

Faison, NC USA Category I F1D Records Trial

August 29, 2026

Anne Stroud Taylor Faison Recreation and Wellness Center

184 Park Cir, Faison, NC 28341

CD: Emily Torkelson

F1D (Event 203)

Contestant	Flight 1	Flight 2	Flight 3	Flight 4	Flight 5	Flight 6	Total Score
Yuan Kang Lee	22:47	23:37*	21:03				46:24:00
Emily Torkelson	21:21	21:31	14:42	20:04	21:05		42:52:00

A6 (Event 222)

Contestant	Flight 1	Flight 2	Flight 3	Flight 4	Flight 5	Total Score
Haley Torkelson	4:08	3:38	4:26			4:26

* Indicates AMA record set

Kang Lee flew out to Raleigh, North Carolina and stayed with me at my house 20 minutes away from the category I site. We had 11 hours reserved at the recreation center for flying, plenty of time to do full motors for F1D to attempt the category I record. We both spent the morning getting things in the ballpark with half motors, ensuring we won't overclimb the site and getting the trim roughly in the right place, then by noon we switched to full motors.

Kang started strong with a flight just 3 seconds shy of the record, indicating better performance is on the table and the 2015 record was indeed stale. Because the category I record was previously set at St Lukes in Dunwoody, GA the altitude of the 22:50 record flight got up to 30 ft by flying in the slot, a portion of extended height above the category I limit that does not qualify as category II because of the less than 50 ft width. Matching that performance at a height of only 23 ft at Faison indicated more performance potential is on the table. I followed with a 21:21 and 21:31 and had trouble getting enough turns with the short, thick motors I chose. Kang made a few more adjustments and was back in the air again. For the record flight, Kang adjusted his model for two climbs, with the initial climb up to the ceiling and a first descent to approximately 5 ft above the floor at 7-8 minutes. At the bottom of the first descent, the high pitch on the variable pitch prop started to close and the model second climbed up to the ceiling again. The model was still very close to the ceiling at 20 minutes. The model landed with a time of 23:37, increasing the previous record by 47 seconds, and impressive improvement with 7 ft lower altitude than the previous record.

The record was set between 1-2 pm that afternoon, shortly before a major thunderstorm rolled in and the air started churning in the gym. Because of the afternoon weather, the

23:37 stood as the new record. Faison is a wonderful site with very still air, but when it's raining like crazy outside the very sensitive climb adjustments for category I flight get messed up with even the slightest amount of turbulence.

Special thanks to Carl Dowdy for coming to help time our flights and taking great photos for us.

We had a blast flying F1D in a relaxing style that category I flying offers compared to the aggressive, sometimes rather stressful flying of category III and category IV flying. Personally, I'd like to say I'd love to see more competitive category I contests in the indoor community overall. From my personal experience, I have the most flight time in category I sites due to proximity for practice, but I know so little about category I flying with full motors. I think larger regional multi-day contests with a big enough category I site would be a very fun shake-up to the conventional competitive contests we often reserve for category II and beyond. Hell, I'd love to even see a F1D World Championship in a category I or category II site if the floor area is large enough. I believe that versatile flying in a wide range of sites may drive more competition (or at least be a fun shakeup), and if many of the worldwide communities are able to better practice for a bigger contest in a category I and II site that makes things even more exciting.

~Emily Torkelson