The FARM club fall pattern contest took place on 19 September 2020 under brisk and windy conditions. All pilots rose to the occasion and flew well.

Club Class consisted of Ernie Padgett and Dave Rothbart. Ernie flew well and is considered the club class master, having run a recent club class fun fly earlier in the month to prepare pilots for the competition. It was fun to watch the straight flight out, procedure turn and straight flight back. Several pilots said it brought back memories of the '70s and '80s novice and pre-novice events during pre-turnaround days. Dave (a.k.a. chief team FARM Club pattern coach) showed his expertise and skill with perfect wind correction on each pass and captured first place in the event. We had several new pilots that visited during the contest and tested out the sequence on their trainer and sport planes during the lunch break. I think we'll have some additional local flyers to add to pattern competitions in the future!

In Intermediate, Les Broaddus and Don Click battled it out for the trophy. I think the wind picked up in the Intermediate round, making flight conditions most challenging. The stall turns in particular were the true test, given the 15-20 mph crosswind component.

Advanced class was very close between contestants- Nic reported less than "14" points between Don Manson and Ken Bassett. Each had technical and environmental factors contributing to the outcome of each round. Ken demonstrated some really strong spin entries which made a huge difference due to K factor. Don Manson had some high scoring maneuvers during mid-round when the wind calmed down for his flight. When the dust settled, Ken showed that his preparation and application of coaching throughout the year paid off, coming away with the win.

In Masters and FAI, Braxton Dudley and Don Szczur flew alternating rounds respectively, as scored by the Advanced pilots. Feedback from the coaches and judges will be applied to Don for the upcoming Team Trials in Muncie, Indiana later in September.



We want to welcome Bill Holsten who recently moved to the area and will be spending much more time at the FARM in the future preparing his Allure Biplane for competition. Bill had some of his plane components delivered from his home in NC, arriving the morning of the contest and although not able to compete, was able to get everything up and operational with a couple of flights by the end of the day.

Many thanks to the workers who helped make the event possible, and especially to the Contest Director, Nic Burhans, for efficiently executing the contest and scoring functions to complete all rounds for the contest.

Don Szczur

Pictures:

Picture 1- Flight line shot, FARM Club pattern contest.

Picture 2- Les makes a difficult cross wind approach with his Pegasus- in 15 mph cross winds!

Picture 3- Les makes it safely on the ground for a successful landing.

Picture 4- Ernie awaiting the next round of Club-Class

Picture 5- Contest Director, Nic Burhans, at the scoring and CD headquarters table.

Picture 6- Some of the pilots with their planes-- Large turnout of Extreme Composites/ CK Aero



aircraft- 5 in all.



