

Mile Hi R/C Combat Squadron January 4, 2003 Combat Report

January 4, 2003 was a cool windy January afternoon for combat. Conditions were tolerable, but not too favorable. The winds picked up just about the time we were ready to start combat. When we were finished with four rounds of combat, the wind died down and it was almost pleasant out. The wind was measured at one point to be 17 -18 with gusts in the 25+ range. It was blowing straight out of the north; right into our faces so it kept blowing the fur ball toward us. We had three line violations today, caused by the wind.

Sorry I don't have any pictures for you. Today was the first of the Mile Hi R/C Top Gun 2003 qualifying events. Seven pilots weathered the wind and cold for a fun day of combat. Ely Corliss, John Corliss, Randy Hodges came up from Colorado Springs again, John Jaugilas, George Kerr, Tom Neff and his son Brian Neff came from Airpark Elite.

We had some frequency conflicts, and the Corliss family was sharing one plane, so we had heats of 4 and 3. The low number in the heats made for some interesting action and a lot of pursuit flying. Round one saw the most action. Brian midaired with Randy early in the round and ended up with Randy's streamer caught on the wing for the rest of the round. Both planes continued the sortie. Brian continued to be on a tear in heat one round one and ended up with three cuts while saving his own streamer from any attackers. Great flying Brian.

In round 3 heat two, there were just two planes, Tom's Skull Bandit, and Ely's FNS. Ely was playing keep away and Tom was constantly on attack. Just when it looked like Tom had the streamer; Ely would pull one of his wild FNS maneuvers and narrowly avoid losing his streamer. At one point I yelled at Ely to do a stall turn and come straight back down on the Bandit. Ely yelled back "what is that?" I said "that is what you have been doing all afternoon to avoid getting your streamer clipped." When Tom was closing in, Ely would point the nose of the FNS straight up in the air, The wind would catch it, flop it over in a waterfall stall turn and Ely would escape. More than once Ely came close to clipping his own streamer with his up and down maneuvers. Great job flying Ely and Tom. A very entertaining match to watch.

For round four, Brian flew the backup Flat Bat, so both he and Tom could fly at the same time. It was all up and see who can last the longest. The bandit does not have much on the Flat Bat. Tom ended up getting cut twice in the round, once by Brian, and once by JJ. Brian likes to mix it up on the deck, so after he clipped his dad's streamer; Tom was chasing him down low to seek revenge. Brian again bested his dad and did not give up his streamer.

Landings in the wind could be pretty tricky. The FNS was incredible! All you had to do was point the nose into the wind and kill the engine. It did not matter if your were 10, 20 or 50 feet above the ground, kill the engine and point it into the wind

and hover it to the ground. Looked more like a slope soaring plane than a powered plane.

All in all it was a good combat day. JJ and his Straight Edge (SE) flying wing are phenomenal. The Bandits flew very well, and the FNS was the most difficult to catch. I think the FNS only lost one streamer all day and it flew twice as many times heats as the others.

Scores for the day look like this:

| Pilot | Ely Corliss | John Corliss | Randy Hodges | John Jaugilas | George Kerr | Tom Neff | Brian Neff |
|-------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|----------|------------|
| Total | 440 | -80 | 440 | 40 | -400 | 720 | 1040 |

Thanks everyone for a fun day of combat at Mile Hi R/C!

George Kerr