

# New England Combat News

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 1 JUNE 2009  
THE CONTROL LINE COMBAT NEWSLETTER OF NEW ENGLAND



*Now Celebrating our 21st year of Publication*

## Middlesex Spring Opener

APRIL 19, 2009-MIDDLESEX, NJ-The Middlesex Modeler's season opener was held at Mountain View Park in the town of Middlesex, NJ. The Middlesex Modelers have a nice paved circle for racing and stunt, and use a field behind the circle for combat. Weather was cool and mixed sun and clouds. Paul Brill performed CD duties for the event, with Roy Glenn as primary circle marshal and Phil Cartier backing him up.

There were 4 contestants for the half-A event, which was held first. Entrants were Roy Glenn, Louis Lopez, Al Ferraro, and Pete Sofko. There was one mid-air in the half-A contest, and here are the results:

Roy Glenn: 1st  
Al Ferraro : 2nd  
Pete Sofko: 3rd  
Louis Lopez: 4th

Super Slow / Speed Limit had 7 contestants: Roy Glenn, Louis Lopez, Al Ferraro, Phil Cartier, Chris Lopez, Pete Sofko, and Chris Sarnowski. There was some very competitive flying throughout all of the matches. The scores spread out a bit due to some late engine starts, then spread out further in the 3rd round when Chris S mid-aired Al's plane about 30 seconds into the match. Maximizing airtime points became critical, and the top positions were separated by one or 2 cuts. Here are the results:

Super Slow / Speed Limit:

Louis Lopez: 2171  
Roy Glenn: 2117  
Phil Cartier: 2004  
Al Ferraro: 1864  
Chris Lopez: 1818  
Pete Sofko: 1658  
Chris Sarnowski: 1621

( continued on page two )

## Granite State Invitational

**NEIL SIMPSON, CHRIS SARNOWSKI  
& GLENN SIMPSON ARE TOP THREE  
JAKE VADER TAKES SPORTSMAN**

May 17, 2009 – 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 mostly cloudy and breezy, but, most importantly, dry. All and all not a bad day for combat.

Round one saw Neil Simpson post the early lead with a one cut win over Jeff Vader. This set up a second round match between Neil and Rick Clark who had also posted a round one one-cut victory, his over Paul Kubek. They flew to a 410 point draw. Meanwhile Chris Sarnowski posted his second good score of the contest to take over the lead at the halfway point. In round three Neil got past Chris with an airtime win.

Round three also saw Glenn Simpson climb into the hunt with a two cut win. Going into the final round Neil had 1550 points, Glenn had 1435 points and Chris had 1330 points. In the semi-final match Chris earned a one cut win over Rick, taking the clubhouse lead in the process. The final match was a family affair with Neil and Glenn flying to a 410 point draw. When it all sorted out Neil had the win followed by Chris in second and Glenn in third.

Jake Vader, on this day, took home the sportsman "gold".

Thank You to everyone who shared in the judging and Thank You to Jeff Vader for a yet another good contest.

( Details on page two )

**MIDDLESEX, NJ ( continued from page one )**

Pull testing was performed on each ship at the start of every match. This particular procedure is dictated in the AMA control line combat rules. It only took a few seconds per match to do the testing, and did not seem very intrusive. It helped to have a circle marshall to do one end of the test, but it could just have easily been done by the pit man.

There was an assortment of engines in use at the contest. Phil used OS LA 25's, Al had Fox 25BB Schnuerle's, Chris S was using Magnum XL32's, Pete had a variety of vintage Fox combat engines, and the Lopez/Glenn team was using OS FP 25's with the custom head. Pete's Fox engines seemed a little balky after the winter's storage, and one of Roy's FP 25's snapped a crankshaft in a match. The FP 25's have been solid performers, so it was pretty odd to have one snap a crank like that.

Thanks again to Contest Director Paul Brill, Roy and Phil for Circle Marshall duties, Al Ferraro for providing lunch, and the Middlesex Modeller's for the cut judging, club field, and hospitality.

**Chris Sarnowski**

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

(E) Neil Simpson - E.Brookfield,MA	1960pts
(A) Chris Sarnowski - Brookline, MA	1950pts
(E) Glenn Simpson - Worcester, MA	1845pts
(A) Paul Kubek-Brockton, MA	1345pts
(A) Rick Clark-Hingham, MA	1330pts
(E) Jeff Vader - Franklin, NH	1225pts
(S) Jake Vader - Franklin, NH	1100pts



**Paul Kubek  
And  
Glenn Simpson**



The trophy winners at the Granite State Invitational were  
Neil Simpson (1st), Chris Sarnowski (2nd),  
Glenn Simpson (3rd)  
and Jake Vader (!st Sportsman)

**2009  
Granite State  
Championships**

**Franklin Elks Lodge Field  
South Main Street  
Franklin, NH  
June 14th, 2009**

**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  
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If you make a donation or if you subscribe to this newsletter make the check payable to NEIL SIMPSON .....Donations 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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Mike Willcox  
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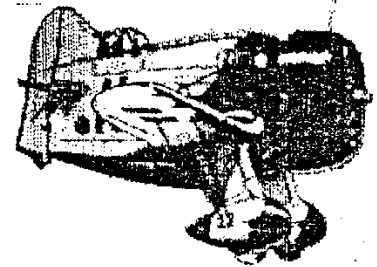
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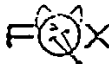
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## F2D News - June 2009

Mark Rudner  
rudner@mit.edu

Last weekend, F2D pilots from across North America gathered in Texas for the annual Houston F2D “World Cup.” This is consistently one of the biggest and best-attended competitions in the US. Despite the tough economic conditions, this year still saw 23 of the nation’s top pilots from places as far as Minnesota, Massachusetts, Florida, and California, along with Leonardo Silva from Mexico descend on Houston for some combat. Unfortunately missing were representatives from the Pacific Northwest and Chicago/Detroit.

I was happy to be able to make it down to the contest, but due to a recent wrist injury I’m currently stuck on the disabled list and not able to fly/pit. As a result, I spent the weekend on the other side of the rulebook, playing the role of timekeeper and pit-jurist. This was actually a quite interesting experience (yeah that’s right, I’m trying to turn lemons into lemonade here). Although I’ve counted cuts and airtime plenty of times in the past at big meets, this was the first time that I got a chance to chase pit crews around and keep things on the level at a big F2D meet. One trivial thing that I realized was how useful those colored vests are for time keepers. In the middle of the action, if one pilot goes down (especially if both streamers are gone), it can be easy to lose track of which airplane is which. The chance to take a quick glance at the appropriately attired pilots to double check significantly reduces the likelihood of serious timing errors. Even more important than that, however, is good communication between judges. I was very happy about the constant dialog between judges all weekend that kept us all on the same page at all times.

Less trivial than the issue of vests, I think my time on the other side of the watch gave me a chance to gain a new more global perspective on the workings of a big contest. Most importantly, perhaps, I gained a new appreciation for the work that our friends Ingemar, Guido, Vernon, and Mack have done over the years to keep the World and European Championships and World Cup events running smoothly. The F2D rules, while not unreasonable, can be somewhat complex. A key to success as a pilot, mechanic, or contest judge/organizer is to know the rules inside and out. What I learned this weekend, however, was that for a judge, the rule book is only the starting point.

If the rules look like a patchwork of special cases and stop-gap measures, that’s because they are. Anything that you can possibly imagine happening during a combat match will at some point find a way to occur, and by the time that happens at least 10 things that you never could have possibly imagine will have occurred. Over the years, the rules have expanded to cover the major holes that have been exposed. Most of these rules are written with very strict conditions under which they are to be applied (e.g. “if the model aircraft lands with no streamer string AND the streamer retaining device is missing or bent, but NOT as the result of a mid-air collision.”). As I found, over the course of a whole competition, it’s not unlikely that a judge will encounter a situation that somehow slips through the cracks – the situation may look similar to one described by a particular rule, but if the conditions aren’t satisfied the judge must quickly (no time for prolonged deliberations) make a fair assessment of the situation and firmly decide how to proceed with the match. These are tough, high-pressure moments, but this is where I think experience and a firm resolve can make the difference between allowing a situation to erupt into a big argument or keeping things running smoothly. On Saturday I was confronted with such a situation; in the moment I tried to make what I thought was a fair compromise between the almost-applicable rules, but in retrospect it was probably not the optimal decision. Fortunately nobody was disadvantaged by it, and the outcome of the match was not affected. Nonetheless, it made me take a fresh look at the rules and think about our sport from a new perspective.

As for shutoffs, the new rule was temporarily suspended for this competition, though the use of shutoffs was strongly encouraged. Many pilots used a variety of designs including swing arms, line-tension activated string-over-wing and moving bellcrank devices, and Alex Prokofiev used his electronic shutoff that I reported on previously. Lots of pictures are available on the MACA website or Mike Willcox’s blog. The flying was actually rather clean, and to my knowledge only resulted in one fly-away (no shutoff), so we didn’t have any spectacular demonstrations of these new safety measures. There were a couple of times when planes turned in to the middle of the circle and did shut down before plowing into the ground. Center Marshal Pat Willcox was undoubtedly grateful for this, as he took a direct hit on the arm by Bobby Mears’ falling model. If the engine had still been running, it would have been a much uglier situation...



# Granite State Invitational-May 17, 2009

Jeff Vader Photos



**Chris Sarnowski and Paul Kubek**



**Jeff and Jake Vader**



**Jake Vader and Paul Kubek**



**Rick Clark and Neil Simpson**



**Glenn Simpson's machine gets airborne.  
This pretty airplane was actually built by and a gift from Ken Hargreaves**

## 2009 CONTEST SCHEDULE

All GX Combat unless noted otherwise-All dates are tentative

- 5/17 Granite State Invitational-Franklin, NH  
5/17 Hershey, PA - Phil Cartier CD  
Speed Limit and 1/2A
- 5/24  
5/31
- 6/6&7 Eastern Mass Invitational-Kingston, MA  
GX Saturday-F2D Sunday  
NOTE:LOCATION NOW KINGSTON, MA
- 6/14 Granite State Championships -Franklin, NH  
6/16-20 Brodak Fly-In
- 6/28 Len Minick Memorial Combat Challenge-East Hampton, CT  
7/4&5 FUN FLY SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEKEND IS CANCELED
- 7/5-10 U.S Nats F2D/Speed Limit/1/2A/Fast  
7/12 Ron Connors Memorial  
7/19  
7/26
- 8/2 East Coast Championships -Hershey, PA-CD Phil Cartier  
Speed Limit and 1/2A
- 8/9 Eastern Mass Championships -Middleboro, MA  
F2D Combat  
NOTE: NOW ONE DAY F2D COMBAT ONLY
- 8/16 107th R/C Flyers GX Shootout-Saugus, MA  
8/23 Salmon River Shootout -East Hampton, CT  
8/30
- 9/6 New England Championships -Worcester, MA  
9/13
- 9/20 District I Championships -Middleboro, MA  
F2D Combat
- 9/20 Middlesex, NJ-CD George Connors  
Speed Limit and 1/2A Combat
- 9/27
- 10/3 October Air War-Vincentown, NJ-CD Roy Glenn  
(single elimination 1/2A and Speed Limit Combat)
- 10/11 North County Shootout-Leominster, MA  
10/18 Fall Finale-Worcester, MA  
10/25 Wingbuster Shootout -Middleboro, MA  
F2D Combat
- 11/1 Wingbuster Fall Fly-Off / Post Season Contest - Middleboro, MA

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

## NECN CONTEST FUND 7/1/2008 Through 5/20/2009

Date	Payee	Category	Amount	Running Total
7/1/2008	balance		257.00	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/Sanct Ex	(25.00)	314.00
8/10/2008	Eastern Mass Champs	trophy expense	(68.00)	246.00
8/10/2008	Eastern Mass Champs	entry fees	70.00	316.00
8/10/2008	Paul Kubek	contribution	10.00	326.00
8/17/2008	District I Champs	trophy expense	(51.00)	275.00
8/17/2008	District I Champs	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 Champs	trophy expense	(280.00)	197.00
8/31/2008	New England Champs	t-shirts	(209.00)	(12.00)
8/31/2008	New England Champs	entry fees	450.00	438.00
9/1/2008	Wingbuster Invitational	Permit/Sanct Ex	(20.00)	418.00
9/7/2008	Wompatuck Invitational	trophy expense	(51.00)	367.00
9/7/2008	Wompatuck Invitational	entry fees	80.00	447.00
9/10/2008	Wingbuster MAC	donation expense	(100.00)	347.00
9/29/2008	Ernie Carosella	contribution	25.00	372.00
10/5/2008	Wompatuck Invitational	entry fees	90.00	462.00
10/5/2008	Wompatuck Invitational	trophy expense	(68.00)	394.00
10/12/2008	North County Shootout	entry fees	150.00	544.00
10/12/2008	North County Shootout	trophy expense	(68.00)	476.00
10/19/2008	Fall Finale	trophy expense	(68.00)	408.00
10/19/2008	Fall Finale	trophy expense	130.00	538.00
10/26/2008	Wingbuster Invitational	entry fees	70.00	608.00
10/26/2008	Wingbuster Invitational	trophy expense	(51.00)	557.00
10/26/2008	Paul Kubek	contribution	10.00	567.00
11/2/2008	Year End Awards	trophy expense	(223.00)	344.00
11/2/2008	Wingbuster Fall-Fly Off	trophy expense	(68.00)	276.00
11/2/2008	Wingbuster Fall-Fly Off	entry fees	110.00	386.00
11/2/2008	Rick Clark	contribution	10.00	396.00
11/2/2008	Jeff Vader	contribution	10.00	406.00
12/30/2008	Roy Glenn	contribution	20.00	426.00
2/24/09	Will Rogers	contribution	75.00	501.00
3/7/09	StreamerString-5 rolls	streamer ex	(11.00)	490.00
3/14/09	New England Champs	permit/sanct ex	(125.00)	365.00
3/14/09	Fall Finale	permit/sanct ex	(125.00)	240.00
3/27/09	Jim Carpenter	contribution	50.00	290.00
4/4/09	Sal River contests(2)	permit/sanct ex	(115.00)	175.00
4/11/09	NH contests (2)	permit/sanct ex	(50.00)	125.00
4/17/09	Brian Stas	contribution	120.00	245.00
5/16/09	Eastern Mass Champs	permit/sanct ex	(210.00)	35.00
5/17/09	Glenn Simpson	contribution	50.00	85.00
5/17/09	Paul Kubek	contribution	10.00	95.00
5/17/09	Chris Sarnowski	contribution	10.00	105.00
5/17/09	Granite State Inv	entry fees	70.00	175.00
5/17/09	Granite State Inv	trophy ex	(72.00)	103.00
5/17/09	Wingbuster Sanctions	permit/sanct ex	(120.00)	(17.00)
5/18/09	Ernie Carosella	contribution	20.00	3.00

GRAND TOTAL

3.00



***Rumors Facts Etc.***

**CONTEST FUND:** Generous contribution this month from Glenn Simpson, Paul Kubek, Chris Saernowski and Ernie Carosella . . . . Thank You, everyone.



**Glenn Simpson chases Chris Sarnowski at the Granite State Invitational**

***2009***

***Eastern Mass Championships***

**Silver Lake Regional High School**

**Kingston, MA**

**June 6th and 7th**

**Saturday GX Combat 4 Rounds  
Prizes for top three plus 1st Sportsman**

**Sunday F2D Combat Single Airplane Rules  
Prizes for top Three**

**First Match 10:00 am both days AMA Sanctioned**

***Len Minick Memorial  
Combat Challenge***

**June 28th, 2009**

**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**

**NEIL SIMPSON  
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