

Flight Report from the 2008 Kudzu Contest in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

My wife and I had an uneventful drive to Goldsboro, NC leaving the cold and rain and finding partly cloudy skies and pleasant temperatures. We had a great visit with Dave and Marie Reese at their home and with Wally and Julie Farrell. We all went out for dinner and then we went to our motel at Fayetteville.

Saturday morning was clear and a little breezy. We went out to the field early to get some test flying in but it was not ideal test flying conditions at that time. At about mid morning the field seemed to become a giant thermal generator with wind changing back and forth in intensity from gentle to moderate and also changing direction from time to time so that you could not search for lost planes all in the same direction. I lost my dimer with a 5 + minute flight into the woods in from the road, and lost the Embryo when it dethermalized into the woods behind the field across the road in the opposite direction. My Golden age Skyfarer wound up in the second row of trees in among the new houses directly across the field and 90 degrees from the direction taken by the other two lost ships, but at least we knew where it was.

The mass launches began with WW1 and I dorked and don't know who won. I didn't have a racer. My wife called on the cell phone to tell me WW2 was being called while we were trying to retrieve the Skyfarer from its nest in the tree and looking for Stew's Racer in the same area. We went back to fly WW2. Stew's Defiant nosed out my old IL-2 and we finished 1 & 2 so it was a good move.

Next up was Modern civilian and in the second to last round my Citabria landed in a tree in the row between the houses and the field and not as far as the Skyfarer. As I was looking the situation over, Dave Mitchell came running over with a pole and said if we could get it down they were going to wait for me. Well we poked and whipped and beat the daylight out of the poor thing and it finally came down. Upon examination we discovered that all the pieces were still attached although there were a lot of holes in the tissue. With a hearty why the hell not, I started to run back. This was cut back to walked as fast as I could, and made it back for the final round. I imagine the holes all over it affected the flight pattern and it kind of rolled off to the left while everyone else went right. It got almost calm as the holey Citabria rode the big part of the thermal to it seemed to me twice as high as the rest. They were directly overhead and as I watched my plane the others landed right around me like snowflakes. A satisfying win.

The last mass launch was a revival of the Navy plane event. Not having anything else to enter and wanting to test fly the Skyshark, I joined in CRP and all. I dorked it with a poor launch and was first out, but when Dave Reese said he had wanted to see it fly, I launched it again upward this time and on the remaining winds it did an impressive climb out and had a best flight ever though it would not have beat the WW2 types in the event. In the morning in the breeze it was underpowered and I switched to a stronger motor. I went from under to over powered. We will get it right sooner or later. Dave Reese won with the Skyraider.

Wally won GHQ Peanut and I got third with the Turbulent.

After the flying was over we went out with Stew and Claude Powell and got the Skyfarer out of the tree slightly disassembled, though it will fly again, but we never found Stew's racer.

The 5+ minute flight on the Puss Moth Dimer and the Skyfarer max into the tree were the third officials in dime and Golden age and got second places.

We stayed another night at Fayetteville and drove home Sunday, back into the cold and rain.

See you at the club meeting or at Wawayanda,
John Houck