

Flown at 12 different flying sites across the United States and Canada on August 26-7, the biggest ever gathering of eagles attracted over 600 entries. ■ Dan Pruss

The LSF Regional Tournament



TWELVE sites across the USA and Canada saw 615 entries in what has to be the largest soaring event ever. Ten regions held a similar event last year and total entries topped 500. However, this year's event was planned as part of a two-year program with the qualifiers from each region eligible to compete next summer in the LSF

Championships.

This year the LSF ran the Two-Meter event up the soaring flagpole for the first time and 132 members saluted! The entry rules stated one could enter Standard or Unlimited class, plus the Two-Meter class. This no doubt steered many towards the latter event and it had to give the two-meter birds a shot in the arm. One could also enter Scale, in addition to the other classes, and the event saw 65 entries, up slightly from last year.

To qualify for next year's championships League secretary, Warren Tiahr, announced that if one finished first or second in Standard or Unlimited, the flier would be eligible or, if one finished first

in Two-Meter, Scale, or Junior. However, if 20 percent of the entries per class exceeded the figures above, then 20 percent of each class would qualify. In addition, all six LSF Level V members were automatically eligible.

California, because of its large soaring interest, was broken into three regionals and they netted 183 entries. Bob De Mattei CDed and the South Bay Soaring Society hosted the one in Santa Clara—a contest which saw five of the six Level V in attendance. Three finished 1-2-3 in Unlimited—John Baxter, John Newman, and Fred Weaver. All the winners were from California.

From Redmond, Washington, Dave

Palm Springs, CA



The ready line at Palm Springs. With sites separated by such great distances, it is natural that both terrain and weather vary greatly, making for a wide assortment of flying conditions.



Howard Sears and the plane he used to win the 2-Meter event at Palm Springs. His Too Meater was designed by himself and Chuck Beeman—the Contest Director at this Regional.

LSF Photo Credits: Fort Worth, TX—Jack Hamilton; Northern California/Santa Clara—Dennis Parker; Port Washington, WI—Dan Pruss; Redmond, WA—Don Cowgill; Palm Springs, CA—Betty Auman; Reading, PA—Joseph Sockel; Detroit, MI—Ken Shaw; Huntsville, AL—Frank Deis, Jr.; Denver, CO—Meesh Rheault; Ottawa, Canada—Ken Shepherd.



Chuck Beeman, left, who CD'd the Palm Springs Regional, measures spot landing for Howard Sears—who was tops in the 2-Meter class.



A family affair! Gregg Auman, Jr. lands as his dad watches. Pop was first in Unlimited and son the top Junior at Palm Springs.



Winners of the Palm Springs Regional—at press time it was not possible to give names or positions.

Harvey claims they had the largest regional in the world! Contestants came from Anchorage, Alaska; Eugene, Oregon; and Calgary, Alberta. Distances traveled ranged from 25 to 2500 miles! Larry Rice's trip from Anchorage was worth it—he won Standard class, and Robert Yuchevich from Canada won Scale. The best technical achievement went to Mike Freeman for a computerized scoring system that was described in this column last month.

Detroit and Reading, Pennsylvania had the two biggest contests. Detroit had Dave Corven CD 89 entries and Reading had Gerry Zeigenfuse CD 84. The big news though is that the Motor City saw Don Harris, of Toledo, win the Two-Meter event (it had 21 entries) and it was the only requirement left that Don needed for his Level V. Congratulations! That should read Level V/O.C. (Outside California).

Meanwhile, Don Clark was winning the Unlimited class in Pennsylvania. A few

■ LSF REGIONAL WINNERS ■

Colorado, CD: Ray Marvin

Class	Pt.	Flier
Unlimited	1	Herb Smith
	2	Bob Domer
	3	Skip Miller
Standard	1	Anthony Ray
	2	Duane Williams
	3	Dick Crowley
Two-Meter	1	Larry Bishop
	2	Chas. Brannon
	3	Skip Miller
Scale	1	Ray Marvin
	2	Chas. Brannon
Best Tech. Ach.		Chas. Brannon

Alabama, CD: Frank Deis, Jr.

Unlimited	1	Clark Fitch
	2	Chet Tuthill
	3	James Fitch
Standard	1	Richard Renskers
	2	Al Clark
	3	Royes Salmon
Two-Meter	1	Rex Powell
	2	Richard Renskers
	3	Ken Cashion
Scale	1	Dave Davidson

Best Jr.
Best Tech. Ach.

Ontario, Can., CD: Ken Shepherd

Unlimited	1	Edson Byrns
	2	Neville Newman
	3	Ray Munro
Standard	1	Jack Nunn
	2	Gerry Bower
	3	Dave Newman
Two-Meter	1	John McMillan
	2	Jack Nunn
	3	Ron Davis
Scale	1	Ken Shepherd
	2	Ray Munro
	3	Doug Helmer
Best Tech. Ach.		Edson Byrns

Florida, CD: Glenn P. Musinski

Unlimited	1	John Gunsaulus
	2	Stan Pfost
	3	Gordon Fisher
Standard	1	N. Bollinger
	2	J. Ruth
	3	Ed Berton
Two-Meter	1	Stan Pfost
	2	David Elias

Scale

Best Tech. Ach.

Pennsylvania, CD: Gerry Zeigenfuse

Unlimited	1	Don Clark
	2	Meyer Gutman
	3	Dwight Holley
Standard	1	Hoyt Holley
	2	Ed Smith
	3	Al Marshall
Two-Meter	1	Fritz Bien
	2	Meyer Gutman
	3	Douglas Law
Scale	Best Jr.	1 Chuck Deem
	Best Tech. Ach.	2 W. S. Blanchard, Jr.

No. California, CD: Bob DeMattei

Unlimited	1	John Baxter
	2	John Newman
	3	Fred Weaver
Standard	1	Gene Leicher
	2	Bill Latham
	3	Jerry Arana
Two-Meter	1	Tom Christian
	2	Jerry Arana

Scale	3 Fred Weaver
	1 Ralph Renna
	2 Don Anthony
	3 Jon Lowe
Best Tech. Ach.	Don Anthony

Palm Springs, CA, CD: Chuck Beeman

Unlimited	1 Gregg Auman, Sr.
	2 Kelly Pike
	3 Sid Hamilton
Standard	1 Tom Jones
	2 Mike Sheldrake
	3 Bob Torres
Two-Meter	1 Howard Sears
	2 Bob Torres
	3 Rod Sweet
Scale	No entries
Best Jr.	Gregg Auman, Jr.
Best Tech. Ach.	Bob King

Wisconsin, CD: Gregg Seydel

Unlimited	1 Jack Hiner
	2 Keith Finkenbinder
	3 Stan Watson
Standard	1 Tom Tock
	2 Frank Spearman
	3 Jerry Epps
Two-Meter	1 Chuck Frailing
	2 Keith Finkenbinder
	3 Jeff Borowski
Scale	1 Jack Hiner
	2 Stan Watson

Best Jr.	3 Frank Spearman
	Allan Epps
Best Tech. Ach.	Tom Tock

Texas, CD: J. Simpson/C. Haga

Unlimited	1 Cecil Haga
	2 Lemon Payne
	3 Bill Maserang
Standard	1 G. Trevino
	2 Jack Hamilton
	3 R. Stanfield
Two-Meter	1 Cecil Haga
	2 John Rimmer
	3 Dave Rutledge
Scale	1 Jack Hamilton
	2 Bob Elliott
	3 Julian Tamez
Best Tech. Ach.	Bill Maserang

Washington, CD: Dave Harvey

Unlimited	1 Bob Dodgson
	2 Dave Johnson
	3 Carl Blake
Standard	1 Larry Rice
	2 Craig Bergsma
	3 Jack Pitcher
Two-Meter	1 Dave Harvey
	2 Don Hodges
	3 Kirby Parker
Scale	1 Robert Yurchevich
	2 Ernie Brown
	3 Dean Rea
Best Tech. Ach.	Mike Freeman

Michigan, CD: Dave Corven

Unlimited	1 Tom Knoll
	2 Ken Bates
	3 John Vanderplow
Standard	1 John Wolff
	2 Don Harris
	3 Ray Wiese
Two-Meter	1 Don Harris
	2 Ken Bates
	3 Walt Hill
Scale	1 Ray Hayes
	2 Gordon Pearson
	3 Don Drury
Best Jr.	Tony Wolff
Best Tech. Ach.	Noal Rossow

No. California, CD: Don Simon

Unlimited	1 Ed Kennedy
	2 Jim Smith
	3 Larry Pettyjohn
Standard	1 Robert Anderson
	2 David Fredricks
	3 Larry Fogel
Two-Meter	1 Peter Parszik
	2 Alan Kindrick
	3 Keith Kindrick
Scale	1 Chris Adams
	2 Don Edberg
	3 Willie Richards
Best Jr.	Tim Renaud
Best Tech. Ach.	Chris Adams

Detroit, MI



At the Detroit Regional Bill Rohring begins to build up line tension for launching his King Kong sailplane. Bill is an Associate Vice President in AMA District VII.



Gordon Pearson, LSF president, gets ready to launch ASW 17 which took second at Detroit.

days earlier Don had his 10-km goal and return in his hip pocket when the bird went out of sight just short of the finish line. The boys from PA used Goughnour's retrieval system—the best LSF technical idea of 1977—and Zeigenfuss says the system worked well. Ten states were represented at the meet.

Ken Shepherd led the Ottawa, Ontario R/C Club in hosting the only contest outside the USA. Edson Byrns, of New York, won Unlimited and his tubular plywood tail-boom was the best technical achievement of the meet. A corn roast on Saturday night added to their festivities. Shep-

herd, by the way, is the brother-in-law to John Baxter.

Down Texas way, Jim Simpson and Cecil Haga shared the CD work load and, if you like temperatures in the high 90's, you should have been there. However, Cecil said with the winds at 15 mph the chill factor was down to 93! Texas fliers swept all places but one, and Legionairs swept Unlimited class—Bill Haga winning it. Bill Maserang had a low-voltage de-

First at Detroit in 2-Meter was Don Harris with this original. Don is the newest Level V pilot—the first outside California.



Reading, PA



Rainy weather dogged the Pennsylvania LSF Regional, but did not stop Dwight Holley from launching his Unlimited Class Maestro for a third.



Jerry Zeigenfuss gets ready to launch his entry, a stretched Aquila.

Fort Worth, TX



Another original in 2-Meter at Fort Worth was the Nemesis, shown with builder John Rimmer.



Bill Haga, Cecil's son, readies his Legionair which won Unlimited class at Fort Worth Regional.

Huntsville, AL



Smallest sailplane at Huntsville Regional was this eye-catching scale Cadet flown by Ron West.



James Fitch was the top flier this year at the AMA Nats but his father Clark Fitch, shown here, was the top man at the Huntsville Regional. The big bird he is holding is a modified Sailaire.

Denver, CO



Soaring World Champ Skip Miller holds his Buted 2-Meter design which placed at Denver Regional; he won third in Unlimited and, within a few days won another position on the United States WC team.



Ray Marvin captured first place in Scale at Denver with his Glasflugal 604. Busy year as administrator for RC Soaring Team selection program.

Ottawa, CAN



Ken Shepherd displays Diamant that took first in Scale at Ottawa, Can.

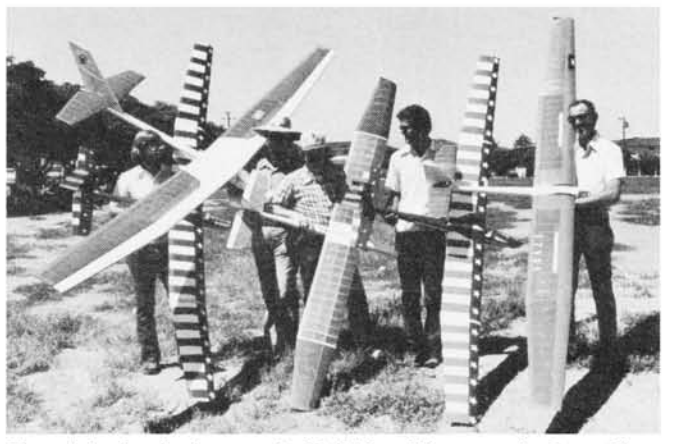


Jack Nunn launches Aquila on way to first in Standard class at Ottawa.

Santa Clara, CA



Ralph Renna's Soarcraft Diamant being judged in Standoff Scale at Santa Clara—won first place.



Five of the six who have reached LSF Level V were at the Santa Clara Regional, L to R: Marvin Qualls, John Baxter, Fred Weaver, John Newman, Neil Nolte. Patriotic color theme on two of the ships looks great.

tor with an alarm for his airborne pack, and it was considered the best technical idea of the meet.

Orlando, Florida, which claims Disney World and Stan Pfof, had the latter claim a first in Two-Meter, and seconds in Unlimited and Scale. John Gunsallus won Unlimited with a bird so thin in width it appears to be two-dimensional. Glen Musiuski CDed.

Frank Deis, of Huntsville, Alabama led the Rocket City boys in hosting a fast and smooth contest, and Clark Fitch got even with son Jim for what the latter did to dad at the AMA Nationals. This time it was Clark—first in Unlimited—son James third. Chet Tuthill was second. A Yankee, Dick Renskers from Indiana, won Standard.

Colorado saw the home town boys sweep Unlimited. Herb Smith, Bob Domer, and Skip Miller, performed that act while Larry Bishop of Kansas won Two-Meter. Anthony Kay, of Colorado, won Standard and CD Ray Marvin won Scale.

Probably the contest that can lay claim to the best flying site but the worst weather is Milwaukee. The site was the Simplicity Garden Equipment proving grounds—acres and acres of closely clipped grass. The weather—fog. Only four rounds were flown and few fliers got to maximum launch height. Those that didn't played touch-and-go with low cloud bases when the wind blew a hole in the fog.

On Sunday, round five and the contest was called as eventual winner in Two-Meter—Chuck Frailing lost his Soar Birdi in the soup. The weather worsened and Frailing's plane wasn't found. Jack Hiner won Unlimited and Scale. Greg Seydel and the Suds City boys can take credit for negotiating for one of the finest flying fields ever.

Oddly enough Palm Springs, California was the only site that had no Scale entries. Gregg Auman Sr. and Jr. had a good act though. Senior won Unlimited while Junior won his event. And Chuck Berman and his gang won the "high temperature of all the meets" award—105

degrees!

And that briefly is the way it was August 26th and 27th—615 entries—must have been enough MonoKote to cover Picayune, Mississippi.... Two day contests don't allow all to attend that could attend.... A special thanks to the contest directors that gave so much of their time so that others could qualify.... Highest number of Scale entries was 11—from Pennsylvania.... Entries in Unlimited and Standard were near the 200 mark—each.... Even though scale is of the Stand-Off category, workmanship in general seems to be up.

The LSF front office also announced the top ten of 1978 from the NSS excellence awards program will be eligible for the "biggie" in 1979. A few more surprises with regards to the championship event are in store and the official list of qualifiers will come from LSF Headquarters. Dates will also be announced. Whenever—it will be a meeting of some of the finest soaring talent ever.

Port Washington, WI



Stan Watson and his big Unlimited class original managed a third place at Port Washington.

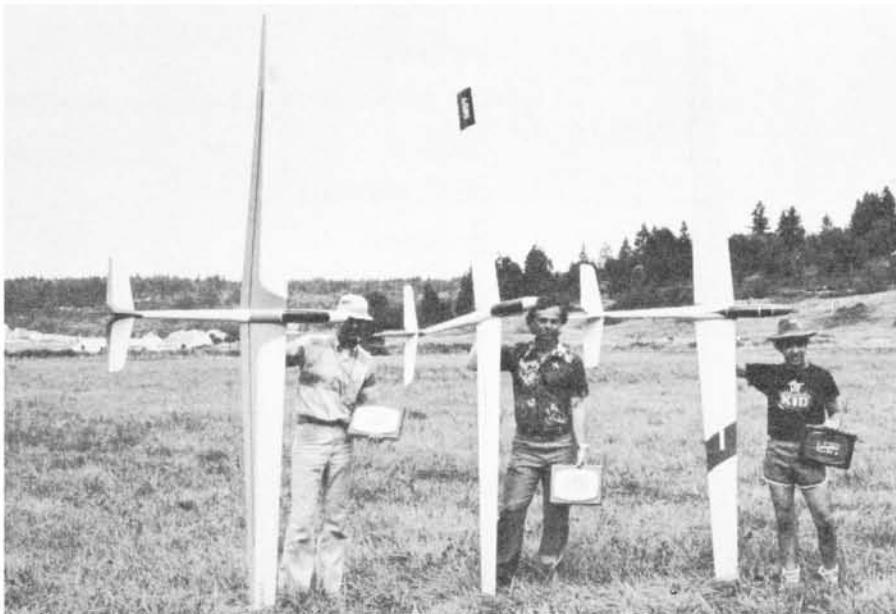


Cecil Haga's Shuttle 2-Meter design was popular at Port Washington. These three are in the hands of, L to R: Jack Rakusan, Keith Finkenbiner (2), and Jeff Borowski (3).

Redmond, WA



Nemesis of sailplaners—the tangled winch line. This scene from the Redmond Regional. They were not alone at it either, we hear.



Unlimited class winners at Redmond, L to R: Dave Johnson (2), Bob Dodgson (1), and Carl Blake (3). All three were flying the Maestro sailplane.