

New Sawyer Award rules proposal

1 - No need to register. Winners will be based on OLC participants. Pilots can request to opt out. This way we got far more participants than in previous years.

2 - Scoring period: Same as OLC:

The scoring period started October 9th 2007 and ends October 13th 2008. The competition for the following 12 month period begins on the following day and ends on the Monday after the second Sunday the year after, and so on.

3 – The winner does not need to administer the following year. If the rules are simplified as suggested below, I can administer it together with all other awards. This may encourage more participants who are otherwise intimidated by the thought that they will need to administer the award the following year.

4 - The original intention of the award was to "encourages participation and competition in cross country soaring, provides a standard of measurement, and honors the winner". The rules were changed over the years multiple times, lately to adopt olc as the platform for participation and scoring, as it is based on similar philosophy to the Sawyer Award goal. However some old rules were left over which made the formula cumbersome, and makes it impossible to know the ongoing standings without using a spreadsheet. After reviewing the rules I concluded that the following can be removed without hurting the original spirit and intention of the contest, and without significant impact to the results based on recent years results:

- Duration points - has no significance to XC soaring and is in effect counter productive to racing where the shorter duration the better. Since it is usually correlated to distance (the longer the distance the longer the duration) it did not add any significance to the results anyway.
- 25 points per flight - did not add any significance since only XC flights are now counted anyway.
- Field Factor - This was introduced way back when it was believed that it is not possible to fly long distances in the low lands. We are now flying similar distances to the Great Basin (300k-500k) from Hollister, Williams and even Byron.
- Conversion from km to miles and applying CH handicap - By using OLC score the handicap is already factored in.

The pilot factor will remain since it is significant to the spirit and intention of the award to give novice pilots a much better chance to win.

As a result the score changes from:

Old Score =
 $(\text{OLC_distance_km} * \text{pilot_factor} * \text{CH_handicap} / (2 * \text{km_per_sm_conversion}) + \text{duration_hours} * 10) * \text{field_factor} + 25$

To:

New score = OLC Score * pilot factor

Using this formula will have 2 big benefits:

- It will be possible to easily determine the ongoing standings by looking at the region 11 olc standings and multiply the the pilot factor.
- No need to use spreadsheets for calculations.

New distance award rules

Recently there were confusion as of which flights can be submitted for the distance awards and as a result some pilots did not submit potentially winning flights. The reason is the interpretation of the current clause "Cannot be a contest flight (this includes local contests)."

Late last year the following was added per my recommendation: "'OLC" reported flights are allowed." otherwise it would have virtually eliminate almost all long flights. However I still find the clause "this includes local contests" confusing. Does it means that HGC league, VSA races, Tagars etc are excluded? If so, this again will exclude a big portion of flights. Those are not official contests, and their purpose is just to encourage XC flying. There is no much glory associated with them. I propose to completely eliminate the rule which excludes contests (contest flights are typically not as long as non contest flights anyway).

If there is an objection, then I propose to at least change the rule to state:

"Cannot be a regional or national contest flight".

New Traveling Trophy:

Sergio is preparing a new "Traveling" trophy. The idea is for the trophy to travel coast to coast, starting from the west coast. Somewhat similar to the pasco egg concept, except that it will not be limited to region 11 with the intention for it to make it all the way to the east coast. Sergio is preparing the trophy and the rules, and I would like to help him promote it by hosting it on the Pasco web site. Will Pasco be interested in hosting such a trophy on it's web site, with or without taking custodianship of it?