

F2D News - March 2010

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Okay, the F2D News is back up and running. Things have been quite busy the past few months, but now the 2010 F2D season is upon us and it's time to start writing again.

After missing the last several Phoenix contests, this month (March 6-7) I managed to get down to Arizona for the annual March Madness F2D tournament. The turnout for this season opener was pretty good, with 18 pilots showing up from around the US and Mexico. Although we did not need the weatherman to tell us which way the wind was blowing, we did take to heart his prediction of rain for Sunday (I thought I went to Arizona to see the sun...). As a result, the organizers decided to run the contest as double elimination in order to ensure that we would not get rained out. It was definitely the right plan, as we finished the contest under steady rain around noon on Sunday. If not for my time spent living in New England I might have called it cold, steady rain, but actually I found it strangely not that unpleasant.

Overall, the quality of flying was okay. There were bits of rust showing all around, but this is not unexpected for the first contest of the year. The solid enthusiasm of all involved however was a good sign for the upcoming season. It was also great to see our US team pilots take 1st, 3rd, and 4th places. James McKinney flew well all weekend and took 2nd place after a hard-fought final against Greg Hill. There were many reflights throughout the contest, so it was only fitting that it would take 3 tries for the top contenders to finally get things settled.

Now into the second year of shutoffs in F2D, it is clear that there is still development to be done. Off-hand I can recall several incidents where models came down due to malfunctioning shutoffs. There was also at least one flyaway for which it appeared that the shutoff did not function. On a positive note, however, Chuck Rudner's model was cut away and his (swing-arm) shutoff worked nearly instantly.

Next up is the Houston World Cup May 1st and 2nd. This promises to be a great contest and I encourage everyone to try to make it if possible. Hope to see you in Texas!