

Results of the 2025 Dual-clubs Free Flight Bonanza A National Cup Event

November 7th, 8th & 9th 2025 LOST HILLS, CA

*Don Bartick, San Diego Orbiteers, Contest Director
Doss Porter., Fresno GMC Contest Official*

The Dual-Club Free Flight Bonanza is the joint annuals for the San Diego Orbiteers and Fresno Gas Model Clubs. This was the 66th and 85th annuals respectively for the clubs. Having dual club participation in waning attendance, significantly reduces the overhead cost to put on a successful event. It has worked well over the past 22 years. This is the 5th year sharing the field with the Patterson FAI contest. It worked well last year and it again worked well this year. Even better.

I arrived on the Lost Hills field Thursday without Arline. She is dealing with some medical issues and didn't want to be far from her doctors. Consequently, the camera duties that she handles and that everyone appreciates was left in my hands to do what I could. Brian VanNess had set up the location on the field for the Patterson FAI contest. It was at the far Northeast end of the field to give sufficient distance to the orchard that is Southwest and the sheep ranch further West. After a brief discussion with him, it was agreed the Dual-clubs contest would be located in line with the Patterson on the West end. That way we wouldn't be interfering with each other's flight path. The weather forecast for the weekend was cool and calm winds. Turned out to be another great 3 days of FF contest weather. Cold in the morning and warming up to the mid 70's, Wind was fairly consistent from 4 to 8 mph. Very flyable, but did require some long chases. Thermals were light. You really had to pick air. Very competitive conditions.

This was our 3rd year of having a 3-day event. We created a schedule that allowed the majority of the events to be flown any day, but if you were clean (only maxes) you could carry over to the next day(s) There were a few scheduled events; such as, Mass launches and Vintage FAI and Vintage Wakefield. The scheduled Friday noontime 1-hour break for lunch and the now famous Ice Cream Social during the break. This event continues to be a favorite. Leftover ice cream and condiments are giving to the local Lost Hills Fire Department. The tradition also lived on for the very well attended Saturday night Food Fest. Both special events are open to the Patterson contest group courtesy of the Dual-clubs.

Overall participation was 31 Senior/Open and 1 Junior this year. This group flew 97 events. We had contestants outside of California that came from Oregon, Utah, Colorado, Nevada and Arizona. Always good to see some new faces. This is encouraging. The hobby still has life. Unfortunately, the core group that make it to contests is around 40 or less.

Special thanks to Fresno GMC Doss Porter for officiating the Nostalgia and Old-Time events. Another special thanks to Orbiteers Linda Piazzzi, Fresno GMC Gail Porter and Nancy Day, who spent a great deal of time at the CD table recording times and helping with the Ice Cream Social and Food Fest. This gave me an opportunity to participate in the competition. Last but not least, thank you Fresno GMC David Martin for manning the grill and SCIF Dan Heinrich who provided tables for the Food Fest. I can't express more gratitude for their help.

Highlight of the contest: The most contested events this year was C/D Gas and Vintage FAI Power. Both with 7. The Gold in C/D Gas was split between Guy Menanno and Randy Secor with each having a total of 2160 seconds. They chose not to fly a tie breaker. The Gold in Vintage FAI Power went to Bruce Hannah with a total of 1574 seconds, but Guy Mennano was right on his heels with 1489 seconds.

Until next year; *Don Bartick, CD - Ramona, CA: dbartick@4-warddesign.com*

For the record

Place	Name	Seconds						
P-30 MASS LAUNCH (5)			P-30 (5)			P-30 Jr (1)		
1	Glen Grell	300	1	Ates Gurcan	660	1	Tristan Mayer	352
2	Bruce Hannah	239	2	Glen Grell	631			
3	Ates Gurcan	145	3	Doug Mayer	326			
½ A Gas (1)			A Gas (5)			B Gas (4)		
1	Ron Garnas	398	1	Jerry Hull	811	1	Robert Donnelly	1075
			2	Robert Donnelly	720	2	Jerry Hull	715
			2	Guy Menanno	448	3	Guy Menanno	678
C/D Gas (7)			Catapult Glider (2)			Hand Launch Glider (2)		
1	Guy Menanno	2160	1	Doug Mayer	270	1	Tristan Mayer	306
1	Randy Secor	2160	2	Jon James	242	2	Doug Mayer	218
3	Jeff Carman	830						
Vintage FAI Power (6)			Vintage FAI Wakefield (4)			E-36(4)		
1	Bruce Hannah	1574	1	Ates Gurcan	900	1	Lynn Edmondson	600
2	Guy Menanno	1545	2	Bill Swift	976	2	Jack Murphy	532
3	Ed Decker	1469	3	Glen Grell	827	3	Guy Menanno	235
A/B Electric (4)			Night Gas (3)			Mulvihill (2)		
1	Jack Murphy	1116	1	Todd Reynolds	540	1	Bill Swift	720
2	Guy Menanno	480	2	Jeff Caran	526	2	Glen Grell	633
3	Lynn Edmondson	360	3	Bruce Hannah	445			
Dawn Mulvihill (1)			½ A Golden Age (3)			½ A Nostalgia (1)		
1	Glen Grell	835	1	Randy Secor	635	1	Nat Seavy	218
			2	Robert Edmondson	487			
			3	Bruce Hannah	180			
A Nostalgia (5)			B Nostalgia (5)			C Nostalgia (7)		
1	Bruce Hannah	1620	1	Glenn Schneider	900	1	Justin Martin	1070
2	Randy Secor	1420	1	Bruce Hannah	711	2	Guy Menanno	619
3	Guy Menanno	1362	3	Robert Donnelly	506	3	Todd Reynolds	513
.020 Replica (2)			Sm OT Rubber Stick/Cabin (2)			Lg OT Rubber Stick/Cabin (2)		
1	David Martin	422	1	Bill Swift	544	1	Glen Grell	493
2	Brad Levine	380	2	Brad Levine	131	2	Bill Swift	427
) A/B/C Pylon/Fuselage (2)			Nos Rubber/Wakefield (3)			1/2A Texaco (2)		
1	Jeff Carman	540	1	Glen Grell	780	1	James Kruse	7:44
2	Daniel Heinrich	401	2	Ates Gurcan	494	2	Brad Levine	3:01
			3	Bill Swift	470			
Full Size Texaco (1)			1 Minute Target Time (3)			Classic Towline (1)		

1	Brad LeVine	4:54	1	Brad Levine	269	1	Brad Levine	136
			2	Ates Gurcan	229			
			3	Nat Seavy	202			