

IHLGF '95 Report

Ron Scharck

WURTS Squeaks Out Win in Overtime!

Joe Wurts has proven that he is the finest hand launch glider pilot in the Western United States and most probably, the world, by winning the International Hand Launch Glider Festival for the second year in a row. This year was not the cake walk that last year was as Joe was in third place behind our own Arthur Markiewicz and George Joy after the preliminary 10 rounds were completed. Out of a possible score of 10,000 points, Arthur lead with 9,678.56 points followed by George Joy with 9,650.62. Joe was only able to amass 9,634.87. Joe was perfect throughout the first seven rounds. After round 9, he was only off perfect by 54 points. It was in round 10 that Joe lost his deity status by landing off-field a couple of times and scoring a scant 685.

In true championship form, Joe regrouped in the final three rounds of the fly-off to outscore Arthur by 103 points (out of a possible 13,000). George Joy came in third with 12,376 points, just 209 points out of first place hardware. Rounding out the top ten were Steve Condon (11,923), Charlie Richardson (11,737), Ron Scharck (11,105), Steve Stricklett (10,924), Ben Clerx (10,919), Mark Gumprecht (10,449), and Gordon Jennings (10,368).

The Top Team plaques were awarded to the team of George Joy; Mark Gumprecht, and Ron Scharck.

While the field was a tad smaller than last year we had a number of new pilots compete in this years event. Jeff Burg and Randall Wilson, both of whom are from Las Vegas, Nevada, made the event a little more "international". Mark Navarre, who has been 60" slope racing with us for a while, showed the field that he was someone to be reckoned with on the HLG field. With the exception of two "throw-away" rounds, Mark posted very respectable scores. Bren Lugo, our own young phenom,

had a bit of bad luck (folded wings) in the sixth round where he scored a "0". Had he completed that round with his average score, Bren would have been in the top 10.

Who says that only a young man with a gorilla arm and an expensive "state of the art" airplane can compete in HLG contests. Here are a few examples that will debunk those theories. Here's the over 50 crowd (of which I am aware): Don Richmond (60+); George Joy (50); Ron Scharck (52), Rich Strobel (52). In each case these pilots launched their own planes. I must admit that George Joy does have a gorilla arm. Most of the planes entered were your basic polyhedral wing/glass fuse combination that can be bought for under \$100. I came in sixth with an all wood Climmax which I just love. It costs \$60.

A number of hand launch glider manufacturers attended IHLGF '95 including Charlie Richardson of CR Aircraft flying his Climmax; Merrill Farmer of MM Glider Tech flying his Illusion; Mark Hambelton of DCU flying his Viper; Ken Williams of K&A Models was flying his Quest; and Randall Wilson was showing off his new creation which he and Mark Levoe are in the process of producing on a commercial basis. This Wilson/Levoe plane is so new that, as of this printing, they have not yet decided upon a name.

I will discuss the types of planes, radios and the current technology that was evident at the IHLGF '95 in an article to appear in next month's newsletter. I think that you will find the comments of some of the top pilots to be enlightening. Here's a clue. If you are thinking about building a new competition HLG, think twice before you "go the next step (?) and build a "straight wing" aileron ship.

The two most outstanding improvements in this years contest versus last year was the inclusion of a PA system that allowed us to use a computer generated timing system which all but eliminated any confusion

as to the start and finish of a heat, and the magnificent computer generated scoring system that provided computed scores within 5 minutes of the end of a heat/round. Both of these improvements were the handiwork of Don Richmond who programmed the scoring system. Don gets the 1995 IHLGF Achievement Award.

This years contest ran 110% smoother than last and for that Steve Stricklett and the other members of the IHLGF Committee are to commended. We learned from our previous mistakes and we made the corrections. A major part of the efficiency of this contest can be directly attributed to the volunteer workers that contributed their time and efforts to ensure that the meet ran smoothly. Jo Joy, Linda Stroble, Karla Shelby, Dave Condon, Gary Knapp, Norm Swanson, and Marshall Geller. On behalf of the contestants and the IHLGF Committee, a big thank you goes out to everyone who helped make the 1995 version of the International Hand Launch Glider Festival the smooth running operation that it was.

Always trying to improve what is already considered by many to be the premier handlaunch event of the year, we have already started making notations of those areas that can use improvement. We will fine tune those areas that need refinements and make changes to those areas where change is deemed necessary to insure that IHLGF '96 will be even more successful and enjoyable for the contestants.

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Special Announcement

Jerry Fry

Dr. Michael Selig will be speaking at a seminar on the subject of "Airfoil Design" to be held in San Diego on Wednesday, June 21st. The seminar will be held at the Sheraton Hotel — Harbor Island, Suite 518, at 7:30 PM. The seminar is free to the public. For further information, please call Mr. Cesar Banks at (619) 460-1947. +