

Thursday
May 24

Nats News

Daily Coverage of the 2012 National Aeromodeling Championships



AMA's May Youth Ambassador
Brett Sanborn is gearing up for
the final day of F1D.



Academy of Model Aeronautics International Aeromodeling Center, Muncie IN
website: www.modelaircraft.org; email: nats@modelaircraft.org

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Editors: Ashley Rauhen, Rachele Haughn, Liz Helms

Today's Events:

- HL Stick
- Bostonian
- *Mod Civ Pro
- *Unlimited Rubber Speed
- *Bostonian Mass Launch
- *Unofficial Event

OUR DEDICATED Event Director was caught up with the day's proceedings, and hasn't yet had a chance to enter scores into the spreadsheet. My report will be from my and Dennis Tyson's memory. I should have some actual times ready for tomorrow.

Wednesday started bright and early with the glider events. Kurt Krempetz made a clean sweep, winning HLG, Standard Catapult, and Unlimited Catapult. He is reportedly the first to ever accomplish this feat at the Nats.

John Yost finished second with a fine tip-launched HLG, cleanly avoiding the big

blue scoreboard. Dennis Tyson enjoyed wringing out his model for the majority of the morning, with me timing and offering random advice. His work paid off with a nice third-place finish.

Ralph Ray put up a heck of a fight in Standard Catapult, launching flight after flight right next to the scoreboard and rolling out beautifully in the center of the dome. It was good enough for second place. Ralph has a lot of knowledge and experience rolled into his models, and it was fun to watch him work. John Yost put his own glider expertise into action for third place.

Joshua Finn used a Dandrieux Butterfly to win Race to the Roof in a record 5.88 seconds. The model was stunning: a level ROG, sans wheels, pulled straight up into a rolling vertical climb that was not only fast and arrow straight but, unlike most of the other models in contention, perfectly on target, hitting the louvers every time.

Ray Harlan redeemed himself in P-24 after last year's mishap. He had forgotten to add the ballast to his model and had to disqualify himself. This year he made sure his model had all the essential elements, and then blasted to the roof. The model bounced off the main girder and climbed right back up to win in convincing fashion with a flight of more than four minutes.

In the afternoon "light model" session, Tom Sova won both 35cm and Intermediate Stick. Tom is an expert with duration models, and is adept at squeezing in multiple events. You might think that 9 hours is a lot of time, but when a flight takes more than 30 minutes, the window runs out quickly. It takes discipline and well-tuned models to complete more than one category during a session.

Indoor legend Larry Coslick returned to the Nats with his grandson, Joshua, after a long absence. Larry's Phoenix Intermediate Stick was resurrected, taking home second place.

Nick Ray took time out from his F1D work to grab the silver in 35cm.

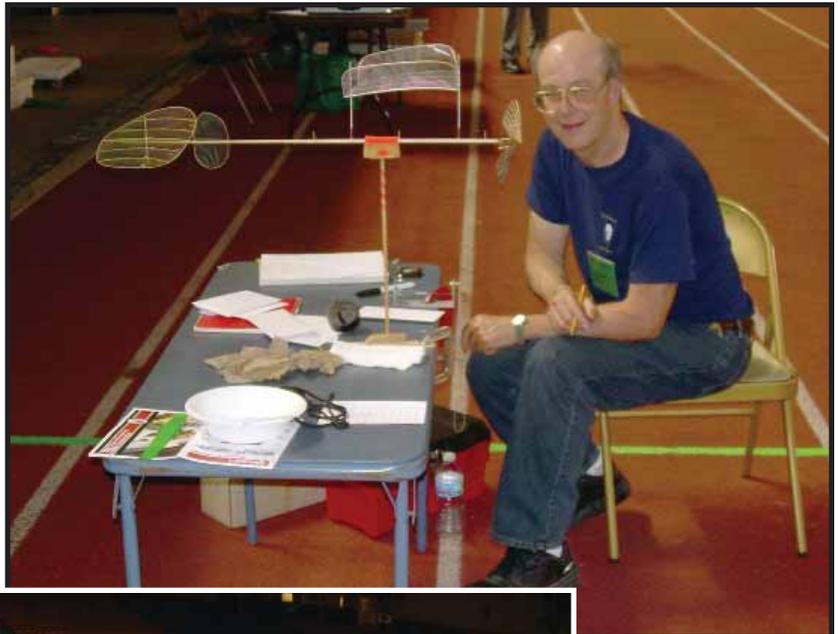
The first day of F1D finds Larry Cailliau holding the top spot with a 33:57 and an 33:10. John Kagan, your *NatsNews* reporter, spent most of the day testing new models, but finally put up a 33:20 for a decent start. Brett Sanborn unveiled his new sparless carbon propellers, which are showing great promise. He doesn't have any official flights in yet, but keep an eye out for his times tomorrow.

There are quite a few new, and relatively new, F1Ds in attendance, which is great to see. Leo Pilachowski has a great-looking model that clearly shows the effort he spent on design and construction. A handling mishap crushed the motorstick, but he was hard at work on repairs and it should be back in the air tomorrow.

Mike Kirda has new variable-pitch propellers for the models he first flew at the Experimental Aircraft Contest contest in April. Jeff Annis, father of the VP propeller, built a 55cm wing for his decades-old F1Ds and is still using the original propellers from his high school and college days.

Joshua Finn has a pair of F1Ds that look more conventional than last year's specimen, and got a few nice flights going.

Stay tuned to see how F1D shapes up as well as the rest Indoor Nats events. *MM*



Above: Jeff Annis has returned to F1D.

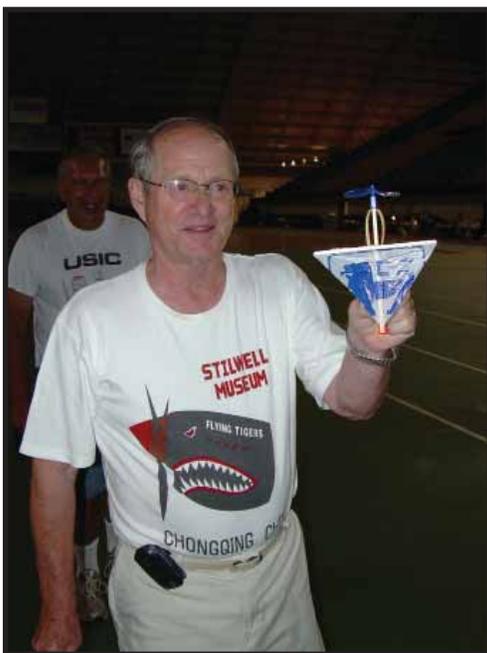


Tom Batte is big into all things Glider-related.



Indoor legend Larry Coslick, and grandson Joshua, are back at the Indoor Nats to show the new guys a thing or two.

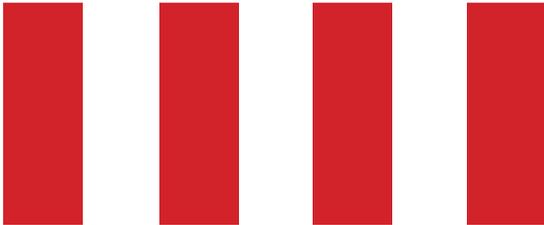
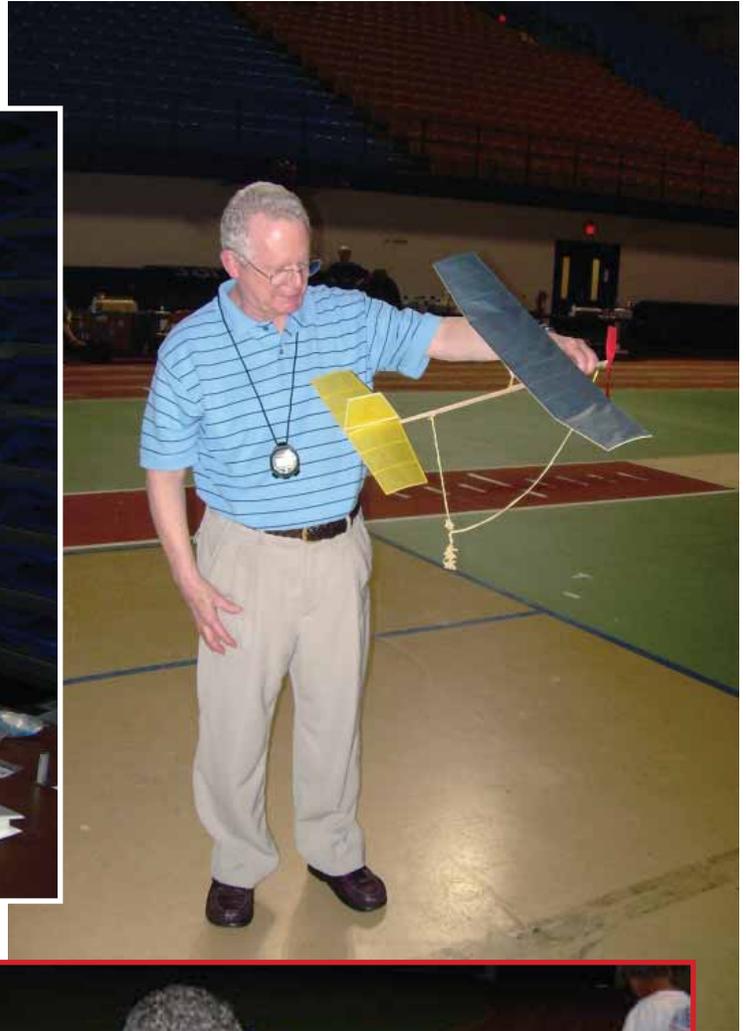
Kurt Krempetz made a historic sweep of the Indoor Nats Glider events.



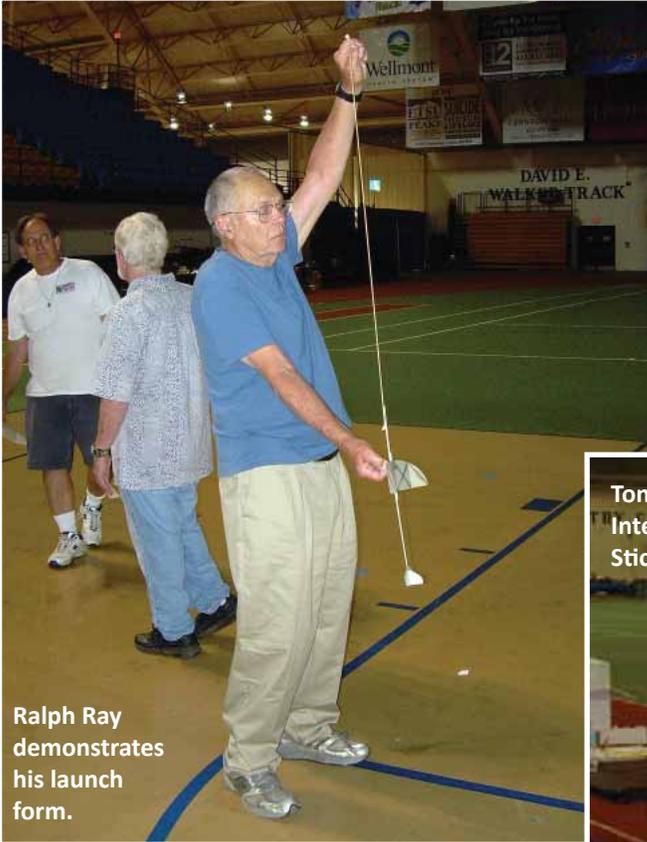
Walt Collins and John Diebolt whipped up a quick Dandrieux Butterfly to give Joshua Finn a run for his money.



Ray Harlan took the coveted P-24 Mass Launch trophy.



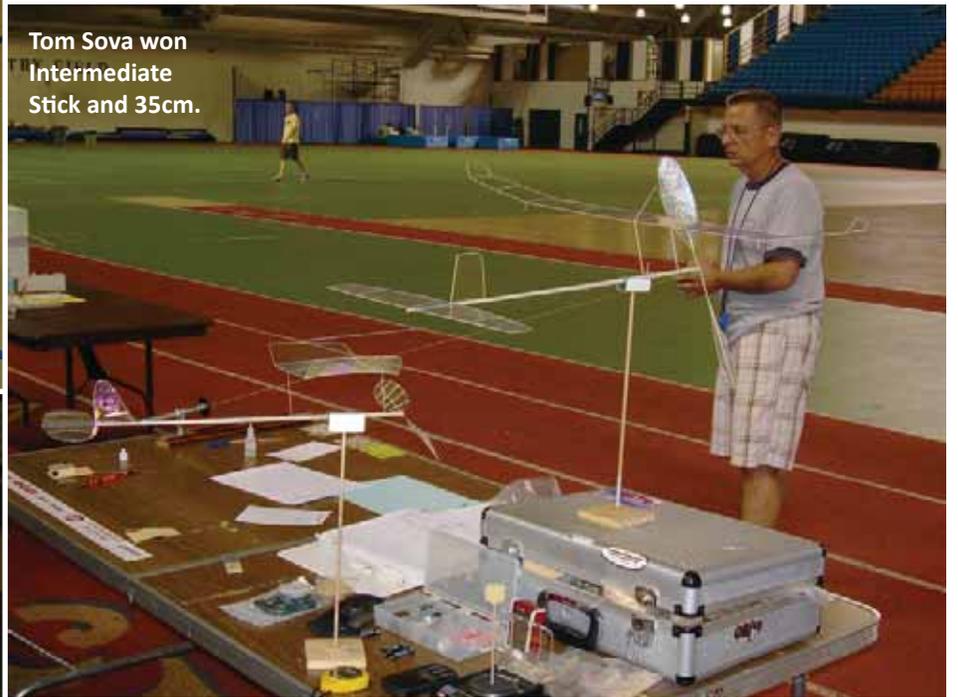
Left and above: Tem Johnson and your *NatsNews* columnist, John Kagan, battled in P-24.



Ralph Ray demonstrates his launch form.



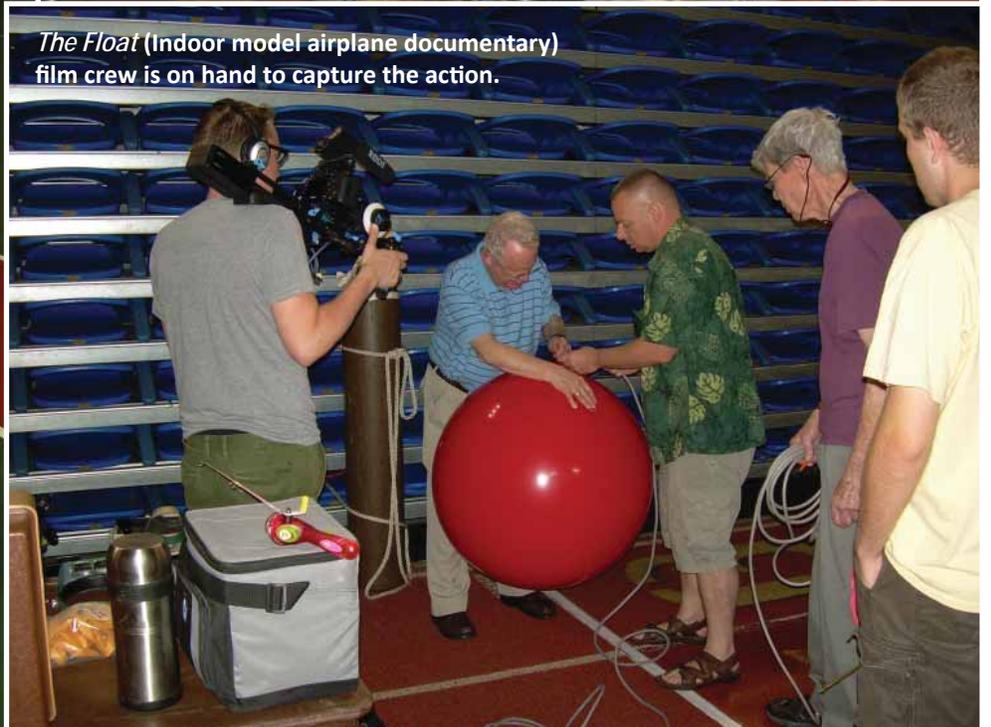
Walt Collins.



Tom Sova won Intermediate Stick and 35cm.



Rob Eberle is back in the Glider game.



The Float (Indoor model airplane documentary) film crew is on hand to capture the action.

Mike Kirda has returned to F1D.

