



CHECKERED FLAG

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Northeast Pylon Racing Organization

Checkered Flag Newsletter

July/August 2009

HOT LAPS AND PROPWASH!



From the Pres! Bill Jensen

To all Nepro members,

I hope things are going your way for sure! I was disappointed by the Ellington number of registrations, but it tells me that we must keep trying to get new pilots into racing.

The host club did a great job with Dennis as the CD and they made a good profit and the pilots had a great time which means that we are offering a good deal all the way around! But how do we get the word out that Nepro has a good deal to offer for everyone? We've done a lot but maybe not enough to keep us growing.

There's got to be a plan that will flood the Sportsman ranks and get Nepro growing faster. Every pilot that tried racing says "wow" what a trip! But where are they at the next race? What's the secret magic key to growth??

I've heard "it's the economy, the economy, and the economy"! I don't buy it! We're just not getting the message out to the R/C community that racing is a real kick. Maybe the best kick in R/C. Help me guys, what is the answer??? How can we communicate the thrill of racing to the R/C community?? Remember how you felt after a close heat...was it good....was it great...was it the best???

As far as day-to-day running of the org, we need more volunteers. The officers do a lot but can't do everything. We need a webmaster, a pc person on race day, a promotion manager, and many more positions that are going unfilled. Contact me for details. Com'on, you know racing is a hoot, help us promote it by volunteering!

Sometimes I feel very lonely! Won't you help? It will make you feel so goooooood!

Thanks, and go fast and turn left (and don't pass a plane with "BJ" on the wing!!)

BJ

Summer Racing! Salem CT 6/20/2009 By Dennis Thibodeau

Well we have had three races plus the Nationals in Ohio since the last newsletter.

We flew in Salem on June 20th at the R/C Prop Buster's field. I went to Salem to help out and worked the race as the starter. It was a good day and the racing was just as fast and furious as it always is. Weather was good and all went smoothly. One funny incident occurred during one of the Sportsman races. One pilot did not make the take off and apparently did not see his plane sitting on the grass in the field and continued flying or at least going through the motions. Ralph Rinaldi asked me "What was going on? We have 3 planes in the air and 4 pilots and callers are flying!" When the heat was over this pilot's caller came to me and said how did we do. I said "You got a ZERO!" The Reply was "NO WAY, we just flew 10 laps" I said you never made the take off. The pilot came over and he too swore that he flew 10 laps. I asked him if that was his plane over there and he said yes. Ralph told him that is where it was the entire heat. HE said "OOPS! I guess that was not as responsive as usual." We all had a good laugh!

Standings for Salem, June 20 are: **Fast time for the day are in Red**

Expert			Standard		
Name	Place	Fast Time	Name	Place	Fast Time
L. Burnham	1	1:19.19	D. Spaduccini	1	1:31.23
I. Brown	2	1:26.09	Peter Tani	2	1:31.04
R Rinaldi	3	1:15.45	M Derosa	3	1:32.82
D.Doyle	4	1:20.54	M. Konno	4	1:32.74
E Granger	5	1:24.25	R. Zisa	5	1:47.74
C. Stewart	6	1:25.87	N Balthrush	6	1:36.39
M Masi	7	1:22.91	L Middlebrooks	7	2:05.52

SPORTSMAN

1. Dennis Duplice,	1:46.87	2. Rob Burris	1:50.68
3. Dan Frankel,	2:03.22	4. Fred Meyer	2:15.18

ELLINGTON, AUGUST 1&2 2009

First of all, I want to thank ALL the members of NCRCC, HCRCC and NEPRO that came out to work and make this race one of the best and most efficiently run races I have ever acted as Contest Director for. We were able to fill all the working spots with seasoned experienced pros. From all the NCRCC members that mowed the field and to those from Hadley (HCRCC) and Nepro, that came out to work as the starter and assistant starter, timers and pylons, and our noon time lunch cooks. You made this event the best it has ever been. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for making this event so easy and successful.

The President of the National Miniature Pylon Racing Association had flown in from Hilo Hawaii and his home in California to attend this weekend race. Scott McAfee had nothing but high praise for the workers and the professionalism they exhibited in performing their duties. He stated that he has never been to a race that ran so smoothly and expertly as this one. Coming from the President of the NMPRA, I think this speaks highly of all our workers from NCRCC and HCRCC (Hadley Mass) and Nepro. You all made my job as CD go so smoothly and hassle free.

Saturday August 1st,

We had 21 contestants in Standard and Expert and one in the sportsman class. (beginner) I had hoped to get the first heat off the ground by 9:30 and I came close, the first race of the day launched at 9:40 am. The racing went smoothly and there were some close races and as part of racing, only two aircraft were loss due to pilot errors. We flew 5 complete rounds of racing before calling it a day. This was all completed by 3:30 pm and I reopened the field to our members and guests for sport flying. Mike Massy and Joe Tropea who I call "Masi's flying circus" flew the "FLYING LAWNMOWER" and A WITCH on her broomstick as well as some control line and helicopters. Joe is quite the heli pilot but I think he forgot where the ground was and crashed his heli on the runway. Now, the witch, well she usually had

been killed each year but this year she just got a severe case of Poison Ivy as they landed her in the deep weeds off the field.

Saturday at 4 we started the cookout and picnic for all NCRCC members and guests and at no charge to anyone. This picnic has always been billed as open to all our NCRCC members but few come out to enjoy. Steak, hot dogs, hamburgers, corn on the cob, soda and all sorts of delicious side dishes were gladly devoured by all that were in attendance.

After dark a campfire was lit and enjoyed until time for bed. We had 5 motor homes, Campers and tents that spent the weekend at the field.

Sunday, August 2

We had 24 standard and expert class fliers and two in sportsman. We again got the first heats in the air shortly after 9:30 am. All my workers arrived on time and again were able to fill all the working positions. The day was going smoothly until the signal lights at Pylon 1 started to malfunction. I guess the dampness and humidity over night got to them and the fix was soon repaired and Racing began again. The racing was even closer than on Saturday. 2 contestants lost aircraft, one to a low pass around Pylon 2 that scattered wreckage through the tall grass and into the tree line. Thanks to Peter Tami and Bob Nadeau, all the major parts were recovered in the week following and will be returned to that pilot at Hadley in Sept.

The most spectacular crash came in one of the Expert heats, ALL 4 planes were wing tip to wing tip for most of the race, I heard a thump and looked up to see who went down only to see that the flag on Pylon 3 was in shreds. All 4 planes were still battling it out. Two laps later, Irl Brown from HCRCC squarely hit the pole supporting the flag for pylon 2 and severing that 2" PVC pole in half. Of course his plane was re-kitted as it literally exploded into a mass of balsa and foam parts. WOW! Fran Mitchel from Hadley, Massachusetts builds most of the planes for the Hadley Crew. Fran was on Pylon 1 and Shaun Denehy asked him if he could rebuild that one! Fran's answer was, If they find ALL the parts, He would put it back together. I think there are still many, many small parts still out there in the field!

Again Thanks to all that helped.

Dennis Thibodeau
Contest Director.

RESULTS 1st to 5th place SATURDAY 8/1/09

Expert			Standard		
Name	Place	Fast Time	Name	Place	Fast Time
Ralph Rinaldi	1	1:15.154	Shaun Denehey	1	1:28.55
L. Burnham	2	1:16.28	Peter Tani	2	1:29.87
Irl Brown	3	1:21.94	M Derosa	3	1:26.24
Eric Granger	4	1:23.67	M. Konno	4	1:32.56
Bill Glode	5	1:21.01	Mike Stewart	5	1:39.40

Sportman: Dan Frankel 2:18.20

SUNDAY 8/2/09

Expert			Standard		
Name	Place	Fast Time	Name	Place	Fast Time
L. Burnham	1	1:17.87	Peter Tani	1	1:29.25
Scott McAfee	2	1:2.50	Shaun Denehey	2	1:26.23
Mike Masi	3	1:21.67	M Konno	3	1:35.54
Ralph Rinalda	4	1:15.91	Ed Daus Sr.	4	1:32.72
E Granger	5	1:22.91	R. Burris	5	1:45.13

Sportman: Dan Frankel 2:18.43
Elizabeth English 2:58.49

"The View from Pylon #3" by Don McStay

We now have 5 races behind us and 2 more to go. So far the CD's have done a great job getting volunteers to man the pylons and there have been very few problems and they were handled quickly. So far we have given out over 40 "Race Official" blue and white hats as our way of saying "Thank You!" to those wonderful people who have given up their day off to help make NEPRO racing the best in the World!

I was impressed by the efficient way Cal Stewart ran his first Race at Salem. I was able to hear the conversations out on the course via the communication hookup and was impressed by the professional attitude of these first time officials. Needless to say the heats flowed smoothly and the racers couldn't have had a better crew on the course. Among those "Officials" were: Mark Elliott; Tom Vernon; Dennis DuPlice; Rich LaSaracin; Fred Meyer; John Bagdasarian; Bernie Liskov; Mark Janson; B. Oatway; Carl Barker; Alan Sharog; Dan Patrick; Frank Benedetto; and seasoned pro's Dennis Thibodeau and Mike Luzzi as the starters. Our racers can't thank you enough for making this a great day of racing at your SUPER club field!

If you have worked at Hadley, Farmington, Salem or Ellington, as "Officials" and had fun doing it, consider becoming a non-racing member and join our growing team of NEPRO Race Officials for the rest of this season, please email me: mcstay@comcast.net or call my cell anytime: (508) 454-1512 for more info. Our objective is to build a team of at least 15 Experienced Officials to provide fair and consistent officiating at every race as well as relieve the CD's from the burden of recruiting and training volunteers at their races. Right now we have 4 clubs sponsoring races and I am sure that there are wives, friends or club members that would want to be part of NEPRO, but they do not want to actually race. They do, however, enjoy the excitement and relationships that are such an important part of NEPRO and would enjoy having another way to have an active and important role in NEPRO's excitement and success. Becoming a card carrying non-racing member for \$10 this year (\$20 next year) and joining the NEPRO Team of Race Officials will entitle you to season points, recognition and awards at the end of the season. Every organization needs a support system. Having a team of regular race officials is a major step in making NEPRO racing, the very best in the World. That won't happen without the very best in officiating at every race and that can only happen if it is a **T.E.A.M.** effort! **"Together Everyone Achieves More"!**

Nepro at the Nat's! *By Lloyd Burnham*

I have no photos of Nat's. In Q500, Joe Tropea and I qualified for finals and finished 24th and 16th respectfully. Mike Masi ended up 25th, Rich Berner 52nd and Dave Doyle 58th.

QM40, Joe Tropea, Lewis Schwab and Dave Doyle qualified and finished 9th, 16th, and 21st. Lloyd W. Burnham -32nd, Pete Reed 35th, and Mike Masi 39th. Joe was actually tied for 5th place at the end of the finals along with 4 others. Joe had a slower time so he finished 9th. He was outstanding in quarter midget and had a good chance of finishing 4th, not tied with anyone.

Nat's are always fun, whether you do well or not. We get to the field at 6:15 am and leave between 5:30 and 8:30 pm for six days. We all go to dinner every night and unwind with good food, drink and friends and a little more drink. Everyone should go. It's intense.

Race Reminders!

HCRC's Fall R/C PYLON CHAMPIONSHIPS



SUNDAY, SEPT 13TH, 2009

***Location: HCRC CLUB FIELD
HADLEY, MASS***

SPORTSMAN - STANDARD - EXPERT

FOOD SERVICE AVAILABLE FOR LUNCH BREAK

Dave Fogg, CD

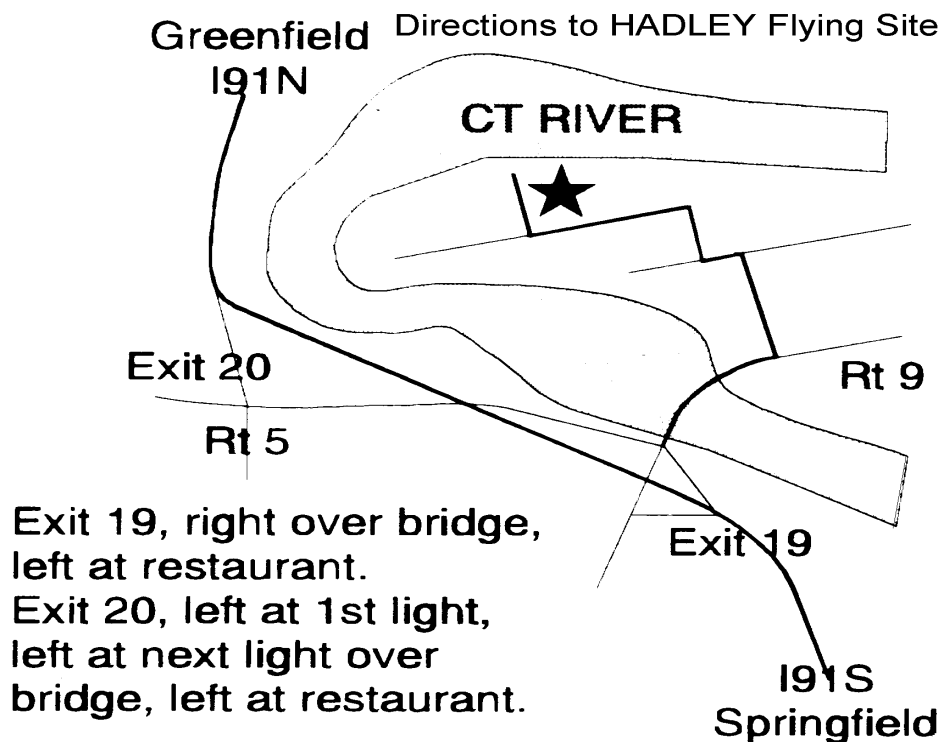
Email DF.Fogg@Verizon.net

Phone: (413)593-5454

PRE REGISTRATION IS HIGHLY SUGGESTED!

Email: neproinfo@cs.com

Or Call Bill Jensen a (203) 888-4819



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4th, SALEM, CT R/C Prop Busters

NEPRO 2009 Membership Application

Check Here if New Address

Name: _____ AMA Number _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

R/C Club Affiliation _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

Email Address _____

Interests - Circle any That APPLY

NEPRO Q-500 Standard NEPRO Q-500 Expert AMA Q-500 Quarter Midget 40

(Beginner's) Sportsman Races

Being an Official

Frequencies you are using:

F1/FAI: _____

Q-500: _____



Send Application and \$50 payable to **NEPRO**

TO: Russ Levy

106 Hauppauge Rd

Commack, NY 11725

NEPRO

Dennis Thibodeau
170 Cottage Road
Enfield, CT 06082-2209

TO:

NORTHEAST PYLON RACING ORGANIZATION