

RC PYLON  
WRAP-UP



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JULY  
17



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Yesterday we concluded Q-40 and as always watching a story develop 60 seconds at a time is exiting, thrilling, disappointing, and sometimes sad, all at the same time.

Let me explain, there are 60 seconds before the beginning of the race for each pilot to start, tune, and at the zero-count launch of the racer. A typical race in the finals lasts roughly 60 seconds. There are four pilots per heat. This translates into four mini stories, one per pilot, all merging into one plot with a known ending—crowning a champion. How the plot develops is something no one can ever guess.

Dominant pilots such as Tom Scott, Matt Fehling, Joe Hodgins, Terry Frazier, Steve Baker, and Mike Helsel suffered

misfortune during the finals through midairs, cuts, engine gremlins, or simply confusion. Keeping track and concentration is not easy when there are so many things going in such fast-paced environment.

Top qualifier Roy Andrassy suffered a crash coming out of Pylon Three on the first lap after flying through another airplane's turbulence. The saddest moment in my memory involved Danny Kane's DNS (did not start) in his last or next-to-last round while he was leading the event in points. His engine suddenly experienced fuel starvation, and quit on release.

When the debris settled—and there was lots of it—we had a clear winner: Jim Allen. Second place was Trey Witte who fought every heat alongside his

friend and caller, Dean Stone. The third through tenth places followed this order: Rich Beers, Chuck Andraka, Dan Kane, Anthony Hemken, Randy Ritch, Mike Langlois, John McDermott, and Dub Jett.

Randy Ritch earned top points to become Nats Grand Champion, and was quick to give a heartfelt thank you to his caller and close friend of many years, Dennis Cranfill. A special thanks from all of us to Randy Ritch for donating all the fuel used during every Pylon Nats for as long as I can remember.

This concludes my last Nats report. Thanks to all of the contestants and the AMA staff for all the compliments. See you again next year.

—Chago Panzardi

Photos by the author.









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# Pylon NATS 422 Final

| After 5 Rounds |                  |                   |        |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|--------|
| 422 Finals     | Name             | Low Time          | Points |
| 1              | JIM ALLEN        | <b>** 1:01.07</b> | 19     |
| 2              | TREY WITTE       | 1:04.85           | 17     |
| 3              | RICHARD BEERS    | 1:05.29           | F2 16  |
| 4              | CHUCK ANDRAKA    | 1:03.18           | F1 16  |
| 5              | DAN KANE         | 1:02.24           | F2 15  |
| 6              | ANTHONY HEMKEN   | 1:05.84           | F1 15  |
| 7              | RANDY RITCH      | 1:05.92           | 14     |
| 8              | MIKE LANGLOIS    | 1:04.91           | F2 13  |
| 9              | JOHN MCDERMOTT   | 1:07.21           | F1 13  |
| 10             | DUB JETT         | 1:01.47           | F0 13  |
| 11             | TERRY FRAZER     | 1:04.46           | 12     |
| 12             | BILL JOHANSON    | 1:04.51           | 12     |
| 13             | MATT RUSSELL     | 1:06.18           | 12     |
| 14             | MATTHEW FEHLING  | 1:06.34           | 12     |
| 15             | DEAN STONE       | 1:02.33           | 11     |
| 16             | MIKE HELSEL      | 1:03.58           | 11     |
| 17             | LONNIE FINCH     | 1:04.63           | 11     |
| 18             | STEVE BAKER      | 1:05.50           | 11     |
| 19             | HANK KAUFFMAN    | 1:06.26           | 11     |
| 20             | JOE HODGIN       | 1:06.90           | 11     |
| 21             | BRYAN BATCH      | 1:04.74           | 9      |
| 22             | MOE VEREECKE     | 1:05.01           | 6      |
| 23             | MARCUS BLANCHARD | 1:10.05           | 2      |
| 24             | JIM KATZ         | C 1:13.33         | 2      |
| 25             | TOM HEGLAND      | 1:11.90           | 1      |
| 26             | DUANE HULEN      | 0:00.00           | 0      |
| 27             | TOM SCOTT        | 0:00.00           | 0      |
| 28             | ROY ANDRASSY     | 0:00.00           | 0      |



