

July 1, 2011

Saturday

RC Scale
 CL Scale

Sunday

RC Scale
 CL Scale

Monday

RC Pylon
 CL

- 1/2 A Speed
- 1/2 A Profile Photo
- Rat Race
- F2D
- Beginner Stunt*
- Intermediate Stunt*
- NCLRA Clown Race*



Mindy Albery runs a great cross-country and also flies an eye-catching PT-21.



Inside:



Welcome to the first day of the RC and CL Scale Nats!



Photos by Ted Kraver.

RC Scale kicks off

The Radio Control powered fixed-wing Scale Nats opened today. AMA's Scale Special Interest Group (SIG), National Association of Scales Aeromodelers (NASA), is responsible for the RC and Control Line Scale events. These are run separately from other National Championship events over a three-day weekend. The other Scale events are handled differently.

The Nats Indoor and Outdoor Free Flight Scale events are bundled with their respective Indoor and Outdoor (July 18-22) competitions, as are Scale RC Helicopter (August 7-11) events. The only other AMA Scale event, Gliders, is not contested at the Nationals.

This year's FAI-F4C Scale contest will determine who will represent the USA in the FAI World Championships. This event will be held at the Los Santa Cilia Los Pirineos airfield, near Jaca (city), Spain, in August 2012.

The pilots will be arriving at the field in the morning to prepare more than four

dozen of their finest Scale aircraft for static judging. The judges take their time and the process may last all day, but registration cuts off at noon. Sizes of RC aircraft are from 50- to 140-inch wingspans.

For entries in Fun and Sport Scale, the judge's load is somewhat lighter—viewing the side, top, and front from 15 feet away. But for designer and FAI Scale, the judges cluster around the aircraft to inspect minute details, both on the outside of aircraft and inside the cabin or cockpit. For team Scale only the builder of the model sweats out Friday. The pilot remains focused on two flights per day Saturday and Sunday.

A modeler's choice must be selected from the vast array of thousands of designs from 1903. Typically, the modeler has intuitive favorites which results in a lot of Mustangs, Piper Cubs, and Thunderbolts. There are plenty of models available to get started in Fun Scale. Just buy it and fly it.

On the other end of the spectrum is Sport, Designer, and FAI modelers who temper their passion with a bit of critical

thinking. Their considerations range widely. Is there availability of plans, kits, color proof, markings, and photographs? Is the construction complicated and what is the level of detail required? Am I better at finishing or detail fabrication? Should it be single or multiengine? Do I have jet experience or should I stick with the nitro engines? What is the potential for realism in flight and what are my piloting skills? Should I build an aircraft that requires acrobatic flight skills or stick with more simple piloting level by flying maneuvers (manoeuvres in FAI) such as bomb drop, turret rotation, flaps, or landing gear retract?

But on Friday morning, this decision floats in the distant past. It's up to the static judges to decide if the right plane was selected to model, and was the modeler up to the task. At stake is half of his total score.

—Ted Kraver

The faces and aircraft of RC Scale

You might see something no one has ever done before, like Terry Hahn's jet powered Waco.

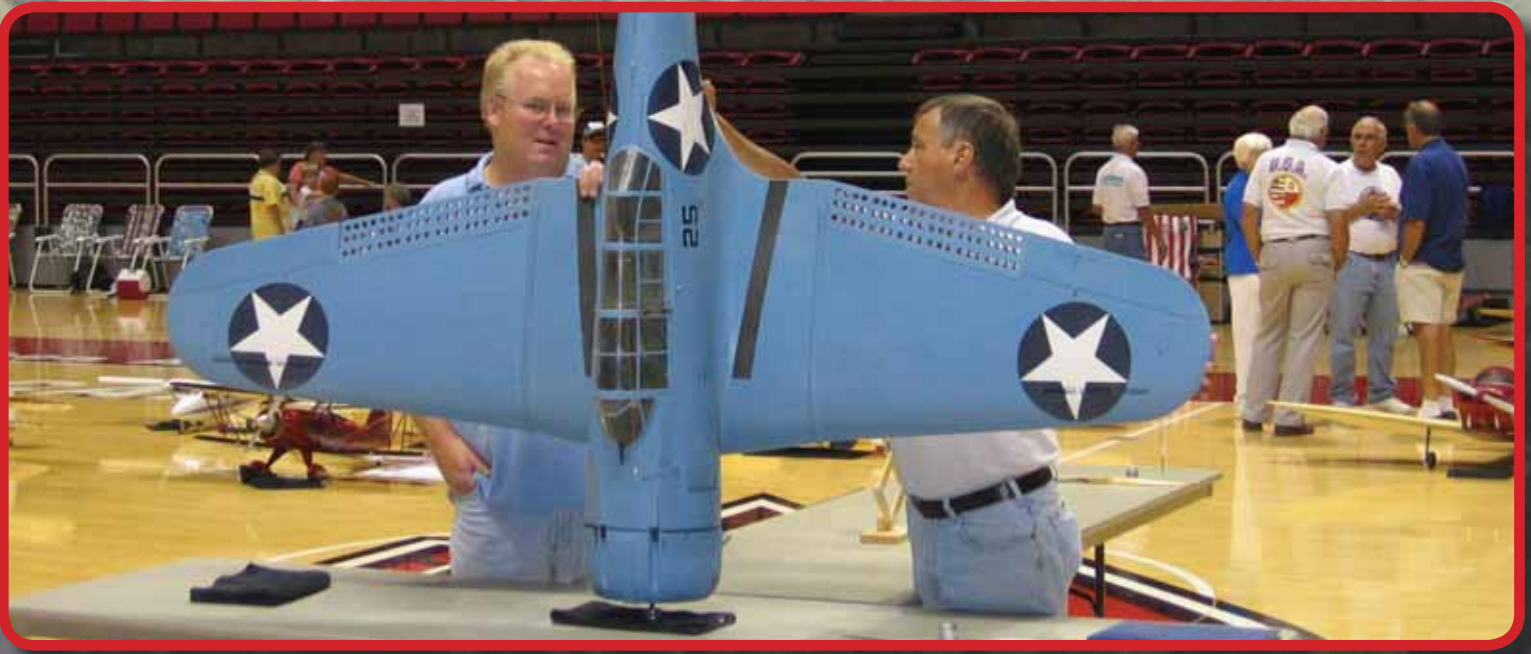


Below: Lots of pre-processing is needed for some aircraft.



Even George's contra-rotating motor assembly is a hit. Last August I heard from George about his even larger C-133. Maybe we will have another gigantic hit this year. George Maiorana photo.





Above: This year, Albert Kretz will be leaving his sliding canopy SBD-Dauntless dive bomber in the hangar.



Right: Dave Johnson's Albatross D.Va not only has a fabulous replica engine but a pilot whose machine guns I would avoid at all costs. The 88-inch, 20-pound model has a Fuji 43 gas engine.



CL Scale begins

AMA's National Association of Scale Aeromodelers (NASA) Special Interest Group (SIG) is responsible for CL Scale Nats. It is also the big umbrella for all AMA Scale building, flying, and competing.

CL Scale has approximately the same lineup of events as RC, plus Profile Scale, with a turnout of aircraft in the range of three dozen. The Scale judging is also the same as in RC. The size ranges from 30-inch wingspan to 90 inches.

Each model aircraft is accompanied by "documentation." This may be as little as one page for Fun Scale with three views, a picture of the airplane, and proof of color. The builder-of-the-model rule has been dropped. Fun Scale static score is a maximum of 10 points, while flight points are 100 like all other Scale events. For Profile, Sport, and FAI-F4B Scale, the document can be

up to eight pages. The scoring is on outline, craftsmanship, and finish, color, and markings. Profile and Sport Scale can be built from a kit or plan but FAI-F4B must be an original design by the entrant.

FAI F4B Scale requires the builder of the model to specify all the components that he or she did not make. Any modifications must have been made by the builder. There must be three photos of the aircraft. Static score has the normal zero to 10 score from the judge, and then it is multiplied by a difficulty "K" factor. The total K factor for static is 100, which equals the K factor total of Flight of 100.

The Profile and Sport builder may invest many hundreds of hours in building his or her model, knowing that most of its flying and maneuvering will be done within 3 to 30 feet of hard asphalt. Challenges such as strong wind

gusts and timing of pullouts could be fatal.

The investment ramps up for the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) builder who may spend well over 1,000 hours on building a model for the International Class. High-end CL Scale is not for sissies. But, to pull off that high static to the admiration of your peers, and then nail that perfect flight with your precious baby, that's what Scale modeling is all about. Drop in and enjoy the fun from close up.

Chuck Snyder came to the 2005 Nats with his Typhoon and asked me to be his pilot. A couple of days later, this walk-on with a camera stood dazed with a first-place win at the Scale Nationals. Magic can happen by just showing up.

For more information on NASA, visit www.NASAscale.org.

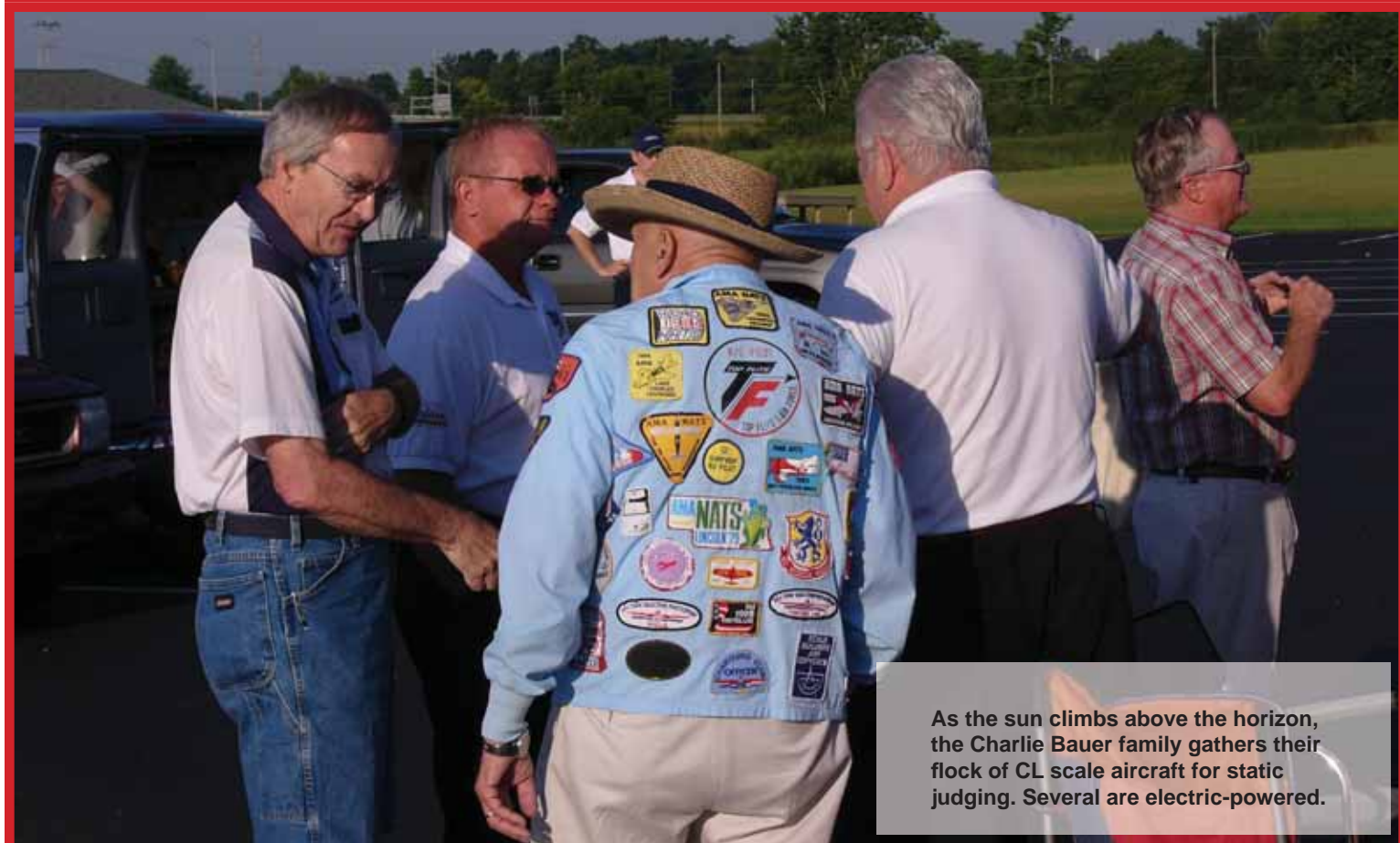
—Ted Kraver



More photos from this year's Nats are available at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/modelaircraft>



Above: Charlie Bauer's Gee Bee.



As the sun climbs above the horizon, the Charlie Bauer family gathers their flock of CL scale aircraft for static judging. Several are electric-powered.



Left: Charlie's colorful French fighter.
Below:

Below: Typical profile CL Scale aircraft include John Wright's Corsair s M20.



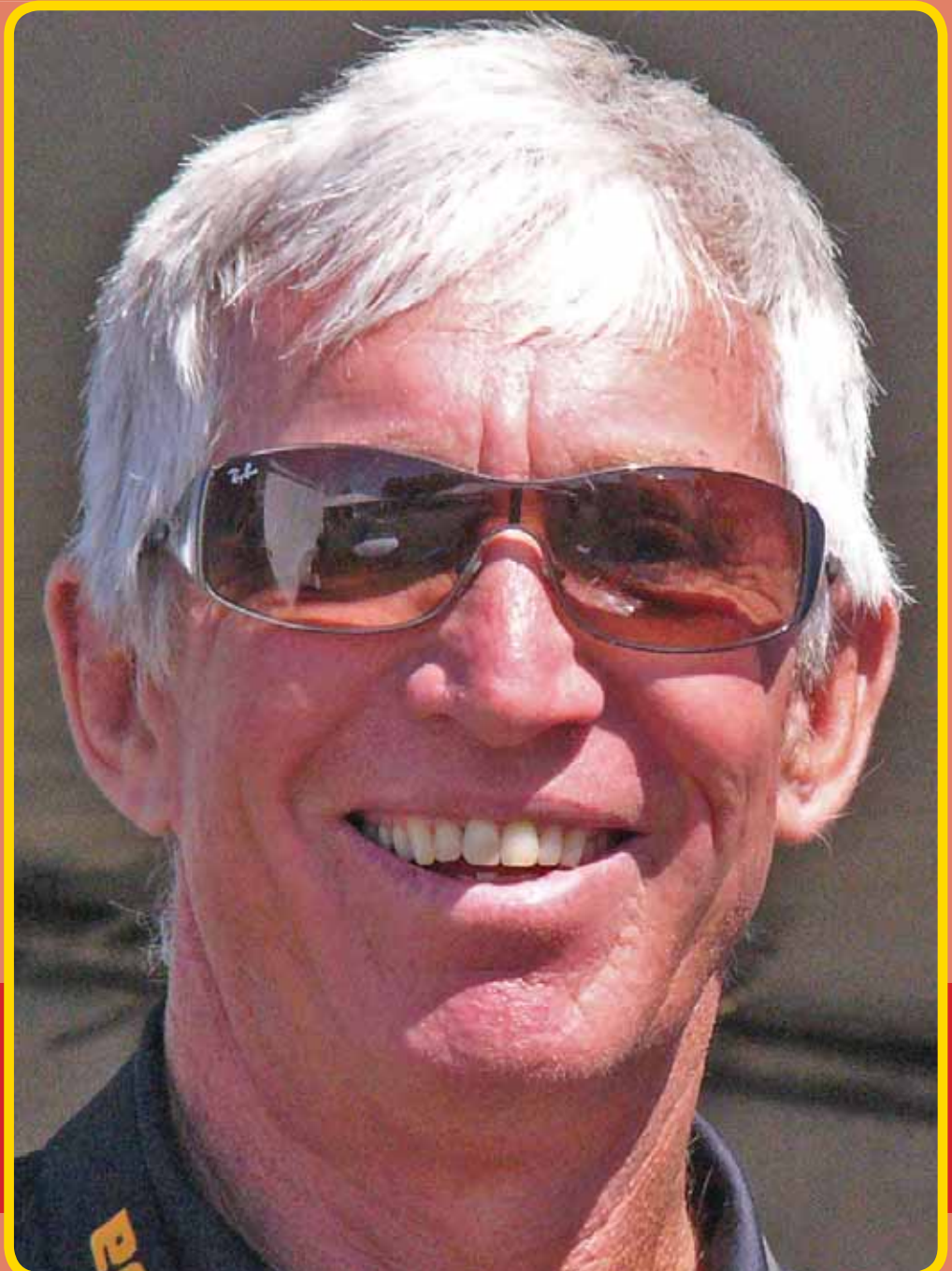


Left: Frank Beatty has flown his FAI Staaken Z-1 Flitzer for several years.

Below: The burden of NASA leadership falls on its president, Mike Barbee, of yellow T34-C fame and sometimes fortune.



Magic can happen by just showing up



Nats Scale aerobatics draws to a close

As the field clears out, pilots pack up their gear and cars, vans, and motorhomes roll out of the flying site, I can't help but wonder ... where did the week go? It feels like just yesterday the field was filling up with pilots and the air was getting busy with precision rehearsal flights. I have my sights set on next year's competition!

Alex Porter, David Moser, Joe Smith, and Ben Batts make us "old guys" feel like we need to plug the cable back in. The Freestyle competition was my first time seeing Joe Smith fly and this kid can put it down! What a powerhouse.

David Moser is probably one of the smoothest Freestyle acts around and the speed envelope he pushes is incredible. Mr. Ben Batts was pushing his QQ Python through at the edge with his routine. He's a very graceful flier and puts on one heck of a show.

Fourteen-year-old Alex Porter busted it out with his Comp-Arf Extra and I never get tired of watching him put an airframe through its paces. Very smooth and his syncopation to music is unrivaled.

After four days of very tough competition, the 2011 AMA Scale Aerobatic National Championships produced its champions!

Sportsman:

National Champion—Geoffrey Donati
Second—Jerry Hailey
Third—Tom Burndrett

Intermediate:

National Champion—Corey Ford
Second—Mark Samyn
Third—Christopher Haas

Advanced:

National Champion—Benjamin Batts
Second—Matt Balazs
Third—Andrew Taylor

Unlimited:

National Champion—Kurt Koelling
Second—David Moser
Third—Brian Sanik

Freestyle:

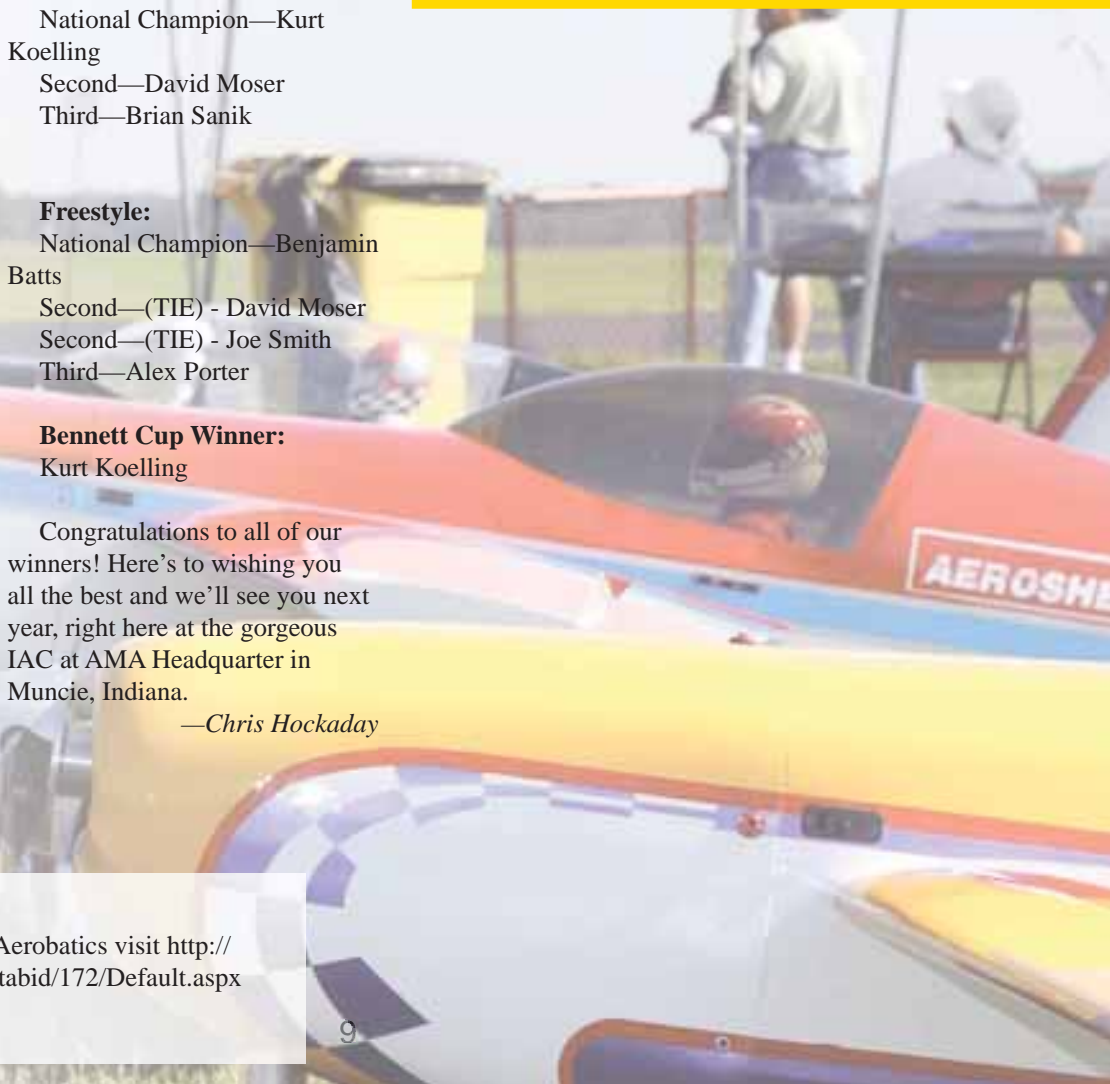
National Champion—Benjamin Batts
Second—(TIE) - David Moser
Second—(TIE) - Joe Smith
Third—Alex Porter

Bennett Cup Winner:

Kurt Koelling

Congratulations to all of our winners! Here's to wishing you all the best and we'll see you next year, right here at the gorgeous IAC at AMA Headquarter in Muncie, Indiana.

—Chris Hockaday



To see more photos from the Scale Aerobatics visit <http://www.mini-iac.com/Nats2011News/tabid/172/Default.aspx>

