

Newsletter of the Alamo Escadrille, Squadron #11 of the Flying Aces Club

October's weather didn't cooperate for us so there was no monthly meet at HOTSS field. The next weekend a couple Escadrille members made the trek to Buckeye, AZ for the John Hutchison Memorial contest, and boy was the weather great there! Sunny skies with moderate breezes in the morning and perfect near-calm weather each afternoon. The alfalfa was thick and cushy but not too high to walk through – made for some of the best flying we've had at WestFAC. All the results will be published in the FAC Newsletter soon, but here's a few impressions from the meet. Tom Arnold ran a great show - here's most of the flyers gathered together for his pilot brief Saturday morning just before WWI combat mass launch. (Kelly photo)



Left to right, Mike Keller, Jonathan Nunez, David Wagner, Rich Adams, Bob Hodes, Walt Ainesle with his wife, Tom Arnold, Henry Toews and Karen Arnold). Not sure where Rod Persons and Dave and Barb Semeraro hid during this photo...

Rich Adams dominated the WWI and WWII mass launches Saturday, with his DVII and Hellcat giving him some long walks in the morning breeze. Henry Toews did a great job directing mass launches throughout the weekend. Around noon our host Jerry Rovey (*on the left*) chugged up in this spectacular restored 1927 John Deere tractor, bringing all other activities to a brief standstill. (Kelly photo)



As the wind died down Saturday after lunch Mike Kelly found the only obstacle anywhere near the flying area, clipping the streamer pole mid-wing on his P-59 jetcat. (Recall that last year Dave Semeraro got his L-4 caught in the streamer...) The basswood strip on the leading edge of the wing saved the model - fuselage was snapped in half, but a field repair using CA got the model back in the air. Sunday it went on to win Jetcat. (Kelly photo)



Barb Semeraro flew her Blue Ridge Special, marking her FAC flying debut. After a good showing there Henry Toews introduced her to jetcats. In no time she had some nice flights going with Henry's venerable F-4, a veteran WestFAC jetcat. At closing ceremonies Barb was presented a West Wings F-15 jetcat kit. See the workbench section of this newsletter for her build in progress. (Semeraro photos)



You'd think that with all that open alfalfa there'd be plenty of space between models. Not always – here Jonathan Nunez (holding his Diels Aichi Grace) looks on in disbelief as Dave Wagner picks up his Comet Jupiter from its resting spot within an inch of Mike Kelly's Spitfire. (Kelly photo)



As always, twins were featured at Buckeye, this year as a Double Trouble TOTF event. Here's Tom Arnold's big AJ-1 Savage climbing away. (Kelly photo)



Mike Kelly even managed to coax a qualifying flight out of his diminutive Megow F5F Skyrocket twin. (Kelly photo)



Rich Adams was also out playing at golden hour Saturday. Here he's launching his jumbo XP-54 Swoose. (Kelly photo)



Walter Ainsle had his 1940s Guillow's P-38 again this year. He took advantage of the still golden hour air late Saturday to put some flights on it. (Kelly Photo)



Eventually the light faded to the point where folks put their models away and relaxed, enjoying the Arizona sunset. (Kelly photo)



Sunday morning brought the marquee event – the 2x Mooney Peanut mass launch, inspired by John Hutchison’s legacy. Six flyers brought seven models for this category, each of a different subject.



From left to right, David Wagner with his Found Centennial, Mike Kelly with his Wicko GM-1, Walt Ainsley with his Aeronca Defender, Mike Keller with his Itoh, Dave Semeraro with his Piper Vagabond, Launch Director Henry Toews, Bob Hodes with his Pottier, and Dave Lofthouse with his SE-5. (Jonathan Nunez photo)

Bob Hodes also brought a 2x Mooney Douglas Skyraider but didn’t get much time to fly it. Dave Semeraro and Mike Kelly finished their models on the way to the contest - Mike opened his box at the field and discovered the tail surfaces had made some dramatic moves during the drive from Texas. After straightening the fin out in the hotel Saturday evening he was able to get it semi-flyable in time for the mass launch, but was first down in the event. (Kelly photo)



David Wagner won the event with his immaculately-finished Found Centennial, with Walt’s Aeronca close behind. Here’s David launching the Found for the win. (Kelly photo)



The Mooney mass launch was followed by a TOTF event specifically for those models, with the Found topping that event too. Dave Lofthouse got his SE-5 well trimmed and put in some great times for the TOTF as well. (Kelly photo)



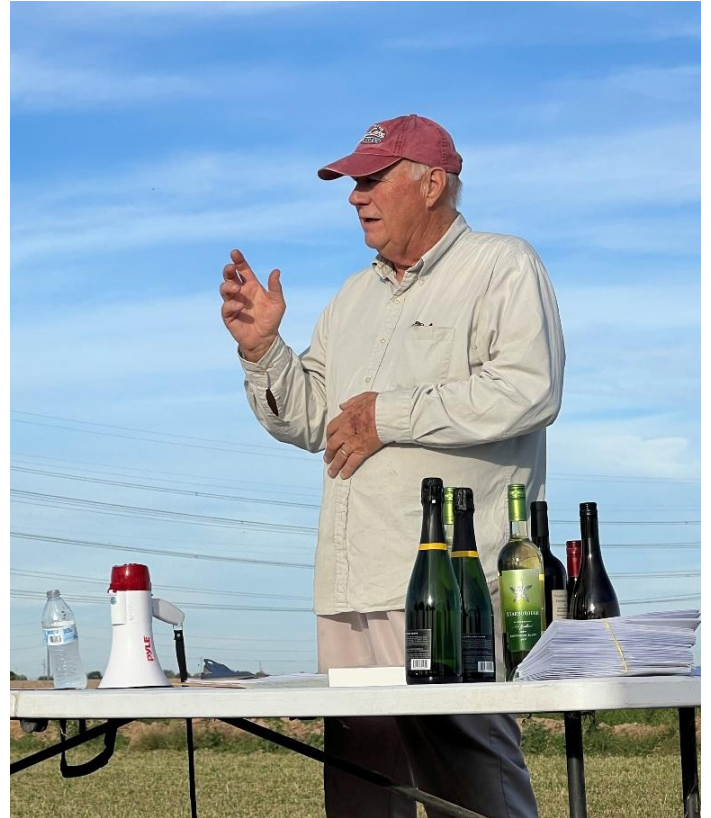
Sunday brought plenty more action with Simplified/Dime Scale, Cold War Mass Launch and TOTF, Jetcat, Old-Time Rubber and the Flying Horde. The Rovey family came out mid-afternoon and folks wasted no time getting models into the kids hands. (Jonathan Nunez photo)



Mike Kelly's Shoestring dodged all that cushy alfalfa and tried to stuff itself into a drain pipe – survived with just dent on the prop hub. (Kelly photo)



Eventually it was time to wrap things up – Tom Arnold and Bob Hodes created a few mini-thermals as they rapidly calculated scores and sorted out the placings. Here Tom presents the trophies and a fine selection of wines donated by Rod Persons. (Kelly photo).



Thanks again to Tom, Bob and Henry for another great meet at Rovey Farms. Keep an eye out for all the scores and results in the next FAC News!



Barb Semeraro's Blue Ridge Special in flight.
(Jonathan Nunez photo)