



# ***THE NORTHWEST SKYRAIDERS***

A Controline Model Airplane Club – AMA Charter 330

October 12, 2019 REPORT for the 2019 Ringmaster Fly-A-Thon, Puget Sound Area, WA

## **Saturday, October 5th: Tri-Cities, WA - Report from Joe Just**

Note that this is the report from Eastern Washington, but included in the overall NW Report:

Joe Just and Dave Miller dragged out some old Ringmasters and flew for the first time in over a year! Even with 'hangar gremlins' among the dust, they managed to get 14 flights in! This group flew on the 'official' date, about 150 miles east of our primary event.

## **Saturday's results included 2 pilots, 4 Ringmasters and 14 flights.**

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## **Thursday, October 10th: Kent, WA; North Green River Park Soccer Field.**

After 3 site venue 'alternatives' and 'weather' calls, we ended up here, as a 'rain date' and it worked out very well...ultimately! This site was an alternate to an alternate. On the 'official dates', the field was having new irrigation piping installed, so the grass was interrupted with dirt 'stripes', and still under construction. The weather forecast was very 'iffy' as well,.

The first alternate site was our old Auburn Airport field...and we had elected to go for the alternate rain dates. As the schedule approached, the primary field 'construction' was completed to a good degree of usefulness. The general club contingent preferred to fly on a grass field, so it was back to Kent; turned out to be a good choice, with the field nicely backfilled and leveled. The weather was brisk and clear today and with light winds

We had club stalwarts Ben and Bobby Jones, Rod Claus, Steve Holt, Fred Gordon and Al Fernandez. Many brought S-1's, Steve had an S-1, an RM Junior and an RM Flash. Al re-fitted a Ringmaster 150%, built quite a few years ago. He dragged up an old Fox 78, sorta fitted with a muffler and it hauled the 96 oz 'RingMonster' around quite nicely....no one, however, felt comfortable enough to run the beast through 'tricks'!

John Hall, recovering from back surgery, had his custom RM biplane brought to the site and Rod Claus gave it the 'maiden'....and interesting test flight!

## **Thursday's results included 6 pilots, 11 Ringmasters and 36 flights.**

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## **Friday, October 11th: Kent, WA; North Green River Park Soccer Field.**

This was the day of all days! Weather was clear, cool and sunny, with virtually no wind!

We had a clean 9 am start, with setup, layout and several flights completed before noon! Most of the Saturday group of suspects were there, with plus Bob Welch and Luke Olsen. With all being right with the world, enthusiasm was HIGH! A couple of folks, Ben Jones and Fred Gordon, got the 'bit in their teeth' and flew 13 and 14 flights respectively. Al got the RingMonster up on the step and had at least 4 folks take a shot at it. Rod Claus and Bob Welch were enthused enough to

actually loop the big Beast! The Fox 78 was coming on strong with 4.4 second laps and a healthy line pull....and a fine sound! Everyone got going and couldn't stop!

**Saturday's results included 8 pilots, 11 Ringmasters and 65 flights!**

All together, we managed **101 flights with 6 pilots** over the two day session. With the Eastern activity added in, the Great State of Washington **tallied 10 pilots and 115 flights!** The best we've ever done!. We'll see how this looks in the overall activity, once it is all tallied by John Cralley of the Brotherhood of the Ring.

Several of our members were notable by their absence, but we'll get them out next year to up the tally for our group. Back to the shop and building boards and....tight lines...!

(The Event Director was present, but sidelined with a flying hand 'incident' while test running a Rustler/Merco Metamorph 61 on a 13-6 prop....at 9200 rpm! That prop disc is quite transparent on a bright sunny day! The 'only a flesh wound' will recover in time for the next episode!)

Dave Gardner

Event Director