

The Early Years (1950, 1951 and 1952)

The earliest documentation I have been able to find regarding combat being flown at a national level is as an exhibition at the 1950 Plymouth Internats. The International Model Plane Contest or "Internats" was sponsored by Plymouth Motor Company. It was held every year near Detroit, Michigan. It spanned several days every August for several years starting in 1947 through 1953. Each year qualifying contests were held all over the country, sponsored by local Plymouth dealers, with competitors from each of these competitions earning trips to the Internats. Originally there were Junior, Senior and Open age classes, however, starting in 1950 the open class was dropped Plymouth adopting a youth oriented approach. In some events a "Freshman" class was added for the very youngest competitors. In 1951 Combat was added to the schedule of events. The local qualifying contests exposed a generation of young people to Model Aviation. Thousands participated and spectator attendance was in the tens of thousands at these local events. The Internats itself was also a big draw, topping out in 1953, when the event in Detroit attracted 128,000 spectators.

SUMMARY: DEALER SPONSORED LOCAL CONTESTS					
	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Qualifying Contests	58	208	200	176	209
Participating Contestants . . .	6,500	25,000	22,673	20,000	21,573
Spectator Attendance		925,000	1,425,575	1,234,284	1,497,756
Dealers Participating	586	2,272	3,937	2,575	3,509
Dodge		750	1,394	933	1,072
De Soto		741	1,281	974	1,199
Chrysler		781	1,262	668	1,238

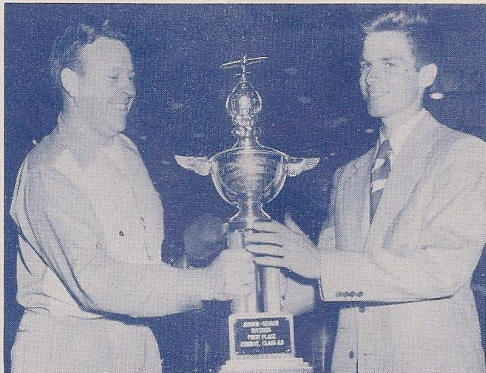
from Plymouth Model Plane News (December 15, 1951)

Several photos documenting combat at the 1950, 1951 and 1952 Internats can be found on the subsequent pages. They are from "Plymouth Model Plane News" the newsletter published to promote Plymouth's model aviation program. You will notice that early combat ships were stunt ships usually, but not always, with landing gear removed. Remember, hard tanks were basically the only option and most stunt ships were relatively small, the iconic "Ringmaster" being a prime example. It wasn't until the mid-1950's that airplanes were specifically designed for combat.



Combat being flown as an exhibition at the 1950 Internats
 Plymouth Model Plane News (May 1, 1951 issue)

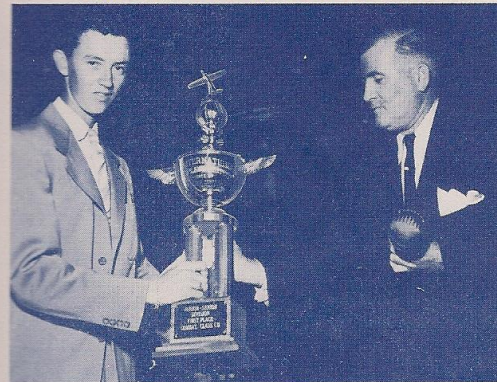
COMBAT, CLASS AB—JUNIOR, SENIOR



Class AB Combat winner, Gerald Pollauf, Toledo, Ohio, accepts first place trophy from Lt. Colonel Albert S. Kelley, Deputy for Operations, 56th Fighter Interceptor Wing, Selfridge Air Force Base.

Name	Town	Total Points
1. POLLAU, Gerald	Toledo, Ohio	517
<i>(Sponsored by Greater Toledo Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
2. BOLESKI, Donald	St. Joseph, Mo.	495
<i>(Sponsored by Plymouth Dealers of St. Joseph)</i>		
3. DAVIES, William	Maplewood, N. J.	494
<i>(Sponsored by Essex County Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
4. TURNER, J. W.	Owensboro, Ky.	487
<i>(Sponsored by Plymouth Dealers of Owensboro)</i>		
5. BRAY, J. G.	Dallas, Texas	479
<i>(Sponsored by Plymouth Dealers of Dallas)</i>		
6. KENNINGTON, R.	Jackson, Miss.	476
<i>(Sponsored by Craig Motors)</i>		
7. RICHARDSON, D. D.	Beaumont, Texas	475
<i>(Sponsored by Jefferson County Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
8. COHEN, Ray	Chicago, Ill.	458
<i>(Sponsored by Chicagoland Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
9. STRIBLING, J.	San Lorenzo, Calif.	445
<i>(Sponsored by North California Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
10. SCHOLL, J.	Milwaukee, Wis.	439
<i>(Sponsored by Milwaukee County Plymouth Dealers)</i>		

COMBAT, CLASS CD—JUNIOR, SENIOR

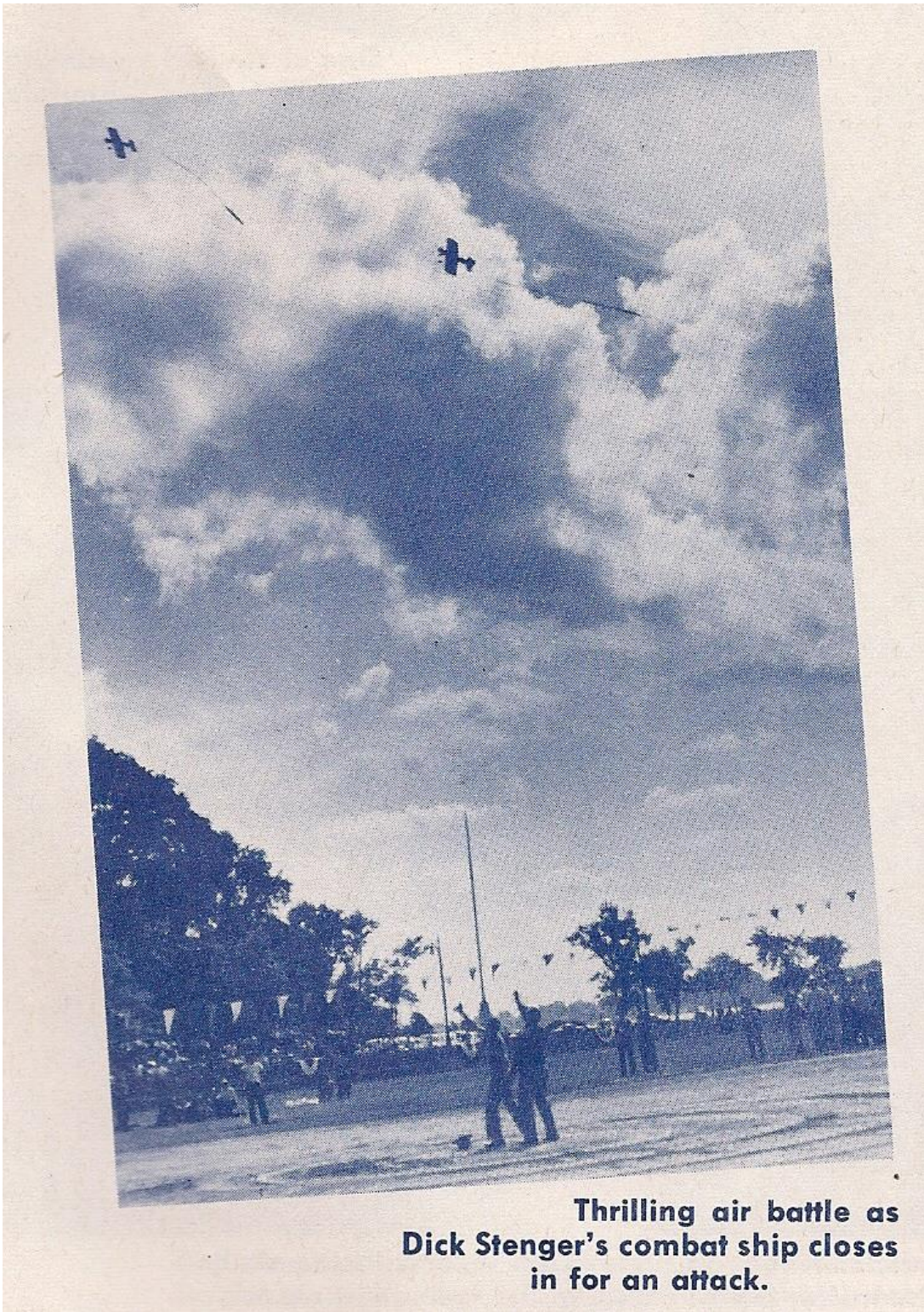


Charles W. Mullin, San Antonio, Texas, receives Combat, Class CD, trophy and congratulations from L. F. Desmond, Director Advertising, Dodge.

Name	Town	Total Points
1. MULLIN, Charles W.	San Antonio, Texas	490
<i>(Sponsored by San Antonio Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
2. CURTIS, Lloyd	St. James, Minn.	484
<i>(Sponsored by Minnesota Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
3. MILLER, Richard J.	Jamestown, N. Y.	471
<i>(Sponsored by Plymouth Dealers of Jamestown)</i>		
4. CALDWELL, Jerry	Rochester, Minn.	464
<i>(Sponsored by Minnesota Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
5. O'HARROW, Richard	Milwaukee, Wis.	463
<i>(Sponsored by Milwaukee County Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
6. CEDOZ, R.	Toledo, Ohio	455
<i>(Sponsored by Greater Toledo Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
7. SCARINZI, Larry	Summit, N. J.	413
<i>(Sponsored by Union County Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
8. GAMBLE, Gene	Marion, Ohio	399
<i>(Sponsored by Larry Rainier Motors)</i>		
9. PRICE, Harold	Hasbrouck, N. J.	389
<i>(Sponsored by Bergen County Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
10. FRESHMAN, J. A.	Berkeley, Calif.	388
<i>(Sponsored by North California Plymouth Dealers)</i>		

Combat results from the 1951 Internats
 Who's that guy that finished 7th in the CD class

Combat 1951 Internats



**Thrilling air battle as
Dick Stenger's combat ship closes
in for an attack.**

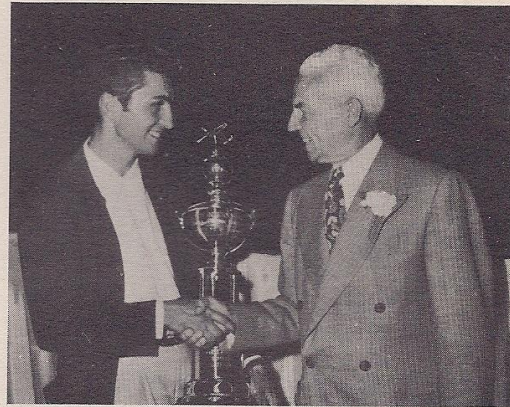
Combat 1952 Internats

JUNIOR



R. W. Nichols, Executive Director, Academy of Model Aeronautics, presents first place trophy to Gerald Bryant, St. Louis, Mo.

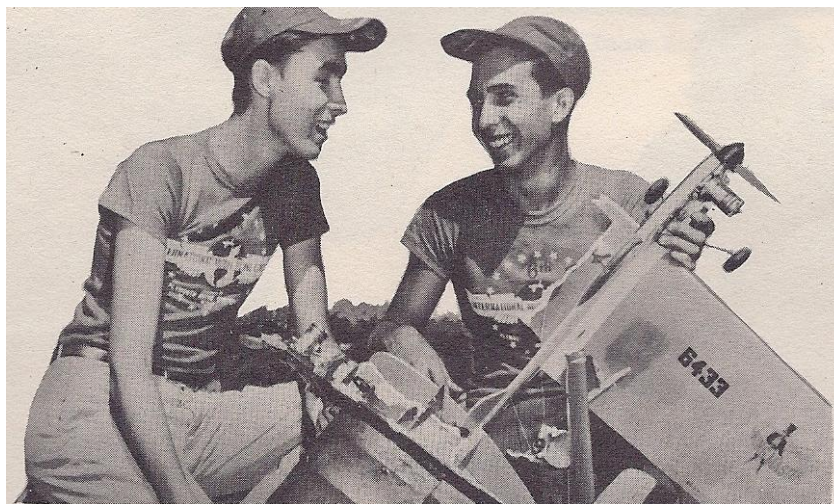
SENIOR



Frank Gross, Compton, Calif., accepts trophy and congratulations from K. H. Bronson, Director of Advertising, DeSoto Division.

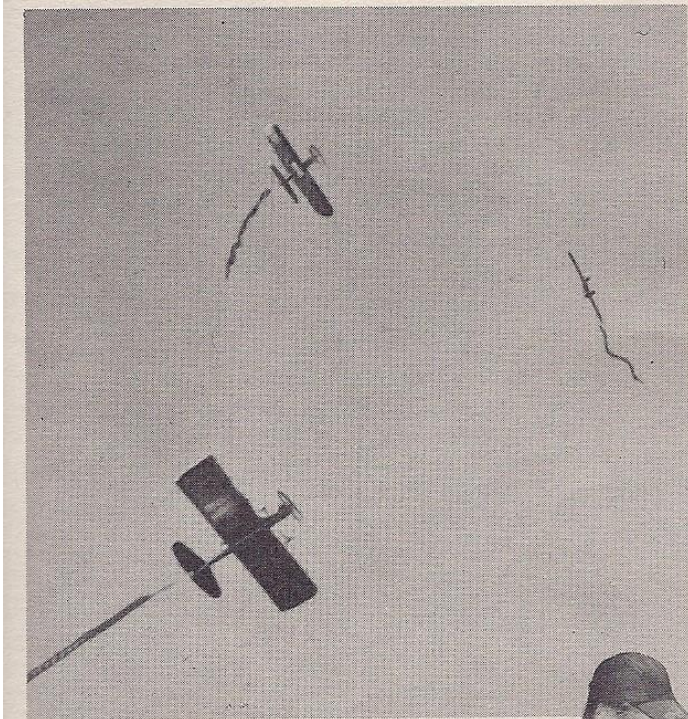
Name	Town	Total Points
1. BRYANT, Gerald D.....	St. Louis, Mo.	573
<i>(Sponsored by Ray Rixman, Inc.)</i>		
2. ANDERER, Gerald J.....	Philadelphia, Pa.	536
<i>(Sponsored by Plymouth Dealers of Philadelphia)</i>		
3. YOUNG, Jim Arthur.....	Griffith, Ind.	493
<i>(Sponsored by Bosak Motor Sales)</i>		
4. STANFORD, Don L.....	St. Louis, Mo.	475
<i>(Self Sponsored)</i>		
5. BAXTER, Robert C.....	San Diego, Calif.	469
<i>(Sponsored by Plymouth Dealers of Southern California)</i>		
6. LACHELT, David E.....	Plantsville, Conn.	465
<i>(Sponsored by Connecticut State Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
7. HEIST, Richard J.....	Ft. Worth, Texas	455
<i>(Sponsored by Fort Worth Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
7. FEDELI, Michael.....	Greenwood, R. I.	455
<i>(Self Sponsored)</i>		
8. MOSBY, Edward L.....	Portageville, Mo.	435
<i>(Sponsored by Dorris Motor Co.)</i>		
9. DAVIS, Robert L, Jr.....	Beckley, W. Va.	414
<i>(Sponsored by Plymouth Dealers of West Virginia)</i>		

Name	Town	Total Points
1. GROSS, Frank E.....	Compton, California	535
<i>(Sponsored by Southern California Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
2. WRIGHT, Marvin O.....	Ft. Worth, Texas	485
<i>(Sponsored by Fort Worth Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
3. ANDERSON, Robert B.....	Mitchell, Ont., Can.	468
<i>(Sponsored by Leeson Motors Limited)</i>		
4. JONAS, Douglas A.....	Tampa, Florida	460
<i>(Self Sponsored)</i>		
4. SUTHERLAND, Wayne L.	Baltimore, Maryland	460
<i>(Sponsored by Plymouth Dealers of Greater Baltimore)</i>		
5. PAAUWE, Wesley D.....	Grandville, Mich.	458
<i>(Self Sponsored)</i>		
6. KONAS, Henry J.....	Chicago, Illinois	455
<i>(Sponsored by Chicagoland Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
6. EBEJER, James G.....	Detroit, Michigan	455
<i>(Sponsored by Greater Detroit Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
6. HICKMAN, Kenneth E.....	Rochester, N. Y.	455
<i>(Sponsored by Rochester Plymouth Dealers)</i>		
7. DAVIES, William.....	Maplewood, N. J.	420
<i>(Sponsored by Essex County Plymouth Dealers)</i>		

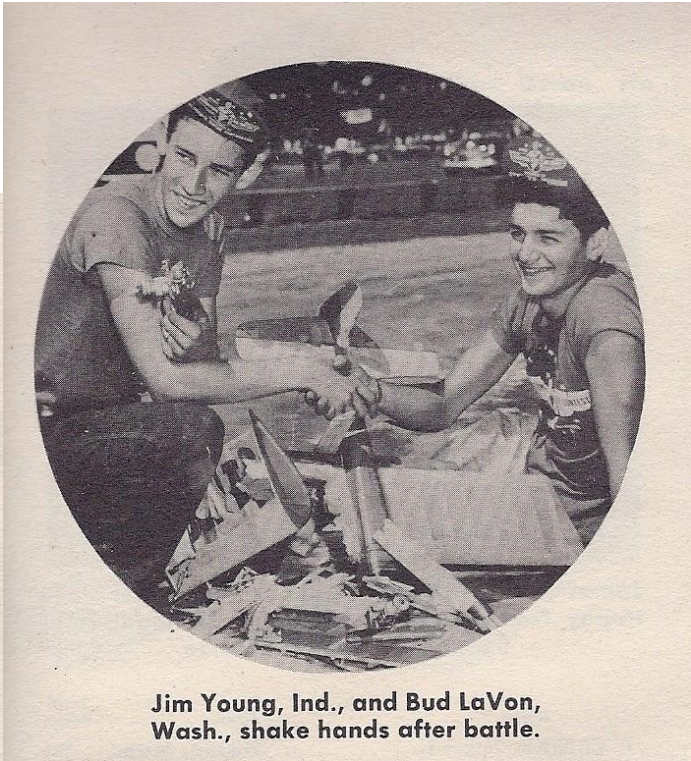


Ronald Nowicki, Detroit and Charles Brown, N. C., compare amount of damage done.

Combat 1952 Internats



Combat held the interest of contestants as well as the crowds.



Jim Young, Ind., and Bud LaVon, Wash., shake hands after battle.



Don Ackerman, Wyoming and Tom O'Rourke, Mass., readying plane for combat.

AMA Nats Combat History

In 1952 Combat was added as an official event at the AMA Nats held that year in Los Alamitos, California. The first national combat champion was Davis Mallory. A list of all the winners through 1970 (the first twenty years) can be found below. The list is compliments of Bob Mears which he obtained from the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

Year	Open Winner	Nat's Location	Airpane	Engine
1952	Davis Mallory, San Bruno, CA	Los Alamitos, CA	Testors Sophomore	Torpedo 32
1953	William Andrews	Willow Grove, PA		
1954	Frank Adams/New Albany, IN	Glenview, IL	own design	K&B 35
1955	Donald Smith/San Bernadino, CA	Los Alamitos, CA	Half Fast	Fox 35
1956	Riley Wooten	Dallas, TX	Quicker	Torpedo 35
1957	Joseph Kastetter/Clifton, NJ	Willow Grove, PA	own design	Fox 35
1958	William Arrowsmith/Rochester, NY	Glenview, IL	T-Square	Johnson 35
1959	Riley Wooten/Lubbock, TX	Los Alamitos, CA	Voodoo, Whatizit	Johnson 35
1960	Bill Carpenter/Winchester, CA	Dallas, TX	Swoop	Johnson 35
1961	James Ribar/Dunellen, NJ	Willow Grove, PA	Explorer	Johnson 35
1962	Riley Wooten/Lubbock, TX	Glenview, IL	Sneeker, Voodoo	Johnson 35CS
1963	Carl Berryman/Altus, OK	Los Alamitos, CA	Big Iron	Johnson 36BB
1964	Robert Lipscomb/Rockford, IL	Dallas, TX	Sneeker	Super Tigre 35
1965	Larry Fulwider/Crawfordsville, IN	Willow Grove, PA	Voodoo	Super Tigre 35
1966	Riley Wooten/Lubbock, TX	Glenview, IL		
1967	Robert Lipscomb	Los Alamitos, CA		
1968	Riley Wooten/Lubbock, TX	Olathe, KS		
1969	Will Rogers	Willow Grove, PA		
1970	Howard Rush	Glenview, IL		

I want to gather information on the gentleman listed above. I want to record what airplanes they flew, what power plants they used and who they competed against etc

I also want to gather info on all the major players who aren't on this list. People like Scarinzi, Netzeband, Hi Johnson, James Mears and all the others who contributed greatly not just with their flying but with the airplanes they designed. If you have information on any of these men please share it with me so I can add this information as additional chapters and or pages to this publication.

Most importantly, no one should be excluded. If you flew control line combat between 1950 and 1970 you are part of the story. With this in mind, I besiege each and every one of you, who flew in those years to contribute a story, photos and or information that can be used in what I hope will be a fairly extensive volume with each of those first twenty years forming a chapter in an on-going collection of information documenting the golden years of our sport. Please attempt to denote the year or approximate year the photos were taken. I will add to each chapter as additional information is received and make the entire work available in .pdf format in addition to publishing a chapter at a time in MACANews.

If you mail me photos and you denote that you want them back I promise to take very good care of them and return them in a timely fashion. If you don't want to part with them, "Staples" offers a scanning service where photos can be scanned for fifty cents a page. As an example four 3x5 photos would fit on a page for the aforementioned fifty cents and the resulting .jpeg files could be e-mailed to me or transferred to a disc that could be snail mailed.

Now is not too soon to send the info, the success of this endeavor will depend, in large part on your response.

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