

HORSEFEATHERS



Newsletter of the Billings Flying Mustangs

August 1999 Volume 26 Number 8

Billings Fall Pattern Meet Cancelled! No Labor Day Pattern Meet in Billings Field Uncertainties Cause Cancellation

Eric Hawkinson has cancelled the fall pattern meet at Billings due to the uncertainty of our flying field. With participants potentially coming from all over the mid west and north west, and our field being closed on the whim of our neighbor, it was too risky. Hopefully this long time Montana and Billings traditional contest will resume at our new field next year.

SCALE RC WESTERN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

WE DID IT! ANOTHER SUCCESS!

This is Doug's article on his combat web page. Scores and awards are inside.

The 1999 Scale R/C Combat Western National Championships is in the book! It was the type of event that every Contest Director dreams about. Perfect weather, 43 of the country's top pilots, no complaints or arguments, no one got hurt, hours and hours of flying, and loads of fun. Ten rounds were flown over the two day event, and it was obvious from the very first heat that the sport of scale combat has come a long way. The skill level of each of the pilots didn't just improve from last year, it quadrupled. There were NO ducks this time. Every cut was hard earned, and multi-cut rounds were rare for most. Coming home with a complete streamer round after round became immensely important. Mike Fredricks put on a display of talent that left many awestruck. By the end of the first day, he led with 1200 points, and second place was a distant 500 points behind. It was Mike's event to win, and he rose to the occasion in grand style.

I'll document more of the event in the MAN article, but I wanted to pass along some interesting notes. As I mentioned before, there were no arguments. I believe this is a real testament to how well the current scoring system is working. Its fair and it promotes competition. Take a moment and look at the scores, and look just how close the scores really were. One more cut, 5 more feet of streamer was often the difference between 10 places of finish!

There were 80 planes involved in mid-air (this translates to 40 mid-air). While this seems like a lot, with 6 - 8 planes per heat, 6 heats per round, and 10 rounds, this averages out to one mid-air for every 1.5 heats. Everyone was flying aggressively, and it showed.

The first day, many were having problems with streamers shredding, but the problem all but disappeared on the second day. Those that were able to consistently return with a 30 ft streamer did very, (this fact accounted for my placement in the rankings). The faster planes seemed to be having most of the trouble, but not in all cases. The second day, the humidity was higher, and shredding diminished noticeably. I am a firm believer that the streamers did precisely the job they are supposed to do.

My thanks to all the pilots who attended and flew their guts out. You guys did an outstanding job!! A special thanks for our sponsors Zigg's Originals and DBW Models for their fine kits, HiTec for supplying radios and other goodies, Joe Milch for the aviation drawings, and Randy Hay for the glue. Of course, the whole thing could never have happened with the hard work of the Billings Flying Mustang members, and especially Stephanie Smith, our scorekeeper.

See ya at the field!
-Doug

President's Letter

Rick Koehn President

Hello again,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with our combat meet. We had enough judges this year to have two shifts. Two shifts means that one crew can get out of the sun for few minutes between heats while the other does the judging. Getting out of the sun for a few minutes between heats really makes a difference when you are there for two very full days of judging. It was a very busy weekend and lots of work had to be done before and after the event. Thank you to everyone that helped set up and tear down the tents used for shade. I'm sure Doug will have a lot of personal "thank you's" so I'll get off this subject for now, but thanks again and again everyone.

Scot Fredericks of KBUL/KGHL gave Doug and I a chance to promote our hobby/sport and the combat meet over the airwaves. I got the early shift, 5 am to 6:30 am and Doug got the late shift. Scott and KGHL gave this time to us for open dialogue about the Flying Mustangs in general and the combat meet in particular. Scott said that if we let him know next year in advance he may be able to do more for us. We got three hours off and on of air time. I think this was a great gesture on behalf of KGHL and Scott. After listening to Doug, I found that he may have a second calling as a radio personality. Doug, you did a good job.

We have had another incident at our field. A non -AMA member was flying at our field and retrieved an airplane by walking straight through the wheat. Mr. Niebauer was very unhappy about that and I don't blame him. We all need to be policemen. The rules are that a person needs to be an AMA member, a club member or guest, sign the retrieval rules, sign the liability waiver and sign in and out before they are allowed to fly. Improper retrieval and general lack of respect for the club and our neighbor could result in our losing our field and will result in that pilot losing his or her flying privileges. If we want to continue to have a great flying site, it is imperative that everyone make sure that anyone flying at our site obey all the rules without exception.

Speaking of flying the weather has been fantastic. I sure hope that many of you are taking advantage of our great field and weather. I have been flying some and seem to be getting a little better. Maybe it's true, the more gas you burn, the better you fly. I'm to the point now where all I do is take-offs and landings. I figure if I can get the plane off the ground safely and back to the runway in one piece, the rest will come. It's funny though, no matter how many times I fly, I still get butterflies in my stomach. My pulse increases and my knees shake. It's so darn much fun.

One final note, Please remember to support those people and business that support us, then get out to the field and have some fun

See ya at the field, Rick

1998 OFFICERS

President - Rick Koehn
Vice President - Dennis Rollins
Treasurer - Leland Schliep
Secretary - Steve Hergett



Last Meeting's Minutes.

Billings Flying Mustangs Meeting Minutes July 5, 1999

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Koehn at 7:30 PM. the minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report will be given by Leland Schliep at the next meeting. Computer problems prevented the report from being produced.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMBAT COMMITTEE: Leland has done a tremendous amount of work preparing for the event. The 4-H group is putting up the promotion posters around the city. A slight modification to the parking was discussed which shifted the motorhomes and trailers to the south of the concession stand. Brochures are being printed to hand out to the spectators as they enter the flying site. HI-TECH has donated three radios and T-shirts for prizes.

Fly-In: Leland Schliep reported that the Jim Rangitsh fly-in netted \$170.00 this year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Don Herington has completed the frequency clip redo. All numbers are very legible now. Rick Koehn and Tanner Woodcock reported that their educational demonstration held for troubled youths held at Deaconess Medical Center went very well. A group of 20 kids were very inquisitive about the RC hobby and asked many questions at the 2 hour long event.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Cour d' Alene Aero Modeling Society sent a letter drumming up interest in their first ever TRY-FLY Labor Day weekend on September 4 & 5. Call Jerry Mudge at 208-687-4251.

A motion was made by Al Hodges to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Roxie Klaus. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

"Horsefeathers" is the official newsletter of the Billings Flying Mustangs R/C Club. This newsletter is published monthly by the club and mailed to all current members. Newsletter editor: Leland Schliep P.O. Box 22406 phone 406 256-9836 Fax 406 256-9580 email leland5@imt.net

**1999 Scale R/C Combat Western Nat'l Champs
Scores and awards.
July 10,11 Billings, Montana**

1. Mike Fredricks (1798 pts)
2. Doug Haacke (1506 pts)
3. A.J. Seaholm (1312 pts)
4. Earl Seaholm (1244 pts)
5. Jim Bodnar (1208 pts)
6. Gerry Van Dyk (1196 pts)
7. Richard Perry (1164 pts)
8. Ron Horton (1162 pts)
9. Neil Byrd (1157 pts)
10. Don Veres (1144 pts)
11. Steve Hergett (1120 pts)
12. Dick Smith (1106 pts)
13. Mark Cater (1094 pts)
14. Tim Wagner (1076 pts)
15. Brad Lane (1052 pts)
16. Troy Barnes (1000 pts)
16. Al Nixon (1000 pts)
17. Mark McCool (994 pts)
17. Brian Seaholm (994 pts)
18. Duncan Stott (974 pts)
19. Jesse O'Brien (972 pts)
20. Mel Reed (948 pts)
21. Randy Hay (914 pts)
22. Bill Ruediger (912 pts)
23. Jerry Virnig (904 pts)
24. Allen Hare (895 pts)
25. Mike Gullickson (876)
26. Wayne Van Orden (854 pts)
27. Dave Wagensomer (846 pts)
28. Bret Anderson (832 pts)
28. Mark Martin (832 pts)
29. Tanner Woodcock (824 pts)
30. Mark Jenks (804 pts)
31. Andy Rutkosky (758 pts)
32. Van Caryl (700 pts)
33. Wynn Hone (682 pts)
34. Neal Rohrke (678 pts)
35. Ron O'Brien (672 pts)
36. Pat Kenney (654 pts)
37. Kurt Ziegler (506 pts)
38. Walt McIntosh (-302 pts)
39. Don Veres, Sr (-394 pts)
40. Vergil Jones (DQ'd 2nd day)

CALENDAR

August 7 Combat Bozeman
Aut 7-8 Jet Fly In Deer Lodge
August 7-8 Gillette Fly In - Gillette Wy.
August 14 Combat Great Falls
August 15 Fun Fly Great Falls
August 28-29 Pattern Lethbridge
August 28-29 Cody Fly In Cody Wy.
September 11-12 Sheridan Fly In Sheridan Wy.

Leland's Ramblin's Junk You Can Skip If You're busy



Holy Cow Batman, Where did the time go. July is all but over and it's been a blur. Two trips to Chicago, The Combat meet and vacation. Yikes! My August calendar is just as full. September is over half filled. What the Heck is going on here??

The Combat meet was a blast. From the moment the organizational phases started I knew we would have another success on our hands. Everything was easier this third time around. The 4H kids knew their jobs, the club members knew all the needs we had last year and every last member worked to make this a great meet. What a deal! One of the visitors in one of the Motorhomes back by the Control Line Circle complemented us on our "Flawless and well oiled event." I told them I would pass it along to the club. Good job guys.

I want to use my space this month thanking all those who helped and supported the event. I know, like Doug has said, I will miss some of you but please forgive this oversight as I do appreciate all the help. **Don Herrington** was working on table repair and on lots of other chores - un asked, he just saw the job and did it. And then when I did need a chore, he jumped right on it too. Thank you Don! **Ron Beck** was there helping, and loaning his truck. I love those old Chevys. It will never go very fast but it will always go. Thank you Ron. **Walt McIntosh** was his usual organized self. He got the sound equipment to the field in a nick of time and then chugged right into his flight mode. I talked to Walt late Friday night, he was trying to get paint on his combat planes. No sense getting too prepared. Walt handled publicity and his hard work is appreciated. **Eric Hawkinson**, his helicopter demonstration (mini airshow) was a great crowd pleaser. This was a very positive addition to the whole show. Along the same line, thanks go to **Ron Horton** for his demo flights with his big bird. Amazing how many oohhs and ahhs came from the crowd on little things like retracting the gear. Thanks Ron and Eric. **Speed Leckie** took on the job of returning the tables and bullhorn on Monday. Thank you Speed. Thanks to **Fred Ott** for the post pounder and general help. Now - **Ivan Koeller**. Ivan has been a club member for at least two years now and has yet to fly his plane, but he is always ready to help and work. He was my pizza and water and every other errand runner this year as he was last year. Then he stepped up to volunteer for even more work. Un-asked he hauled the garbage on Saturday evening and again on Monday morning - He took the job on and did it. I like the autonomous functionality. This takes details off my back. Ivan helped with table carpeting and un carpeting and lots of other tasks and chores. Thank you Ivan.

I am sure I left out some more folks and, again, I apologize but my thanks to all.

Looking forward to things I want to get done - There is only one, I want to get our field issue settled. Let's get to work on it. See ya out flyin' Ieland.

COMBAT - THE BILLINGS FLYING MUSTANGS TRIUMPH!

This year was extra special for me, and I have the Billings Flying Mustangs to thank for that. This year, almost every club member helped out, and words cannot express my gratitude to every single individual that pitched in. Of course, there were a few that would have nothing to do with the event, but that's OK, we'll get 'em next year. But I do want to thank those that did help. Let's start with the most difficult jobs to fill... the pilot's judges. Larry Wilkinson did an outstanding job organizing and working logistics with the judges. Those special guys that spent hours out on the flight included Glen Hertz, Bill Poehls, Jason Horton, Rick Koehn, Dennis Shuld, Dennis Winchell, Seth Lee, Mike Beckman, Dick Holly, Brandon Albaugh, Leroy Bangert, Julie Wilkinson, Speed Leckie, Mike Potts, Jeff (from Canada), John Hahn, and a few others I forgotten. You guys did a great job, and every single pilot appreciated your hard work, both days! Thanks a ton!! Thanks again to our announcer, Steve Garr, who did much better with the names this year (although next year, remind to provide phonetic spellings of those pesky city names). Stephanie Smith ran the best score keeping job I've ever seen. Great work Steph! Walt McIntosh did a ton of things behind the scenes and sure made my life easier. I couldn't have done it without your help, Walt! The Kenney's came thru in spades again, hanging posters, morale support and streamer production. A special thanks to Marge Kenney for her countless hours measuring and cutting streamers. Then there's Leland. What can I say. He does it all with a smile, is always organized, and knows how to make the whole thing work together. His support and friendship was a real lifesaver. And don't forget he has all those other dang club jobs going, too. Please remember the name LELAND when you go to vote for Man of the Year.

I'm sure there are others I forgotten to thank, and if I left out your name, forgive me. I want to personally thank the members of the Billings Flying Mustangs for their generous support and understanding, and for giving up so many hours to make this years event a very, very successful one.

-Doug

Special post-event awards:

Best flight by a tailless aircraft: Earl Seaholm
Best flight by an unpowered hard hat: Jim Bodnar
Best looking twin engine aircraft not competing: Don Veres
Best looking twin engine aircraft competing: Mike Gullickson
Most cuts in a single round: Steve Hergett (3)
Most rebuilds/reflights on a single plane: Dick Smith
Best Bearcat: Mark Cater
Best performance with a single plane: Mark Jenks
Best fiberglass performance: Brad Lane
Best vacuum bag performance: Troy Barnes
Best looking P-51B: Al Nixon



Next Meeting
848 MAIN STREET IN THE HEIGHTS
MONDAY AUGUST 2
7:30 P.M.

Billings Flying Mustangs
P.O. Box 22406
Billings, MT 59104

FIRST CLASS

TO: