2A Combat

Sunday-Formula GX Combat

First match 10:00 am – both days

Get on 495 either from Mass Pike or I-95

Take exit 15-Route 1A North

Follow to Wrentham Center Lights

Route 140 crosses

Take left on 140 (west)

Look for fork in road , bear right onto to

Shear Street-Look for first right,

Emerald Street-field is on left

District I Championships

F2D Combat

May 28, 2006

Silver Lake Regional High School-Kingston, MA

Hosted by: Brian Stas

Head Judge: Mark Rudner

CD: Neil Simpson

AMA Sanctioned

F2D Combat-International Rule Book

Trophies for top three spots

Registration: 9:30am

1st Match: 10:00am

495 South to exit 7A (Route 24 North) $\frac{3}{4}$ mile on 24N take exit 15 (Route 104 East) 8 miles on 104 pick-up Route 106 East 6 miles on 106 in Plympton take Lake Street (left hand turn) Follow Lake Street into Kingston, after railroad tracks take another left hand turn also marked Lake Street. The high school is on the right less then one mile - Go to the end of the street – turn right on Route 27- Go around back of school.

The Winners at the Wompatuck Ice Breaker were
Neil Simpson (1st), Glenn Simpson (2nd), Brian Stas (3rd),
Rick Clark (4th) and Shaylene Vader (1st sportsman)



2006 Wingbuster Spring Kick-Off



Joe Fustolo gives his grandson's (Joey's boys) their first taste of control line flying.



The trophy winners were Neil Simpson (1st), Joe Fustolo (2nd), Brian Stas (3rd), Jeff Vader (4th) and Shaylene Vader (1st-sportsman)



Matt and Brian Stas prep their F2D entry



Jeff Vader and Brian Stas work on Jeff's GX machine



Rick Clark and Joe Fustolo have Rick's airplane ready for action



Ken Hargreaves and Mark Rudner in tight F2D Action

2006 CONTEST SCHEDULE
All GX Combat unless noted otherwise

This is a work in progress, however, contests in bold type are quite firm

- 5/21 Granite State Invitational – Franklin, NH**
5/28 District I Championships -F2D Combat - Kingston, MA
6/4
6/10&11 Ron Connors Memorial Spring Stunt Trials - Wrentham, MA
(1/2A Saturday/Formula GX Sunday)
- 6/17
6/25 Len Minick Memorial Combat Challenge – East Hampton, CT
7/2
7/11-14 US Nats - Muncie, Indiana
F2D - Tuesday Speed Limit - Wednesday
1/2A - Thursday Fast - Friday
- 7/16 - 23 World Championships – Valladolid, Spain**
7/23
7/30 Granite State Championships – Franklin, NH
8/6 East Coast Championships – Hershey, PA
(1/2A and Speed Limit Combat)
- 8/12&13 Eastern Mass Championships - Middleboro, MA**
(Formula GX Saturday and F2D Combat Sunday)
- 8/20**
8/27 Salmon River Shootout - East Hampton, CT
9/3&4 New England Championships - Worcester, MA
Formula GX Sunday - 1/2A on Monday
- 9/10 Colchester Combat Challenge - Colchester, CT
9/17 Fall Combat Challenge - Middlesex, NJ
(Speed Limit and 1/2A)
- 9/23&24 NEST Mass Cup - Wrentham, MA**
(Formula GX Saturday and F2D Combat Sunday)
- 10/1 Wingbuster Invitational - Middleboro, MA**
10/7 October Air War - Vincentown, NJ
(Speed Limit & 1/2A)
- 10/8 North County Shootout - Leominster, MA
10/15 Fall Finale - Worcester, MA
10/21&22 Wingbuster Fall Shootout - Middleboro, MA
(1/2A and F2D Combat)
- 10/29**
11/5 Wompatuck Fall Fly-Off / Post Season Contest - Hingham, MA

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

***Len Minick Memorial
Combat Challenge***

June 25th, 2006

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

Formula GX Combat—Four Rounds

**Trophies for top four spots 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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