

Ten WMAA member pilots registered to race, a number of other club members and spectators gathered at Dinneen Field on the morning of Saturday October 3, 2026 for the club pylon races. The weather conditions were cool, with clear sky and strong wind out of the east. Three heats of eight lap races were flown by the electric Eflight T28 Trojan planes and the Club Pylon Racer Class (AMA Sport Quickee 500 class like planes; nitro fueled .40 ci engine) ran three heats for 10 laps. The races were run from a standing start over the two pylon (600' spacing) racecourse. The pylon lights (pass and cut with horn) were set up and pylon judges were used.

It was good to see Stan Thornton, Bernie Kruse, Brian Gafford, Bob Schriever and Chad Rawdon as newer pilots try pylon racing in the T28 class. Several close races occurred, and unfortunately, in the first heat race, Brian and Bob had a spectacular nose to nose mid air collision at the west pylon that destroyed both planes. Chad won all three of his heat races for the class win.

In the nitro class, unfortunately, Larry clipped a tree limb near the east pylon in first lap of the first heat race and lost his plane. Brian pulled too tight at the east pylon during the third heat race and lost his plane. Mike was not able to keep the carburetor in place on his plane and was not able to complete a race. Jeff and Lou had a good fast first heat race with 5 lead changes during it. Kurt and Lou finished with 9 points after three heat races and Kurt won the runoff.

The T28 Racer results are as follows:

- 1 st place Chad Rowdon 9 pts
- 2nd place Bernie Kruse 8 pts
- 3rd place Marcelo Molina 6 pts
- 4 th place Stan Thornton 6 pts
- 5thplace Dave Dumond 4pts
- 6thplace Brian Gafford 3pts
- 7 th place Bob Schriever 2pts

The Club Pylon Racer results are as follows:

- 1 st place Kurt Koelling 9 pts
- 2nd place Louis Matustik 9 pts
- 3rd place Marcelo Molina 7 pts

4 th place Bernie Kruse 6 pts

5 th place Jeff Shapiro 5 pts

6thplace Brian Gafford 5 pts

7 th place Mike Barbee 0pts

8 th place Larry Mayo 0pts

Thanks to all of the club members who attended for helping out with set up and running this event including Jeff, Rick, Don, Dave and Jim. Thanks to Jeff for making replacement pass/cut switches.

Thanks to Mike Lacey for flagging the nitro class. Thanks to Dave Dumond for bringing delicious donuts for the morning and grilling hot dogs after the races.

Club members are encouraged to participate in the fun and excitement of future pylon races. The next race will be scheduled in the spring time frame. Now is the time to put a racer together and prepare for the next race.

Lou Matustik