

# New England Combat News

VOLUME 20 NUMBER 5      OCTOBER 2008  
THE CONTROL LINE COMBAT NEWSLETTER OF NEW ENGLAND



*Now Celebrating our 20th year of Publication*

## Salmon River Shootout

**GLENN SIMPSON, NEIL SIMPSON  
AND BRIAN STAS ARE TOP THREE  
JAKE VADER TAKES SPORTSMAN**

AUGUST 24, 2008 – EAST HAMPTON, CT – Ten combat pilots were on hand for this one. The weather was most sunny and warm with little or no breeze.

Brian Stas jumped into the early lead with a three cut round one win. Glenn Simpson was close posting a two cut round one win of his own. In round two Brian and Glenn flew to a one cut apiece draw. In the next match Neil Simpson and Ken Hargreaves, who had both posted 620 point round one wins, squared off against each. Neil snuck out a one cut win. In round three Neil and Brian flew to a one cut apiece draw. Meanwhile Glenn was posting a two cut win while both Louis Lopez and Roy Glenn emerged as contenders when they flew each other to a three cut apiece draw. Going into the final round Glenn had 1960 points, Brian had 1850 points, Neil had 1750 points while Louis and Roy were within range with scores in the mid 1400 point range.

(continued on page two)

## The Wingbuster Shootout for F2D Combat

**JEFF VADER, MARK RUDNER  
& NEIL SIMPSON  
TAKE THE TROPHY SPOTS**

SEPTEMBER 7, 2008-MIDDLEBORO, MA-The temperatures were warm, skies mostly sunny with a strong breeze that made the day quite comfortable. The Wingbuster Club Field in Middleboro, Ma was the location. The grounds, as always, were in great shape.

At the end of two rounds Jeff Vader and Matt Stas each had two wins, two pilots had been sent home while Mark Rudner, Roy Glenn, Neil Simpson and Paul Kubek each had a win and a loss. The best match in these first two rounds was a

(continued on page two)

## New England Championships

**ROY GLENN, JEFF VADER & GLENN  
SIMPSON ARE THE TOP THREE  
CHRIS SARNOWSKI IS  
THE SPORTSMAN WINNER**

AUGUST 31, 2008-WORCESTER, MA -This year's New England Championships attracted fifteen pilots for the nineteenth annual running of this very successful Formula GX happening. The location was Boynton Park in Worcester, Massachusetts. The weather was near perfect, warm not hot, low humidity, however, we did have a strong pesky breeze for most of the day.

Paul Kubek got off to the best start posting a three cut round one win. Neil Simpson, Roy Glenn and Louis Lopez were in close pursuit all posting two cut round one wins of their own. In round two Paul and Neil squared off with Neil earning a two cut win. In the next match Roy and Louis traded cuts with Roy prevailing two cuts to one. Round two also saw Jeff Vader and Glenn Simpson post three cuts wins and climb into contention. Round three started with co-leaders, Roy and Neil, flying to a one cut apiece draw in a well flown match that went buzzer to buzzer. Jeff Vader and Glenn Simpson stayed hot each posting two cuts to one wins over Joe Fustolo and Paul Kubek, respectively. Later in round three Ken Hargreaves used a two cut to one win over Louis Lopez to climb into the lead pack. Going into the final round it was Jeff (1965pts), Roy (1960pts), Neil (1960pts), Glenn (1855pts), Ken (1755pts) and Lloyd Seymour (1650pts). The final three flights of the contest would prove meaningful. In the first of these Glenn got an airtime win over Lloyd. In the semi final Ken and Roy faced off flying to a one cut apiece draw. In the final Neil and Jeff flew to a low scoring draw. When it all shook out the top five were Roy (2470pts), Jeff and Glenn tied (2375pts), Neil (2370pts) and Ken (2265pts). Jeff and Glenn used a coin flip to determine second place. Chris Sarnowski took home the Sportsman "gold" edging out Richard Sherman, Chris Lopez and Jake Vader all of whom flew very well. The sportsman flyers give us all hope that combat is alive and well and with a brighter future than some might predict.

(continued on page two)

SALMON RIVER (continued from page one)

There were three significant matches in the final round. First, Jeff Vader and Roy Glenn flew to a low scoring draw in a very well flown match, despite no cuts by either pilot. Next Brian and Louis faced off in a match that ended in a mid-air. In the finals Glenn and Neil were going along smoothly until a mid-air in the final minute ended things. When the dust settled, Glenn was first, followed by Neil, Brian, Louis and Roy. On this day, Jake Vader took home the "Sportsman Gold", after winning a day long battle with Chris Sarnowski.

It was great to have Will Rogers back flying with us after a long lay-off. Will didn't quite have his stamina built up and had to drop out at the halfway point. His flying skills, on the other hand, showed no rust, however, the comeback tour will have to wait just a little while longer. Than You to Louis Lopez and Roy Glenn for making the long trip to participate in this one.

Salmon River Shootout Formula GX Combat

10 contestants

20 matches-4 mid-air

(E) Glenn Simpson-Worcester, MA	2260pts
(E) Neil Simpson-East Brookfield, MA	2150pts
(A) Brian Stas-Kingston, MA	2050pts
(E) Louis Lopez-Hockenson, DE	1835pts
(E) Roy Glenn- Southampton, NJ	1830pts
(E) Ken Hargreaves-Worcester, MA	1735pts
(S) Jake Vader-Franklin, NH	1730pts
(S) Chris Sarnowski-Brookline, MA	1725pts
(A) Jeff Vader-Franklin, NH	1640pts
(E) Will Rogers-E.Hartford, CT- dropped out at halfway point	

NE CHAMPS (continued from page one)

The top three 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 Evolution .36 engine, a Magnum 36 XL engine, a ready to fly airplane, fuel, props, gift certificates, GRW tanks and wing cores. GRW Model Products, J&J Sales, The Corehouse, 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 a brand new Super Wakkerman ARF as a raffle prize. Thank You To Joe Fustolo, Lloyd Seymour, Paul Kubek, Brian Stas and everyone else who shared in the judging of this event. We couldn't have contests, like this, without people willing to step up and do that thankless job.

New England Championships-Formula GX Combat

15 contestants

30 matches-no mid-air

(E) Roy Glenn-Southampton, NJ	2470pts
(A) Jeff Vader-Franklin, NH	2375pts
(E) Glenn Simpson-Worcester, MA	2375pts
(E) Neil Simpson-E.Brookfield, MA	2370pts
(A) Ken Hargreaves-Worcester, MA	2265pts
(E) Joe Fustolo-Stoughton, MA	2155pts
(E) Louis Lopez-Hockessin, DE	2035pts
(S) Chris Sarnowski-Brookline, MA	1955pts
(A) Brian Stas-Kingston, MA	1945pts
(E) Lloyd Seymour-Leominster, MA	1850pts
(A) Paul Kubek-Brockton, MA	1830pts
(S) Richard Sherman-Andover, MA	1510pts
(E) Dick Sherman-Andover, MA	1330pts
(S) Chris Lopez-Hockessin, DE	1300pts
(S) Jake Vader-Franklin, NH	1200pts

WINGBUSTER SHOOTOUT(continued from page one)

battle between Mark and Roy with Roy using a single cut late to earn the win. In round three Jeff Vader gave Matt Stas his first loss. In the next match Mark Rudner defeated Paul Kubek in a very well flown match. Next, Roy Glenn and Neil Simpson had a good match that was tied a cut apiece in the final minute after some good flying by both pilots. Neil took the final cut taking out both airplanes in the process for an ugly win. In round four Mark gave Matt his second loss while Neil got past Jeff when Jeff had engine problems. This set-up the finals between Jeff, Mark and Neil. Jeff got a bye and Mark sent Neil packing in the semi-final. In the final match Jeff got past Mark, when after some good action early there was mid-air contact and Mark lost his handle for a DQ.

Thank You to Rick Clark who brought this event to fruition and to the Wingbuster Model Airplane Club for the use of their great facility.

The Wingbuster Shootout

F2D Combat

8 contestants

Jeff Vader-Franklin, NH	4-1
Mark Rudner-Somerville, MA	4-2
Neil Simpson-E.Brookfield, MA	3-2
Matt Stas-Kingston, MA	2-2
Paul Kubek-Brockton, MA	1-2 * won fly-off
Roy Glenn-Southampton, NJ	1-2 * lost fly-off
Brian Stas-Kingston, MA	0-2
Greg Wornell-Wellesley, MA	0-2

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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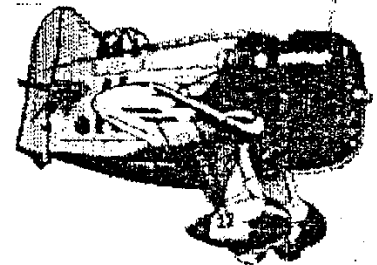
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## F2D News - September 2008

Mark Rudner  
rudner@mit.edu

This month, I've decided to focus my column on statistics. I don't know how the situation is internationally, but American sports programs on TV are semi-obsessed with stats. Perhaps the best example comes from baseball, where it is not uncommon to be flooded with strange comments such as "this next batter is 3 for 7 against left-handers in the month of September when his team is down by more than 2 runs after the 6th inning..." Clearly nobody cares about this information, but at the same time it does seem that some stats are in fact useful for evaluating a team/player's performance. Unfortunately, unlike Major League Baseball, the CIAM doesn't have throngs of statisticians keeping track of information on F2D pilots/competitions. This does not prevent us from speculating, however, which information could be useful or interesting to keep track of during a season.

The idea for this column came to me this summer at the World Championships in Landres, France. There I had several interesting discussions with various people about stats and the like. It all started after the 3rd round as we were trying to assess the US team's performance up to that point. According to the scoreboard we had 9 wins among our 3 pilots (a perfect record), but behind the scenes we all had the feeling that things were not as rosy as this picture would lead one to believe. At the moment, it was summed up best by someone (sorry I've forgotten who it was now!) who pointed out that all combined, after 9 matches, our team had scored a total of I believe 11 cuts. Damn...

Although 11 cuts may sound pretty good, spread out among three pilots over three rounds that comes out to only 1.2 cuts per match. What does this mean? Specifically, it means that in most of the matches our pilot got a "kill," i.e. took the whole streamer in one pass. Clearly this not a championship trajectory; apparently, the cuts/match stat contains information beyond what is captured by the simple W/L count of the scoreboard.

The cuts/match stat can be an interesting, if not useful, indicator of one's personal performance (like a batting average). If you're averaging below 1 CPM (cut per match), then I would say you have a problem. At the same time, I don't think it's necessarily good or useful to aim for a very high CPM average. I tend to take a minimal (lazy?) philosophy towards flying combat, and believe that the best strategy is to win the match with the minimum amount of work necessary. With the high speeds and various streamer materials being used these days, it is rare to see very high scoring matches. Most matches are won 2-1, 1-1 (+ airtime), and occasionally 3-1 or 3-2. Four cuts is a rarity. Thus if you're consistently taking 4 and 5 cuts to win, as awesome as that is, it probably means that you're giving up too many to your opponents as well. If you're winning these matches 5-1, more power to you, but you may be taking unnecessary risks to keep combatting after the match is clearly put away. For winning championships, sometimes it's important to "know when to say when." The point of this is just to say that I bet that if you can average between 2-3 CPM, you should be in very good shape.

Speaking of streamers, there has been quite a bit of discussion lately in various circles about what the best material is to use for streamers and string. For wet/rainy conditions there may not be any substitute for the plastic tablecloth material, but in the dry there are many options available. Quite frankly, I don't think the plastic is near the top of this bunch. I wish I had the stats, but at the World Championships (where plastic material was used) there were way too many 1 cut matches where the whole streamer would break off at the string or knot. Evidently, the aggregate CPM average of an entire contest could be a useful indicator of streamer properties. If we make an effort to try out a variety of streamer materials over several contests each, it may be possible to evaluate the performance of various materials and settle on something better than the standard paper or plastic. As a side note, in preparing streamers for a recent contest, Greg Wornell noticed that different batches of the plastic tablecloth (same company, identical packaging) can have vastly different thicknesses. If you're going to use the plastic tablecloth, be sure that the starting material for the two colors you choose is nearly the same; even crappy streamer material can be tolerated when it's the same for everybody. If there are systematic differences between colors, however, this is problematic (here's another interesting stat to watch -- over the course of an entire contest, which color receives more cuts?).

After all of this concrete (and feasible) stuff, it's fun to speculate what other stats would be interesting to see. In keeping with my minimalist philosophy of combat, one that I would be interested to see is number of maneuvers per match (or alternatively number of maneuvers per cut). New fliers often tend to do a lot of maneuvers, many of which serve no purpose. In general, you're more vulnerable (and slower) while turning, so if you can avoid maneuvering when there's no reason, it may have some benefit. Of course this is just my personal theory and speculation, and I'm not even sure if maneuvers per cut would be a meaningful statistic to look at. However, it seems interesting so if someone were to keep track I'd definitely be interested to look!

If you have time, pick up a notebook and keep track of your own cuts over the course of a few contests. Compare your results for individual contests and see if there's a correlation with final result. What other stats would be useful or interesting to see? I'm sure there are many, and although we'll probably never have a way to keep track of them all, it's fun to think about. If you have any ideas or find anything from your own stats, I'd be really interested to hear about it and to see the data!



# *New England Championships for Formula GX Combat* *August 31st, 2008*

Jeff Vader Photos



The trophy winners were Roy Glenn (1st), Jeff Vader (2nd), Glenn Simpson (3rd) and Chris Sarnowski (1st Sportsman)



Ken Hargreaves and Joe Fustolo



Lloyd Seymour and Paul Kubek



Roy Glenn and Louis Lopez



The Young Guns  
Jake Vader, Richard Sherman and Chris Lopez



Brian Stas

# 2008 Wingbuster Shootout for F2D Combat - September 7th

Jeff Vader photos



The trophy winners were Jeff Vader (1st), Mark Rudner (2nd) and Neil Simpson (3rd)



Paul Kubeck



Neil Simpson and Roy Glenn



Greg Wornell and Mark Rudner



Brian Stas



Brain Stas and Jeff Vader



## NECN CONTEST FUND 1/1/2008 Through 9/20/2008

Date	Payee	Category	Amount	Running Total
1/1/2008	balance		289.00	289.00
3/4/2008	New England Championships	Permit/Sanction Expense	(45.00)	244.00
3/10/2008	Fall Finale	Permit/Sanction Expense	(45.00)	199.00
3/28/2008	Will Rogers	contribution	60.00	259.00
4/4/2008	Granite State Invitational	Permit/Sanction Expense	(25.00)	234.00
4/12/2008	Eastern Mass Invitational	Permit/Sanction Expense	(130.00)	104.00
4/12/2008	District I Championships	Permit/Sanction Expense	(130.00)	(26.00)
4/17/2008	Middlesex County Invitational	Permit/Sanction Expense	(45.00)	(71.00)
4/26/2008	All Four Wompatuck Contests	Permit/Sanction 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/Sanction Expense	(25.00)	15.00
5/20/2008	Louis Lopez	contribution	100.00	115.00
5/24/2008	Middlesex County Invitational	trophy expense	(51.00)	64.00
5/24/2008	Middlesex County Invitational	entry fees	80.00	144.00
5/24/2008	Brian Stas	contribution	10.00	154.00
5/27/2008	Greg Wornell	contribution	100.00	254.00
5/30/2008	Middlesex County R-C Flyers	donation expense	(50.00)	204.00
6/5/2008	Len Thibault	contribution	50.00	254.00
6/8/2008	Rick Clark	contribution	10.00	264.00
6/8/2008	Eastern Mass Invitational	trophy expense	(51.00)	213.00
6/8/2008	Eastern Mass Invitational	entry fees	90.00	303.00
6/15/2008	Granite State Championships	trophy expense	(68.00)	235.00
6/15/2008	Granite State Championships	trophy expense	70.00	305.00
6/15/2008	Jeff Vader	contribution	75.00	380.00
6/22/2008	Both Salmon River Contests	Permit/Sanction Expense	(115.00)	265.00
6/22/2008	Len Minick Memorial	entry fees	50.00	315.00
6/22/2008	Len Minick Memorial	trophy expense	(68.00)	247.00
6/22/2008	Rick Clark	contribution	10.00	257.00
7/20/2008	Jeff Vader	contribution	10.00	267.00
7/20/2008	Chris Sarnowski	contribution	10.00	277.00
7/20/2008	Ron Connors Memorial	entry fees	110.00	387.00
7/20/2008	Ron Connors Memorial	trophy expense	(68.00)	319.00
7/20/2008	Jeff Vader	contribution	10.00	329.00
7/20/2008	Rick Clark	contribution	10.00	339.00
7/31/2008	Wingbuster Shootout	Permit/Sanction Expense	(25.00)	314.00
8/10/2008	Eastern Mass Championships	trophy expense	(68.00)	246.00
8/10/2008	Eastern Mass Championships	entry fees	70.00	316.00
8/10/2008	Paul Kubek	contribution	10.00	326.00
8/17/2008	District I Championships	trophy expense	(51.00)	275.00
8/17/2008	District I Championships	entry fees	110.00	385.00
8/17/2008	Jeff Vader	contribution	10.00	395.00
8/24/2008	Ray DuFour	contribution	10.00	405.00
8/24/2008	Salmon River Shootout	entry fees	100.00	505.00
8/24/2008	Salmon River Shootout	trophy expense	(68.00)	437.00
8/31/2008	Brian Stas	contribution	40.00	477.00
8/31/2008	New England Championships	trophy expense	(280.00)	197.00
8/31/2008	New England Championships	t-shirts	209.00	(12.00)
8/31/2008	New England Championships	entry fees	450.00	438.00
9/1/2008	Wingbuster Invitational	Permit/Sanction Expense	(20.00)	418.00
9/1/2008	Wingbuster Shootout	trophy expense	(51.00)	367.00
9/1/2008	Wingbuster Shootout	entry fees	89.00	447.00
9/10/2008	Wingbuster Mod Airplane Club	donation	(100.00)	347.00
		GRAND TOTAL	347.00	347.00

## 2008 CONTEST SCHEDULE

All GX Combat unless noted otherwise -All dates are tentative

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         Wingbuster Invitational –Middleboro, MA  
                   F2D Combat  
 11/2          Wompatuck Fall Fly-Off / Post Season Contest - Hingham, MA  
 \* Saturday Contest

## *Rumors Facts Etc*

**CONTEST FUND:** This month we received very generous donations from Ray DuFour and Brian Stas.

Thank you very much.

**STREAMERS:** Mark Rudner donated about \$50.00 worth of F2D streamers that he purchased from the Ben Meadows website. These are the streamers we used at the last contest. Greg Wornell has purchased and donated about \$60.00 worth of string and plastic table clothes for the same purpose. Thanks to the generosity of these two gentlemen we should have more than enough F2D streamers for next season and beyond.

### 2008 Regular Season Points Championship

( thru 8/31/08 )

<u>Name</u>	<u>Total Accum Points</u>	<u>Total Possible Points</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Simpson, Neil	73	80	913
Stas, Matthew	15	20	750
Simpson, Glenn	56	80	700
Vader, Jeff	49	70	700
Stas, Brian	47	70	671
Clark, Rick	19	30	633
Fustolo, Joe	24	40	600
Glenn, Roy	17	30	567
Hargreaves, Ken	11	20	550
Lopez, Louis	11	20	550
Kubek, Paul	32	60	533
Sarnowski, Chris	26	60	433
Sherman, Dick	8	20	400
Vader, Jake	8	20	400
Vader, Shaylene	4	10	400
Seymour, Lloyd	1	10	100
"Lil Sherm"	1	20	50
Lopez, Chris	0	10	

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 than 50% of the New England regular season GX meets is the eligibility requirement for a season championship award.

# Salmon River Shootout - August 24th, 2008

Jeff Vader Photos



Roy Glenn and Ken Hargreaves



Louis Lopez and Chris Sarnowski



Jeff Vader and Brian Stas



The trophy winners are Glenn Simpson (1st), Neil Simpson (2nd), Brian Stas (3rd) and Jake Vader (1st Sportsman)

## *2008 North County Shootout*

Leominster High School  
Leominster, MA  
October 12th, 2008

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

## *2008 Wingbuster Invitational*

Wingbuster Club Field  
Middleboro, MA  
October 26th, 2008

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

**2008**  
**Fall Finale Combat Tournament**  
**Formula GX Combat**

**Boynton Park-Worcester, MA**  
**( near the Paxton, MA line )**

**October 19, 2008**

**Registration 9:30am - First Match 10:00 am**

**AMA Sanctioned**

**Trophies for top three plus first in Sportsman**

**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**