



NatsNews

Daily Coverage of the 2011 National Aeromodeling Championships

June 27, 2011

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Welcome to Opening Day of the Outdoor Nats!

Today's Event: RC Scale Aerobatics

With the 2011 Scale Aerobatic National Championships under way, an air of excitement and camaraderie fills the air.

Practice flights were continuous from sunup on Sunday, until Event Director Gil Major commenced a pilots meeting at 6 p.m. At the meeting, he, Phil Vance, and Curtis Cozier, outlined the schedule and plans for the coming days. Curtis tied up the day with a judges meeting to refresh everyone on the AMA protocols for scoring. Practice flights then resumed until dark.

I have had the honor of conversing with many of the registered competitors and I aim to speak with all of those whom I have not. Never the less, am I intensely impressed with the generosity, approachability, and sincerity of the IMAC pilots competing at this year's Nats.

After observing hundreds of practice flights since arriving at the

beautiful IAC, it is clear that the heat is on and this competition is going to be one for the IMAC history books.

Igor Spektor from New York, New York, (N.E. IMAC Region), is here for his second year at the Nats and was nailing his Advanced Class sequences with his beautiful Godfrey Extra. His friend, Andy Fomin, (both originally from Ukraine/Russia respectively), has joined in for his first year at the AMA Nats, flying a JTEC Extra to compete in the Unlimited Class.

North Central Regional Director, Brian Sanik, was tearing up the sky with his Carden Extra 300 Pro. This will be his eight time competing at the Nats.

Three-time National Champion, Kurt Koelling, is back at the Nats for his 11th time and is making the Unlimited sequences look easy. Kurt, along with Dennis from Carden Aircraft, designed the Carden Extra 300

Pro he is flying. This aircraft is being flown by several other pilots, as well. It appears to be a great airframe for competitive precision flying, indeed.

Also competing in the Unlimited class is Will Berninger, from Cincinnati, Ohio. What a fun guy to talk to and he's one heck of a precision pilot.

All the way from Ontario, Canada, hails Mike Milos. This is his first year at the US Nats and we hope to see him in years to come. He was the Champion in Intermediate Class at the Canadian Nats in 2008, and the Advanced Class Champ again in 2009. After watching his flying on Sunday, it appears he's going to be a fierce competitor.

The level that the contestants are flying at in their classes is second to none, and I am looking forward to reporting on the coming days of rounds and the pilots that are flying them.

—Chris Hockaday

Photos by Chris Hockaday.



Faces in the Crowd







