

District I

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

For me, when I attend AMA specialty events, the nicest thing is meeting and talking with the pilots. Such events often draw pilots from multiple states who represent AMA's most passionate, skilled modelers flying their best model aircraft. The following report was submitted by Mike Bergerson, from Maine, after we met and had a great time at the Rhode Island Soaring Club's F5J event in 2021.

"The Downeast Soaring Club (DSC) of Maine held its third annual Altitude Limited Electric Soaring (ALES) competition in conjunction with the Eastern Soaring League (ESL) the weekend of July 24, 2021. We had pilots travel from four New England states to participate in the event.

"Saturday's competition was blessed with temperatures in the 70s and a clear sky. Pilots found enough lift in a light breeze to complete the 10-minute flight task but it proved challenging as the day progressed. Precision landing scores were plentiful, but the thermals were spotty and at times violent, tossing sailplanes about the sky.

"Mounting a skilled comeback, Jim Rochette, from Maine, found enough buoyant air during the final rounds to move up several spots to claim the third-place (Expert class) Downeast Trophy and ESL award plate. Mike Bergerson, from Maine, placed second, with the top honors going to George Hill, from Connecticut, placing first.

"Sunday had a forecast of rain for the entire day. As the contest director (CD), I arrived at the field early. The forecast proved correct with a bit




The Downeast Soaring Club's ALES competition winners were (L-R) Jim Rochette, third; George Hill, first; and Mike Bergerson, second.

of a drizzle and light rain. Enough pilots decided the light drizzle was acceptable and we completed the necessary three rounds of the contest.

"Sunday's winners featured the same pilots in a different order with Mike Bergerson in first, Jim Rochette finishing second, and George Hill in third place. George had enough points from both days to claim the coveted Weekend Champion DSC Moose Trophy!

"Thank you to Browne Goodwin for managing the scoring operations and Mark Higgins who was co-CD. Congratulations to the winners and kudos to the competitors who traveled long distances to join us for summer thermal chasing!"

Thank you, Mike. I appreciate your event report and would welcome any future reports on events you attend in the great State of Maine. 



Contestants included (L-R) John Marien, from New Hampshire; Chris Schuch, from Massachusetts; Mike Bergerson, from Maine; George Hill, from Connecticut; and Mark Higgins and Jim Rochette, from Maine.



The Downeast Soaring Club's Moose Trophy Awards are for the annual ALES competition in Maine.



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