

The Soaring Times

A Loft of Fort Wayne Publication

Oct 5th 2025

Saturday Oct 4th was a picture- perfect day for r/c soaring having abundant thermals very little wind and low humidity. Winch master Chris Hoff methodically positioned the launch /retriever equipment and landing areas while I positioned the Hi-Start. Many thanks to Chris as he makes it possible to fly at loft field. He not only readies the field by mowing but also stores and transports the winch launch / retriever equipment. New member Danny Piersall stepped up and handled pilot registration and did double duty as grill master while David Crail performed well as a new pilot and helped with equipment setup and teardown. Could be the making of something great here at Loft!! It was good to see Ken Lozzo come out and lend moral support. Also, we were blessed with the presence of Chris 's wife and mother in law "TEAM HOFF" there to cheer us on!

Sailplane launch Category's used were WL (Winch launch) HS (Hi-Start launch) EL (Electric Launch). Pilots compete by matching the launch type and achieving flight times and landing points regardless of wingspan! Categories flown were Hi Start, Winch Launch and Electric Launch with wingspans from approx. 1meter – 3meter! The participating pilots were: Chris Hoff, Dave Crail, Irv Thomas , Marc Santos and Harry Thompson from Lima, Ohio. Bill Friend entered but did not fly. The contest results are as follows: 1st Irv Thomas 1309 pts, 2nd Chris Hoff 1209 pts, 3rd David Crail 1072 pts, 4th Marc Santos 1055 Pts and 5th Harry Thompson 864 pts.

Pilots flying in each category have an increased advantage of winning but does not trump pilot skill. A pilot scoring maximum points (flight time + landing pts) in only 1 category can out score pilots flying in several categories but do not score the maximum points in the category flown! Total receipts from the participants including landing fees and lunches is \$90. Having more participants greatly benefits both LOFT & FWFC Club Treasury's. Please visit the Loft-rc.org website for future contest dates and Thermal Thursday dates between contest. Saturday Oct 4th was our season finale for 2025 and we are anxious and look forward to planning contest dates for 2026. Loft has a club sailplane available for anyone wanting to try r/c soaring. Just text Irv at 437-6173 to make arrangements. Our annual planning meeting is TBA and expect it in late January or Early February and we will make known the date, time, and location.