

Contest Report: International Hand Launch Glider Festival June 7th and 8th 2003 Poway Flight Center ~ San Diego

It was another great year for the International Handlaunch Glider Fest in Poway CA. The contest was particularly challenging this year with overcast conditions through the contest with alternating very light and moderate lift. There was also not as much wind this year resulting in many fewer off field landings. In many ways the extra challenging conditions made for a better contest than in most years since the conditions made achieving the tasks difficult. However as a reflection of the quality of the field you could expect someone to make the tasks in each heat.

Contestants were well represented from around the world coming from as far away as New Zealand and Japan.

Congratulations to Oleg's IHLGF victory and the seemingly impossible feat of beating Joe Wurts. It has only happened twice before in 1996 and 1997 by no other than Daryl Perkins. Oleg is now breathing rare air - that which was formerly restricted to multiple



The new reigning IHLGF Champion: Oleg Golovidov:

ment seemed to be evolutionary. Planform development to get some better performance, larger rudders to gain better launch height and improved construction techniques to allow stronger throws. As always the planes continue to improve from year to year.

A special achievement award was presented to Mark Drela for his contribution to the development of HL planes by making XFOIL available to modelers, his development efforts (many planes flew his airfoils), and his quality and educational posts.

The contest is quite an event. Nothing like seeing 14 pilots on the field in man on man competition. Or watching Oleg and Joe dual it out in the fly offs. Or seeing that Mark Drela not only knows

how to design great airplanes but also knows how to fly them. Or watching Phil Barnes awesome

time World Champions!

The ships flown this year were a mix of aileron planes and polys with the aileron planes in the

throws. Or the gutsy downwind runs. So, if you haven't had a chance to participate, mark your calendars now. It is always the first full weekend in June.

Tom Clarkson
TPG Handlaunch Coordinator
IHLGF Scoring

Mid Flight Prayer Group — Adam Smith (kneeling) Merrill Meyers and Darrick Dalton

majority. From a technical standpoint most of the develop-



The New Zealand Trio: (left to right) Peter Williams, Craig Dawson and Tank

