

F2D News - April 2008

Mark Rudner
rudner@mit.edu

Hi all – I’m just back from the Florida F2D Flying Frenzy in Jacksonville, Florida. I must begin by thanking and congratulating Bill and John, the brothers Duane, for putting on another excellent competition. This was only their second time running a contest of this magnitude, but to everyone involved it looked like they were seasoned veterans. It was a first class operation with on-the-field barbequed lunch both days, clearly posted matchings and win/loss records on Howard Shenton’s new magnetic label board, and plenty of filler-top fuel bottles to go around. To top it all off, half of the money collected from entry fees was returned in the form of a \$400 donation to the US F2D team!

As for the contest itself, the turnout was a little lighter this year with 16 entries. I’m sure there were many reasons for the reduced numbers, but I hope that once people read the reports from this year’s contest they will pencil this one in to their schedules for next season. Actually I take that back – do it in ink. It’s well worth going.

While the quantity of pilots may have been low, the quality certainly was not. The award for “best match of the contest” goes without question to Willcox vs. Owens I, which took place on Saturday afternoon. It was a barn-burner of a match with enough jaw-dropping action and low-to-the-ground maneuvers to go on pay-per-view. Mike “Emo” Willcox came out the victor, but let me assure you that David Owens had nothing to regret at the end of that match. Plagued by recent accusations that he had lost his game, “Evil Emo” used the momentum from that match to launch himself back into dominant form and to propel himself to victory in the contest. Richard Stubblefield pulled up in a strong second place, with David Owens claiming the third spot. This result bodes well for Team USA, as we had two of our three team pilots claiming the top two spots.

I’m a bit pressed for time this month and will have to cut my column here. Be sure to look for next month’s column where I plan to discuss some new pressing issues which have come up regarding the state of combat in the US. In the meantime, happy flying!