

NatsNews

Daily Coverage of the 2011 National Aeromodeling Championships

August 5, 2011

Saturday
RC Aerobatics

Sunday
RC Helicopter

Monday
RC Helicopter

Tuesday
RC Helicopter



Jarvis Johnson traveled from the West Coast to treat us to the Monolog. This is a new design from B. J. Park of South Korea. When I asked Jarvis about the name he told me the word came from the letters of B. J.'s name. Clearly, his name is quite a bit longer in his native language than the Americanized version is. Interestingly, this airplane is glow, electric, or gas, depending on your setup! This is Jarvis' second airframe. He only had 12 flights on it when he came to the Nats, but it is flying beautifully. It is a complete ARF, which can be finished for flight in a few evenings. This airplane is all wood, but you can also get a composite version.



Inside:



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RC Aerobatics

Text and Photos by Jim Quinn.

Let's meet some more airplanes. Scott McHarg is flying the new De-Ja-Vu. The De-Ja-Vu is designed for electric only. Scott has about 350 flights using F3A Power Unlimited 4900~25C batteries to power the Neu motor. One of Scott's favorite features on the airplane is the split rudder. It gives a much better attitude for the fuselage when in knife-edge. There doesn't seem to be the nose-high attitude that otherwise is usually there. When I asked Scott how he got to Muncie from Texas he smiled and said, "In GiGi." When translated into English from Texas A&M Aggie speak, it means Grocery-Getter. Scott is the NSRCA Secretary and is doing a great job. When you see him be sure to thank him for all he is doing.



Here, we have Randy Hicks' Talon. Randy had the urge to design his own airplane and looked around at all the other designs that were currently flying. He made a composite of the best of each design, and thus was born his Talon. The workmanship is outstanding for this one-of-a-kind airplane. When everything was ready, he presented his model to Bryan Hebert who told him it looked like it should fly, so off it went into the sky. The finish on this wooden airplane is all fiberglass and paint. Every part is hand-cut. Randy made all the molds for the fiberglass/carbon fiber parts. He might think of a kit in the future. For now, he is satisfied to get his feet wet with this beautiful airplane. A second Talon can be seen flying FAI in the capable hands of Brandon Landry. If you get the chance, stop by and check out this beautiful hand-crafted airplane.

We've met some airplanes, so let's meet some of the volunteers who make our contest flow smoothly.



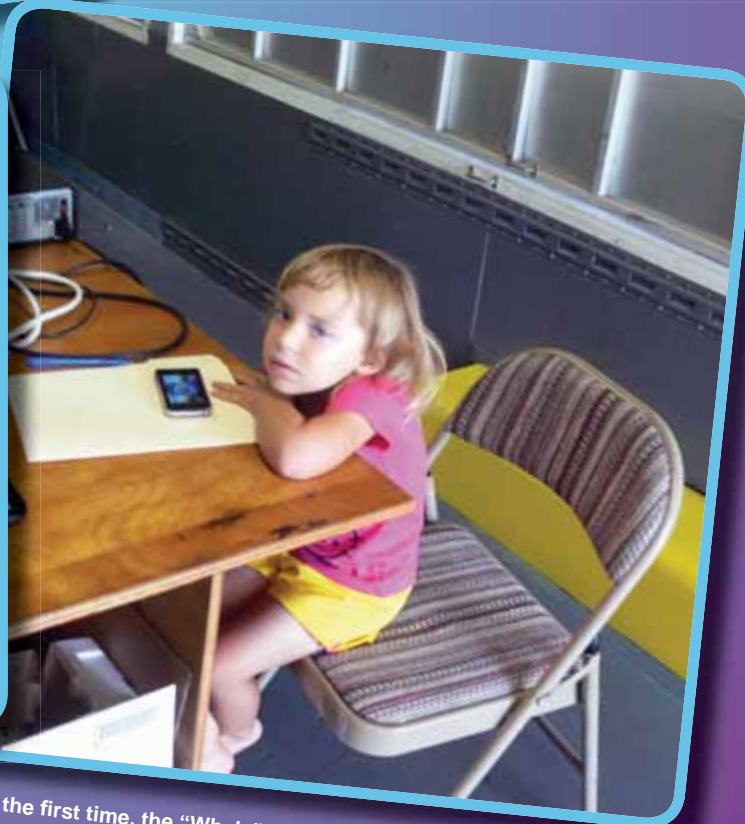
Running scores is Derek Gioffredo.



Tabulating the scores for Sites 1 and 3, while working in the "Whale," are Jen Hatton on the right and Nancy Wallace on the left.



On Site 4 once again this year, is the amazing Tara Stafford. Unfortunately for some of the younger pilots on Site 4, Tara's daughters were unable to join her this year.



For the first time, the "Whale" has a tabulator in training, Erin Hatton.

We will see father and son teams flying in our Nats from time to time. It is much less common to see a mother/son team. This year, we have the exception to the rule when Brian Strachan brought his mom, Judy, along with him. Actually, I'm sure it was the other way around. Judy describes herself as the driver, cook, underwriter, and moral compass to keep Brian on the right path. He is very much blessed with some fantastic mentors in Bryan Hebert, Ed Valls, and Chuck Hochhalter. Tragedy was on Brian's path to Muncie this year. The wind came up and Brian fell down on his Valiant from AC Glenn. Next, his prototype Voyager met a fence on takeoff. Thanks to Scott McHarg, Brian is flying Scott's Passport on loan just in time for the Nats. Judy has driven Brian to five contests and a judging seminar, as well as driving to the Nats this year. Brian's comment, "She has a lot of hours under her belt this year." Brian is especially grateful to Ed Valls for helping him with modeling skills so he can learn the "craft" of our trade. Brian is also very grateful to his older brother, Collin, for all his help and support. Why do you do it, Mom? "He is a good boy and it is a lot of fun."

Will Blackwell came with his grandfather, Ken. They were part of the scoring team last year, but this year they decided that flying at the Nats is more fun than working at the contest.

Another young man flying on Site 4 this year is Adam Barry-Ford. This is Adam's first time at AMA's International Aeromodeling Center and obviously also his first time flying in our Nats. Adam felt his skills were improving enough that it was time to make the 10-hour drive from Kansas City, Missouri, and test his skills with other Advanced pilots. Adam arrived in time to catch the end of the World Championship. Adam was delighted to watch the Worlds. It gave him tips on his own flying style, inspiration,



Judy and Brian Strachan.

Will Blackwell and his grandfather, Ken.



Adam Barry-Ford.

and a benchmark for his own flying. Firstly, he was dazzled with the facility and had the amazing feeling of seeing so many famous RC pilots from around the world. He really enjoys being around so many other people doing what he enjoys most. He thinks our Nats is very smoothly run. It is almost like a local contest, but on a very large scale. ➔



If you're not flying, why not study between rounds? Riley Kissenberth, our reigning Advanced Champion (but not for many more days), is catching up on some studying while waiting for another flight on the Masters line.



Do you know who lives in Wasilla, Alaska? If you guessed Reeves Lipincott, you guessed correctly. Reeves and his wife were enjoying a few minutes with his Wind S Pro on Site 3.



Our second day of Nats competition ended with a delicious banquet/barbecue on Site 3. We also celebrated Ron Morgan's birthday. Ron was delighted to have so many people sing him *Happy Birthday*.



Did I catch an Airtronics sandwich on Site 3 this afternoon? It looks like the bread includes slices of Mark Atwood and Ron Lockhart, while the meat is Ken Velez.



We were most pleased that some of the contestants and teams from the World Championship stayed with us for our National Championship as well. Some of the team members from Argentina, Canada, and Venezuela were on Site 1.



On Site 3 were other team members from Canada and Argentina, as well as team members from Columbia and the United Kingdom.

Photo Op!!!



Quickly, the pilots got their airplanes for this photo. From left to right are Marcelo Colombo, Frederico Hineirosa, Matt Hoyland, Marcelo Velez, Dave Reavelle, Mark Byrne, Chad Northeast, and Nedim Bec.