

THE SAN DIEGO AEROBATIC CLUB

IAC Chapter 36, the San Diego Hammerheads



Newsletter Editor Michael Church

October, 2016

BORREGO AKROFEST

October 10-15

Gathering Momentum

From 9 AM Monday morning until mid-afternoon Saturday the Borrego box roared with the sounds of mighty pistons and whirling propellers as pilots from the US and Japan completed over 150 aerobatic flights--only breaks for eating and sleeping interfered.

At the start of the week the group was small: four pilots working in a coaching camp. Numbers began to increase toward the end of Wednesday afternoon, and the full complement was in place by end of day, Thursday: 28 pilots in all. Along the way, we collected Contest Director Kevin Elizondo, Registrar Marianne Fox, Assistant Registrar Grace Elizondo, Master of Organi-

zation and Scorer Bill Hill, Starter and Tech Inspector Danny Adams, Volunteer Coordinator Lina Ladyzhenskaya, Tech Inspector Brett Helms, Assistant Starter John Haag, and Chief Judge Michael Church.

Weather

Borrego weather nearly always has at least one trick up its sleeve--hot, cold, windy--usually enough for several paragraphs. This was the exception: six straight days of calm winds and reasonable temperatures--a miracle of meteorological restraint.

The Famed Chapter 36 Breakfast Briefing

With the airport restaurant recently closed, Kevin and Bill Hill put together a very satisfactory alternate

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The beginning: Monday morning sunrise on the Borrego desert

[Akrofest, from P. 1](#)

program: a full breakfast at the Borrego Springs Resort, followed promptly by the contest briefing. There was a glitch. After the briefing, having gathered successfully once at the resort, the group tended to lose cohesion on the two mile trip to the airport: some didn't show up for a full half hour.

The Contest

Once at the field, we took time for the obligatory group photo, then went to work. Our 8 AM start time had already slipped a little, then slipped a little more, and then even more: the first aircraft didn't take off until

just after 9. As always, getting boundary judges in place was a major choke point.

From that point forward, however, it was smooth sailing, with much of the credit going to Danny Adam's calm professionalism on the starting line. Although praise for Danny usually centers on his encyclopedic knowledge of aerobatic maintenance, he can add another feather to his cap: with dozens of contests under his belt he is an ideal starter. We plan to ask him again.

Organization

At Thursday evening's CD-Reg-VC-CJ conference we decided to combine twenty-eight pilots flying in five

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PHOTOS

Unless otherwise noted. all photos by [Craig Rembold](#)



Chris Olmstead, eventual winner of "Highest Scoring Flight School" trophy

Endo and 300UY.
First Place, Unlimited,
First Place (tie), 4 Minute Free





Howard Kirker and his Great Lakes. First Place, Intermediate

A judging line



Layne Lisser and Andrew Slatkin



Andrew Slatkin and the Eagle



Dave Watson. Second place, Advanced



David Cohen's 300L



Tommy Suell and his Eagle

Rory Moore in his Mean Green Machine. Third Place, Unlimited



Nicolaas Vlok departing in 300UY. Third Place, Primary



The new Borrego Valley terminal. All the comforts of home (still no table service, though)





Matt Dunfee, First Place,
Advanced



Susan Bell, Malcolm Pond, and Stephen De La Cruz,
Third Place, Intermediate

Barrett Hines





Scott McDonald, Tommy Suell, and Dave Cohen, Best First Time Sportsman.
The hoverboard wasn't entered.

Kevin Elizondo, hand flying



Nicolaas Vlok, Howard Kirker, and Andrew Slatkin



Michael Church (CJ) and Michael Gold,
First Place Primary

Jim Bourke and Stickers. Second
Place Unlimited, First Place (tie)
4 Minute Free



Layne Lisser, with Kevin
and Grace Elizondo



Nicolaas and Kevin

Layne Lisser



Sunrise Extra at sunset



[Akrofest, from P. 2](#)

categories into two flight groups. After that, pressure was on the Registrar to organize and deliver paperwork to the judging line for all the categories. Marianne Fox is so good at the job she risks permanent assignment. She was ably assisted by Grace Elizondo.

Scoring

The loss of the airport restaurant impacted more than just breakfast: Bill Hill usually runs scoring in airconditioned comfort at a spare table in the dining room, and that option was now closed. Bill figured out an ideal substitute and rented the lobby in the Pilot House across the street from the airport. This meant VC Lina Ladyzhenskaya delivered scoring forms by car--another first.

Throughout, scoring benefited from the assistance of three Borrego high school students: Juan Ramirez, Luis Vilches, and Jose Delgillo. Bill acknowledges computer entry skills far superior to his own.

The Party

Every contest should end with a party. The contest started at the Resort and we chose to end there as well, thanks primarily to arrangements made by Bill (he pretty much does everything). The party started around 6 PM, with food, adult beverages, tomfoolery, general back slapping, and, of course, trophy presentations,

A full list of the contest winners is on [page 12](#). This year's event offered an additional highlight: presentation of awards from the state-wide 2015 California Point Series. For a list of those winners, take a look at the [July Chapter Newsletter](#).

Back to our contest: Endo and Jim Bourke had tied for First place in the 4 Minute Free. This rare result created the obvious problem: a missing trophy. Kevin promptly promised to produce a duplicate in the near future.

However, after discussion, a hacksaw was produced,

Endo and Jim Bourke displaying their 2 Minute Free trophies



and two "2 Minute Free" trophies resulted. A suggestion this measure was adopted because agreement could not be reached on interim custody of the existing trophy is unsupported. However, there is Biblical precedent...

Good Deeds and Just Rewards

Zach Niles did an outstanding job helping with contest cleanup chores. So good he has been asked to serve as contest director for our 2017 contests. I am delighted to report he agreed.



The end: Saturday evening, moonrise over the banquet

Contest Results

DELANO

PRIMARY

Cade Boeger
Brennon York
Loren Margurg

SPORTSMAN

Willian Warburton
Jake Carter
Mike Eggen

INTERMEDIATE

Stephen De La Cruz
Howard Kirker
John De Gennaro

ADVANCED

Michael Hartenstine
A.J. Wilder
Tom Myers

UNLIMITED

Tim Just
Hiroyasu Endo
Yuichi Takagi

4 MINUTE FREE

Yuichi Takagi

BORREGO

PRIMARY

Michael Gold
Ronald Hansen
Nicolaas Vlok

SPORTSMAN

Mike Eggen
Victor Birtalan
Mignon Gery

INTERMEDIATE

Howard Kirker
Zach Niles
Stephen De La Cruz

ADVANCED

Matthew Dunfee
Dave Watson

UNLIMITED

Hiroyasu Endo
Jim Bourke
Rory Moore

4 MINUTE FREE

Hiroyasu Endo and Jim Bourke (tie)

HIGHEST SCORING CHAPTER: Chapter 36

HIGHEST SCORING FLIGHT SCHOOL: Chris
Olmstead

GRASS ROOTS TROPHY: Mike Eggen

BEST FIRST TIME SPORTSMAN: David Cohen

WESTERN US CONTEST SCHEDULE--2016

TEQUILA CUP

Chapter 69 Marana, AZ

Nov 4-Nov 5

