

# BAM *Racing Update*

CLUB 40 Pylon Racing

June 9, 2010

Volume 1, Issue 1

## BAM Reaches Racing Milestone

With BAM's first contest race under its belt, we can say with great excitement that it was a successful and fun event. And anticipation is high for the next race on June 26, 2010. We are hopeful to have the same turnout and success.

All in all, everything went smoothly and according to plan. Although the weather remained a constant uncertainty in the days prior to the race, we lucked out and Saturday ended up being a very decent day with fairly moderate wind.

After initial preparation, all entered airplanes underwent a technical inspection. We kept it somewhat loose this time and just checked airplane models, engine types, and each plane's dry weight. Everybody easily passed the inspection with some variation in weight, but only by a few ounces. The Sky Raider II was the airplane of choice for the majority of pilots. Once inspections concluded, pilots were given about 30 minutes for practice flights to perform last-minute fine tuning and to allow visiting pilots to get familiar with Popp's Field and BAM's course setup.



*Left to right: Ron Grigsby, Bernie Brader, Don Clark, Wayne Wahrmund, Waldemar Frank, Rick Burgess, Bruce Burgess, Darrell Loveland, Marc Winz, Tony Bass.*

A total of ten pilots registered for the event, including visiting club members from La Pine (Bernie Brader & Ron Grigsby), Eugene (Wayne Wahrmund), and, yes, even as far as from Washington State (Marc Winz).

Around 10:00 a.m., final racing preparation concluded with a flight crew and ground personnel orientation as well as a safety briefing.

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*Pilots prepare for the race.*



*Pre-race orientation and safety briefing.*



*Pre-race joking: Tom Schramm tests his "hard hat"—Steve Younger approves.*



*Pilots and Callers get ready for the first heat.*

BAM's Tom Schramm and Steve Younger volunteered as the Cut Judges. Ron Fox did a tremendous job as our Starter. Several volunteer helpers served as Callers as needed, enabling a smooth and fairly quick transition between heats. Likewise, several spectators who either accompanied visiting pilots or curious BAM members represented a good-sized group of people who made it out to Popp's Field and contributed to a very-well received and enjoyable event.

The predefined heat matrix ensured that pilots rotated lanes and flew against different pilots when possible. We enjoyed several close heats. Actual races included four pilots per heat, with each pilot participating in four heats. Fortunately, nobody lost their airplane despite some hard landings and close encounters during racing. Results were spread, but we had multiple pilots with higher scores including several ties. Some pilots could have scored higher if cut penalties or engine start problems would have not limited their scoring opportunity.

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Another heat prepares for takeoff.



Ron Fox signals the start of a heat.

The final ranking and scores were as follows:

Pos.	Pilot	Club	Score
1.	Bruce Burgess	BAM	14
2./3.	Marc Winz	Flaming Geyser (WA)	13
	Rick Burgess	BAM	13
4./5.	Darrell Loveland	BAM	10
	Don Clark	BAM	10
6.	Bernie Brader	La Pine	7
7.	Waldemar Frank	BAM	6
8.	Wayne Wahrmond	Eugene	5
9./10.	Tony Bass	BAM	3
	Ron Grigsby	La Pine	3

With four heats per pilot and four maximum points per heat, the top possible score for the event was 16 points. Bruce Burgess was the top scorer of the day, receiving 14 points for a very impressive and consistent performance. Both Rick Burgess and Marc Winz followed right behind Bruce with 13 points each.

Marc and Rick flew very clean races and their superb flying added to the excitement of the event. BAM was very appreciative that Marc made it all the way down to Central Oregon.

Wayne Wahrmond represented Oregon's Eugene club, and it was great to have him at Popp's Field. Bernie Brader and Ron Grigsby are well known at Popp's Field and have actively participated in BAM's practice races.

## Lessons Learned and Next Steps

Everybody had a wonderful time and it was great to complete our first Club 40 contest race. The dedication and commitment of the many volunteers over the past several weeks and months has paid off. We can say with pride that Club 40 racing has reached a critical milestone at BAM.

The second contest race, which is scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup>, provides further opportunities for improvement. Particularly the setup of the racing matrix demands a simpler approach and heat setup.

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Moreover, running four-pilot heats on a “narrow” runway could benefit from moving the start/finish line further back so pilots can safely take off and pick up speed before making their initial turn around the first pylon. In addition, the first contest race was a good reminder that a permanent start/finish line with clear lane markings would improve racing operation and eliminate confusion at the start of each heat.

BAM’s pylon racing committee will meet on June 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss these and related issues. The goal is to refine the current practices and use the lessons learned as input for finalizing BAM’s Racing Manual.

Lastly, everybody who has had the opportunity to help or participate as pilot or caller is more than welcome to provide feedback to BAM’s Pylon Racing Committee.

There are many ways to conduct Club 40 racing and we want to make sure that BAM can make pylon racing a safe and fun event for everybody.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact one of the Pylon Racing Committee members (see contact information below). Or stop by at the next club meeting and share your thoughts.

Pylon Committee Members	
Contact	Email
Bruce Burgess	ke6gkc@ykw.com
Rick Burgess	rickb@bendbroadband.com
Tom Brohamer	Tom@BBQnFOOLS.com
Waldemar Frank	waldemar.frank@gmx.net

## Detailed Racing Results

Pos.	Pilot	Heats	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	DQ*	Cuts	Final Score
1.	Bruce Burgess	4	3	-	1	-	-	0	14
2./3.	Marc Winz	4	1	3	-	-	-	0	13
2./3.	Rick Burgess	4	2	1	1	-	-	0	13
4./5.	Darrell Loveland	4	2	2	-	-	1	3	10
4./5.	Don Clark	4	1	2	1	-	-	1	10
6.	Bernie Brader	4	-	2	2	-	1	2	7
7.	Waldemar Frank	4	-	1	1	2	-	1	6
8.	Wayne Wahrmund	4	1	-	1	2	-	2	5
9./10.	Tony Bass	3	-	-	1	2	1	2	3
9./10.	Ron Grigsby	2	-	-	1	1	-	0	3

\* DQ = disqualified