

April 2 ALES Contest—Report by Chris Staats



Early sprinkles (pre-pilot's meeting) gave way to partly sunny skies for the first ALES Event of 2022.

16 pilots arrived for this event, however due to a pre-contest, unexpected motor start accident, only 15 contestants were able to fly in the event. Please take time to review your own personal motor run safety protocols, to minimize the chance of future accidents such as this one.

We flew six rounds of three flight groups. In Round 1 flight groups were assigned by random selection, with the remaining rounds assigned in order of the pilot's running contest score.

Launch height for the entire day was set to 150 meters. Task times were 3,5,7,9,11, and a 13, flown in that order. The landing task was our usual 5-meter radius, 50-point spot landing, with single point increments. However, landing points were doubled in each round, if the pilot landed prior to the task time.

Throughout the day we saw a mix of great thermals and challenging flying conditions, with the 9-minute round collecting the most victims. Tom Culmsee (A flight group) and John Long (C flight group) were the only two pilots able to reach the 9-minute task time goal, destroying the flight scores of their fellow competitors, in their respective flight groups. This made for a mass shuffle of the flight groups.

By the end of the day everyone other than David Portwood had an enjoyable day. It was a great way to kickoff the 2022 ALES contest season! *(the last two sentences are open to all implications and interpretations)*

Pilot	Score	Pct
Tom Culmsee	6330	100.00%
Martin Baumer	6107	96.48%
Jim Gibson	6022	95.13%
Chris Staats	5981	94.49%
Mike Skeen	5963	94.20%
Richard Van Dijk	5939	93.82%
Dan Fielder	5903	93.25%
Bill Keenan	5890	93.05%
Sherrell Steinhauer	5876	92.83%
Shawn Berkheimer	5815	91.86%
Jason Hood	5526	87.30%
Terry Erickson	5216	82.40%
John Long	4949	78.18%
Tom Fowler	4748	75.01%
Larry Short	3977	62.83%