

The Mid-America region

Chapter 1. Held their first contest in several years in Platteville, WI, the Robert L. Heuer Classic. It was able to attract 11 pilots from all around the country. As continues to be the trend, they had to use a grading chief judge in every category to make sure they had enough judges.

Chapter 34 just canceled their annual contest because of the government shutdown and inability to get their waiver in time, and there are no indications that they will have a make-up contest.

Ch 78 has a new contest location in Mason City, IA with an enormous amount of support from the community there, with a few people interested in buying a plane to compete in next year. 21 pilots across every IAC category including 11 Sportsman competitors and 2, 4 minute free's. We had enough judges for every category but think it would be easier to get more new judges if there were only 6 or 9 required assists in advanced/unlimited as long as they were signed off by a judge on either an advanced or unlimited practice flight.

Chapter 88's contest in Bay City, MI also had less people than usual with 10 pilots across 3 categories.

Chapter 134 had a contest of firsts, meaning that every one that competed got a first place trophy. Only one competitor in each, Primary, Sportsman, Intermediate, Unlimited and 4 Minute Free. This contest was particularly unique because of Pilots coming from both coasts to compete.

My biggest take away is that there are plenty of contests, but not enough pilots to warrant the number of contests. While I would rather see the sport grow to the point of needing this many contests, I feel like we may be at an impasse where we will need to see a few chapters combining forces to reduce the total number of contests, but making the contests that we have bigger and better.