

## The 2011 SC-2 Circuit

As of the time of this writing, it is towards the end of April, and our SC-2 circuit for 2011 is underway with two contest events already in the books. It actually should be three events, but the March event at SWSA and hosted by the Downey Soarheads got rained out. Let's take a look at our first two events.

2011 started out early in February with the Silent Wings Soaring Assn., in Fish Canyon. The weather this season has been notoriously wet and windy compared to the norm, and this played into the event with spotty lift conditions and shifting wind directions. It appears that the lighter, RES type models did better in the spotty lift than the big moldy birds, as half of the top 10 positions were taken by RES models, including second through fourth. Take into consideration that your common RES bird is harder to land than a full-house F3J bird, as the RES model has no discreet roll control.

Taking the top spot overall and in the Expert Class was Steve Garland of the ISS and flying a Pike Perfect. Only 1.4 points behind was Larry Jolly, followed by Tony Brooks and Mike Reagan, all with RES planes. Larry eeked out a First Place RES win by less than 2 points over Tony, and this is the raw point tally; not the normalized point tally. Taking the top spot in the Intermediate Class was Henry Arance, followed by Craig Townsend and Dennis Barnes. In the Sportsman class, we have Major Anderson winning the class, trailed by Ralph Chamberlain and Chico Romero. Some very good pilots got caught by the treacherous sink conditions and that put a damper on their scores. For them, it was not a good way to start the season.

Moving into April, the Victor Valley RC club hosted their second SC-2 event, with a new layout, large enough to host a man-on-man event this summer. For those of you who have not seen this field, it is gigantic when you consider the space that is barren of trees, buildings, poles or other things that jump out to bite a plane. Victorville is also notorious for having loads of wind passing through as it makes for the valley of the Inland Empire through the Cajon Pass. At this field, you are well advised to fly early, because flying late might be very hazardous!

This year, the weather played into the flying once again, as a cooling trend was present. That normally means the thermal activity will be sparse, with a heaping helping of sink. Well, the first round was only 6-minutes and most everyone managed to accomplish this round. Those few who didn't make it were only looking at the start of things to come for the rest of the field. Round two was a longer 10-minute round. Ten pilots out of the 36 entries fell from the sky short of time, caught in the strong sink cycles. The final round was an 8 minute round and another 6 pilots came in early, including early leader, Manny Gomez. There was also a couple of mid-air collisions, one of which caused significant damage to Ed Stewart's Xplorer 4.0.

As for the scores, it appears the moldy birds took back the top spots, as top six places were all open class models, and the scores between them was only a mere 20 points. Despite the mid-air collision, Ed Stewart took the win overall and in Expert Class. Within only 2.9 points behind was Ali Khani and Mike Lee for second and third. Talk about tight scores. Leading the way in RES was Chico Romero, who basically came from out of nowhere to take the class. Edgar Vera was Second and Robert Cavazos captured Third place.

The Intermediate class saw a Junior take the win. Matt Garland was a top contender in the Sportsman Class last season, and now looks to be a serious threat in his new class in 2011. Another serious contender named Dan Borer was close behind in Second and third place found Henry Arance holding on.

With two contests in the books, we have another 7 events for the year to go. But already, the points championship race is on. Defending champ, Mike Lee currently has the lead with Steve Garland, Edgar Vera, Mike Reagan and Ali Khani being your top five. The club title race shows SWSA leading the points, with ISS in second and SULA in third. It's only the second event, and so there is a lot of time to make up points and jump into the race. Don't forget that the points championship drops out the worst two scores you have if we run 7 or more events. So, even if you totally bomb one event, you can drop it and do better in the next one.

Coming up in June, the man-on-man events will start, with SULA having a 2-day event. This is truly an exciting format and one that matches skills of the pilots in the same weather conditions. We hope to have you all there! This is YOUR circuit, and if you have photos to share, information we can use, or just comments on things we can improve on, let us know. We do it for you, because without you, we have no SC-2!

See you at the field!  
Mike Lee  
SC-2 Secretary