

NWM Series Announcement

(4feb2021)

Hi everyone,

well, here we are, back again! Notwithstanding the fact that last year's schedule got wiped out almost completely, and we are far from "out of the woods" yet on this pandemic, on either side of the border, we are planning as if, by the time the flying season opens up here in the North East, everything will be at some semblance of whatever is going to become our new 'normal'. With that in mind, here is the schedule for the 2021 National Warplane Museum Series of model aircraft contests at the museum airfield in Geneseo, NY, sponsored by the Western NY FF Society:-

Spring Opener. May 14-16

Empire State Free Flight Championship (ESFFC). AMA, NFFS, SAM and FAC, 42 events in total. June 11-13 Contest director Ruth Ann Bane, 585-765-9363, windwhip47@aol.com

In July there is the USOC NATS at Muncie, the "Greatest Show on Turf" (NWM airshow) in Geneseo, and the FAC NATS (or non-NATS) in Geneseo. None of these are WNYFFS-sponsored events, but they keep some of us busy in July.

The Pirates' Challenge. FAC events, 23 in total. August 20-22. Contact: Mark Rzacca, wnffs@gmail.com

The Great Grape Gathering (GGG) - co-sponsored with SAM 86. AMA, NFFS, SAM and FAC, 41 events in total. September 10-12, 2021. Contest Director: Lyle Whitford. Contest Manager and contact: Roy E. Smith, 613-389-9887, [aeronut@kos.net](mailto: aeronut@kos.net)

Please plan on attending these well-fought contests - which are great social events as well. And don't forget that the Can-Am Free Flight Trophy can only be won by those who compete at both the ESFFC and the GGG, so come to both and (just like with voting) fly often. There is a risk that this trophy could be an "Americans only" affair this year, if the border still isn't open in June. Of course, if Dave Pishnery does his "Energizer Bunny" impression again this year, the rest of us won't get a look-in anyway! From the output of his building board that I saw recently, it seems that will be a fair assumption. That's what that trophy was all about in the first place though - we wanted to

encourage people to fly in lots of different events. So, let's get more people with the program - keep the 'gabfest' for the evening shenanigans - and let's get lots of aeroplanes airborne and lots of competition for that trophy.

Event schedules for these contests are attached. I urge everyone to study them carefully so as to understand the events that will be offered and any specific rules or restrictions that apply. Copies will not be available for distribution at the contests, but will be available for study at the HQ - if you want to have a copy of your own at the field please print it before you set out. That said, I will mention a few of the details here that might have changed since 2019.

As usual, there will be no planned contest events at the Spring Opener - it is an opportunity to blow the dust and cobwebs off the 'experienced' models and start trimming the new ones we built over the extended building season that we have all been 'enjoying'. There will also be plenty of opportunity for "chin-wagging", and plenty to "chin-wag" about, after our hiatus.

This year the ESFFC will combine .020 Replica and 1/4A Nostalgia Gas into one event, hitherto these have been run as separate events. The GGG has run these as a combined event for some time. During the discussion over this it was decided that the rules for the combined event that have been used at the GGG should be simplified. We have decided on a 10 second engine run and 2 minute maxes for all flights, and for both styles of model, in this event - at both contests.

The GGG was to have celebrated its 50th Anniversary (Quinquagenary) in 2020. On the premiss that we are just going to ignore that 2020 ever happened, we have decided to redefine 2021 as the Quinquagenary Edition of the GGG - it is the fiftieth time of holding the contest, even if it isn't the fiftieth year. We will be giving out the mementos in 2021 that we planned for 2020 - they have already been engraved with the year 2020 however, so the lucky first 30 entrants will receive a highly valuable forged stainless steel modelling knife handle that will be a treasured talking point on their workbenches for years to come - as well as being their 'go to' knives. Its a bit like the 2020 Olympics - they will be held in 2021 (they hope) but the medals will say 2020. These knives are made by Swann-Morton in Sheffield, England, a highly reputable manufacturer of surgical instruments who have also served craftsmen for most of their very long



existence. Swann-Morton very generously donated them to help us celebrate our Quinquagenary. The blades are similar to X-Acto blades but slightly thicker, so they will handle more rugged work while still being thin enough for fine work and keeping a fine edge. A blade will come with each handle - replacements can be bought online, in three different styles, very reasonably. A pack of 50 blades can be obtained for ~Cdn\$25 but be careful - S-M also make scalpel blades and handles, you will want the craft knife blades - they are product #'s 1241, 1242, and 1243. Smaller packs are available, but the price per blade goes up, of course. Some have claimed that the groove at the front of the handle is for blood to escape when you nick yourself - I assure you that it is to allow the jaws to be pinched in by the thumbscrew to clamp the blade (but I suppose it could serve a secondary purpose). These handles do have the great advantage, besides having a great 'feel' in the hand, and high quality, that they will not roll off your bench and pin your foot to the floor. I think a little wax on the threads and the face of the thumb-nut ensures the tightest grip on the blade - especially important for the 'hooked' style of blade.

I also have a scalpel type handle. This was given to me many years ago by my predecessor at the GGG - Jim Anderson - and thus is highly treasured. It is a very nice tool for extra fine work, cutting tissue, etc., but the blades do tend to snap suddenly if you put a little too much pressure on them, and the pieces can fly away at great speed. Safety glasses definitely recommended if you are tempted to obtain that style as well. The scalpel blades do not fit the craft handle.

Also at the GGG we will be holding a mass launch of Blue Ridge Specials in memory of Bob Langelius. We would have done this last year, had it been

possible. You received plans for the BRS in the 2020 package - if you need another copy please let me know. The mass launch will not be a competitive event - it will be a memorial to Bob as we watch a flock of these little aeroplanes, that he was instrumental in producing, fly simultaneously. {Does anybody know the collective noun for model aeroplanes? I know that it is a 'parliament' of rooks, a 'wisdom' of owls, and a 'murder' of crows, could it be a 'bench' of model aeroplanes? Or, how about a 'squad'? Maybe a 'buzzing' or a 'flutter'! Perhaps its a 'scream' of power models, a 'float' of gliders, a 'roar' of RC models, a 'buzzing' of electric models, and a 'flutter' of FAC models. I am puzzled by the 'parliament' of rooks - I wasn't aware that those particular birds were full of hot air.}

As always - please make sure that you mark these contests on your calendar and make your plans to attend. For those who haven't attended before - these are always great social occasions in the evenings as well as satisfying contests. The ESFFC and the GGG are AMA-sanctioned and National Cup-eligible contests. The FAC components at all three contests count towards Kanones, in the usual way.

Lastly, this would be a good time for each of you to let me know your intentions with respect to sponsoring events at the GGG. Our prizes of wine do not come out of the entry fees, they come from the generosity of sponsors - "just like you" (as they say on public TV). I have not simply transferred the offers of sponsorship from last year as I did not think that it would be fair to assume anything. The sooner you let me know, the less acid-controlling medication I have to take.

Thermals to all. See you downwind (I hope).

Roy