

## Desert Eagles Slow Stick Electric Combat

May 13, 2006

Pilot	Round									Total	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
Elliot Sussman	2	1	Crashed Flying Inverted					X	X		<b>3</b>
Don Brooks	1	0	0	1	1	1	X	X	X	<b>4</b>	
Jim Haldy	0	2	4	Crashed Trying to fly someone else;s plane					X		<b>6</b>
Bliss Wheeler	-	1	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	<b>1</b>	
Rick Jones	-	-	-	0	0	0	X	X	X	<b>0</b>	

Well the first Desert Eagles Slow Stick Combat Challenge is history. Five fearless pilots flew in from 1 to six rounds trying to cut 18 foot, single ply, toilet tissue streamers tied to either a GWS Slow Stick or Slow V aircraft during a 3 minute combat period.

Each round went like this. Hand out score cards to each contestant and their scorer. Give each contestant a new streamer (or let them tie pieces of the old one together if it can be made long enough). Assemble the planes on the field. Announce launch. Watch only half of the streamers unfold completely. Land some planes and adjust the streamers. Re-launch. Announce "Start Combat" and start the timer. Announce 10 second intervals for the last 30 seconds. Call "end Combat". Land and let you pulse return to normal and laugh and carry on about why you cut or got cut or crashed.

In between the "Start Combat" and "End Combat" calls all the FUN happened as summarized by round below.

Round 1: 3 flyers – Jim, Don and Elliot. Jim and Don midair in the first 30 seconds, Both planes appear to fly away but Jim is without his entire streamer. Score 1 cut for Don. Elliot proceeded to beat up on Don (score 2 cuts for Elliot) while Jim tries unsuccessfully to get close to anybody else.

Round 2: 4 flyers – Jim, Don, Elliot, and Bliss. This round is kin of a blur. Elliot scores 1 cut, Bliss scores 1 cut. Jim scores 2 cuts and Don gets cut. All land, 3 safely. Elliot lands early because his cut took Don's entire streamer and leader string immediately wrapped around Elliot's motor shaft between the motor and prop until the motor stopped.

Round 3: 3 flyers – Jim, Don, Elliot and Bliss. This round was a mêlée with four planes circling and looping and zooming in and out of a very small section of the sky. Fortunately, no mid-air occurred. Unfortunately, Jim scored 4 cuts and had streamers hanging the wing, the vertical tail and one wheel at one time. Also unfortunately, Elliot verifies that a Slow V will not fly inverted and chooses to land in a heap out of a 3/8 loop recovery attempt. This breaks his fuselage tube and he is out for the day.

Round 4: 4 Flyers – Jim, Don Bliss and guest Rick Jones. Jim is slow to launch helping to to get going. He finds Don and Bliss waiting about 200 feet up and they pounce. Somewhere in the ensuing blur of twisting and looping aircraft, Jim decides to fly Don's aircraft. Jim wonders why the plane seems to be responding to only about half of his stick inputs and discovers the truth when another scorer inquired why Jim is still looking up like he is flying when his plane crashed west of the runway 30 seconds ago. (I consider it amazing that I could get Don's plane to respond to even half of my control inputs – Jim). Jim is out and Don scores the only cut of the round.

Round 5 and 6: 3 flyers – Don, Bliss, and Rick. These two rounds are poorly reported because I went off to test the giant bubble generating system that I hoped would provide fun-to-bust targets for electrics. Bubbles are not yet ready for prime time. Anyway. Don whupped up of the other scoring 1 cut in each round.

A rousing good time was had by all. Everyone agreed that it looked relatively easy. Limiting the power to only a 2 cell Lipo battery evened the playing field making Jim's completely stock, brushed motor, Slow Stick transparently competitive with the other plane which all had brushless power. Even Barry though it looked like so much fun that he was 71% convinced to get a Slow Stick and give it a try – but only if he could use his Saito 56 for power.

With Slow Sticks available for about \$35 with brushed motor or \$20 for the glider version which has everything but the motor, its pretty reasonable to get started. Slow Stick durability is excellent.

Jim's mid-air with Don only required 4 small pieces of packing tape and Don needed now repairs at all. Jim's "inattentive driving" crash required hand straightening the aluminum stick ahead of the wing, cutting off the first one inch of the aluminum stick where it bent near the motor, less that a quarter stick of hot glue (1.7 cents from Walmart) for the motor mount and stick reinforcement and 11 drops of foam safe CA to fix the 4 inch long tear in the port wind tip.

Come on folks. Dust off the slow stick in the basement or beat feet to the hobby shop and get a new one. Don and I built his in about 2.5 hours on Saturday afternoon.