

For those that were able to maintain their sanity and enthusiasm after 10 days at Lost Hills for Livotto, Sierra Cup and The Finals, The Southwest FAI Challenge was once again (yawn) a perfect weekend for flying. For a brief moment on Friday afternoon and for a few minutes on Saturday, the wind meter spun up to around 15 mph+, but it dropped right back down to near zero as quickly as it came up. There were many anxious flyers on the line throughout the day on Saturday as we watched temperature spikes come and go with the wind meter reading "0" and the streamers motionless. All this on the dead flat and completely brush free 2 mile by 6 mile El Dorado Dry Lake Bed. 80 degrees during the day and we are usually illuminated with a spectacular sunset as we leave the field. Definitely one of our favorite places to fly!

Saturday was a great day for our younger generation as 2008 Junior Team Member Miles Johnson outlasted veterans Henning Nyhegn and Jim Parker for the only clean score in F1A while World Champion Cody Secor ran up a new Senior F1P National Record on his way to winning F1P over Tony Robertson. Rich Rohrke shiny blue model took home the blue glassware when yours truly's VIT line hung up in the F1B flyoff. Unfortunately, we were again without any F1C flyers. With a full plate of Americas Cup points on the table, this has always left us scratching our heads

A unique feature of the Southwest FAI Challenge is our Sunday morning everybody-in "Espresso Flyoff". This is a glide-to-the-ground round flown in a separate 10 minute window for each event. This is not Round 1 and has separate awards for the winners. It does however, provide us with a tie-breaker should mid-day flyoff rounds not determine a winner and more important it gives every contestant a chance to fly in a real flyoff situation with every other contestant. In the three years we have used this system, we have yet to need it to resolve any of the mini events. This year's winners were John Clapp in FIG, Jim Parker in F1H, Tony Robertson in F1J and Bernie Crowe in F1Q.

When the mornings are like they have been on Sunday the last few years, we always wonder if we will have perfect scores across the board in the mini events. We almost did again this year. Of the 10 contestants and 50 flights recorded, we only had 4 dropped flights in five rounds. All three F1H flyers made the flyoffs that saw Norm Smith top Jim Parker and Lee Hines in the 4-minute round. Peter Brocks put up a clean 4-minute round to come out on top in FIG over Mark Belfield and Jack Emery. Tony Robertson once again took home first in F1J with a perfect 5-round score.

We were very happy to see Bernie Crowe and his fans come out and put on a great show in F1Q. He and Dick Wood see-sawed back and forth throughout the day with Bernie finally coming out on top. The fans were actually Bernie's family who had gathered in Las Vegas to celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday which by appearances, seemed to be going very well! Happy birthday Bernie and many more!

It is always nice to see some of the local flyers come join us as well. Jon Zeisloft, one of the original organizers of this meet is always out to take his shot at FIG gold. Robert Hodes and Gerald Antonucci brought along another local flyer Bill Holt and the three of them ran up some pretty good P-30 scores. It was Robert's turn for first place this year with a clean score through four flights.

We owe a tremendous thank you to Jill Rowland-Lagan, the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce CEO. Had she not stepped in and made the application for the lake bed use permit in the name of the Chamber of Commerce, this meet would not have happened. For those of you who joined us this year, please take a minute to look through the goody bag Jill and her staff prepared for us and next year, patronize those local businesses who helped make the 2008 Southwest FAI Challenge possible.

#### F1A

Miles Johnson	210	180	180	180	180	180	180	1290
Henning Nyhegn	210	180	171	180	180	180	180	1281
Jim Parker	210	180	180	180	180	126	180	1236
Peter Brocks	210	180	180	180	180	126	111	1167
Randy Secor	210	180	180	147	180	107	123	1127
Lee Hines	210	180	180	172	094	110	180	1126
Don Zink	210	169	180	180	180	094	113	1126
Norm Smith	210	171	150	139	180	084	180	1114

F1B

Rich Rohrke	240	180	180	180	180	180	180	189	1509
Bill Booth	240	180	180	180	180	180	180	037	1357
Jack Emery	240	180	180	180	180	180	176		1316
Richard Wood	240	180	180	171	180	180	180		1311
George Batiuk	240	180	180	180	169	180	180		1309
Jon Clapp	240	063	021	172	058	117	180		0851

F1C

No Entries

F1P

Cody Secor	180	180	180	180	180	180	180	240+300+360	2160*
Tony Robertson	180	000	000	000	000	000	000		0180

\* New National Record: Senior F1P !!!!!!! Congratulations Cody!!!!

F1G

Peter Brocks	120	120	120	120	120	180+240		1020
Mark Belfield	120	120	120	120	120	180+149		0929
Jack Emery	120	120	120	120	120	140		0740
George Batiuk	120	120	120	116	112			0588
John Clapp	120	120	120	090	120			0570
Jon Zeisloft	120	120	120	120	080			0560

F1H

Norm Smith	120	120	120	120	120	180+240		1020
Jim Parker	120	120	120	120	120	180+225		1005
Lee Hines	120	120	120	120	120	180+132		0912

F1J

Tony Robertson	120	120	120	120	120			0600
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F1Q

Bernie Crowe	120	120	054	120	120			0534
Richard Wood	090	120	065	099	120			0494

P-30

Robert Hodes	120	120	120	150	510			
Gerald Antonucci	120	120	120	143	503			
Bill Holt	112	101	112		325			

Espresso Flyoff

F1G	John Clapp	212
F1H	Jim Parker	218
F1J	Tony Robertson	276
F1Q	Bernie Crowe	332