

SPA Contest
April 22, 2017



Coats, hats and hands in pockets on this windy day

The 2017 SPA contest season is underway and it blew in with vengeance. Sixteen pilots braved the weather and wind to compete in all classes on a cool day with winds out of the north with sustained winds of 24 mph and gust to 31!

We had two new pilots to SPA, Matt Desalme and Keith Maddox with Matt taking first place in Novice and Keith taking second. Brian Way rounded out Novice taking third.



Matt Desalme



Sportsman class had three contestants sign-up but Tommy Scarmardo was the only one who decided to fly in those conditions and took first place.

Tommy Scarmardo

As always, Advanced is our largest class with six pilots competing. Flying in the morning under heavy cloud cover, two pilots lost perspective and crashed going full speed. In the end, Bernie Olson won all three rounds for first, Chris Berardi took second and Bobby Zikes was a close third.



Bernie Olson



Pat Ensign again proved he is hard to beat and flew very well taking first place again. His flying seemed to say “what wind?” and flew smooth and straight. Bob Redmon flew his beautiful new Curare to second and Wayne Galligan took third. The Expert class flew four rounds while everyone else said three was plenty.

Ken Knotts was the only competitor in Senior Expert because of the rule change that raised the age from 60 to 65.



Overall the flying was good and we utilized the grass runway to make landing somewhat easier in the gusting wind. It is good to have new pilots competing and both flew really well for being in their very first competition.



Frank Cox (left) and Michael Clements



Bernie Olson’s Dirty Birdy in the foreground and Bob Redmon’s Curare. Both beautiful airplanes.





Ken Knotts