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NATS NEWS

Daily coverage of the 2010 National Aeromodeling Championships

July 10, 2010

RC Scale
CL Scale

Sunday
RC Scale
CL Scale

Monday-Thursday
RC Combat

Monday-Saturday
RC Pylon
Control Line



Photo by Stan Alexander.

Academy of Model Aeronautics
2010 National Aeromodeling Championships

Nats

Muncie Indiana • Johnson City Tennessee

Academy of Model Aeronautics
International Aeromodeling Center, Muncie
IN; Web site: www.modelaircraft.org; e-
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2010
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A special thank-you to members of **AMA's Flight Support Team**. Our community partners recognize that AMA onsite events bring thousands of visitors during the flying season who spend dollars in our community. Their generous donations help AMA continue to host the many competition events held annually, and in turn, AMA promotes and encourages our members to look for and support members of the **Flight Support Team**.

RC SCALE: DAY 1

This year the **Scale portion** of the Nationals was moved up to the weekend after the July 4th holiday. This seems to be a popular move for most of the contestants.

There were several other changes that occurred this year including moving the static judging from the National Guard Armory to the Stage Center site where RC flying will take place on Saturday and Sunday.

This way, after the modelers both RC and CL could put in practice flights and familiarize themselves with the field, runway, and landmarks.

The National Association of Scale Aeromodelers (NASA) organized this year's event and all of the officers have been working on the changes and updates since last year. The host hotel this year was again the Super 8 just off of McGalliard Road. With plenty of eating places and other places to gather, it's a natural choice.

All RC Scale classes are offered this year including everything from Fun Scale Novice to Designer Scale and F4C. The class with the most entries is Fun Scale Open, with Sportsman class picking up additional entries.

The first day dawned with cloudy skies and the threat of rain, with everyone at the site putting planes together, measuring the distance between the tables and the judges' stations to making preparations for Saturday night's NASA banquet at the field.

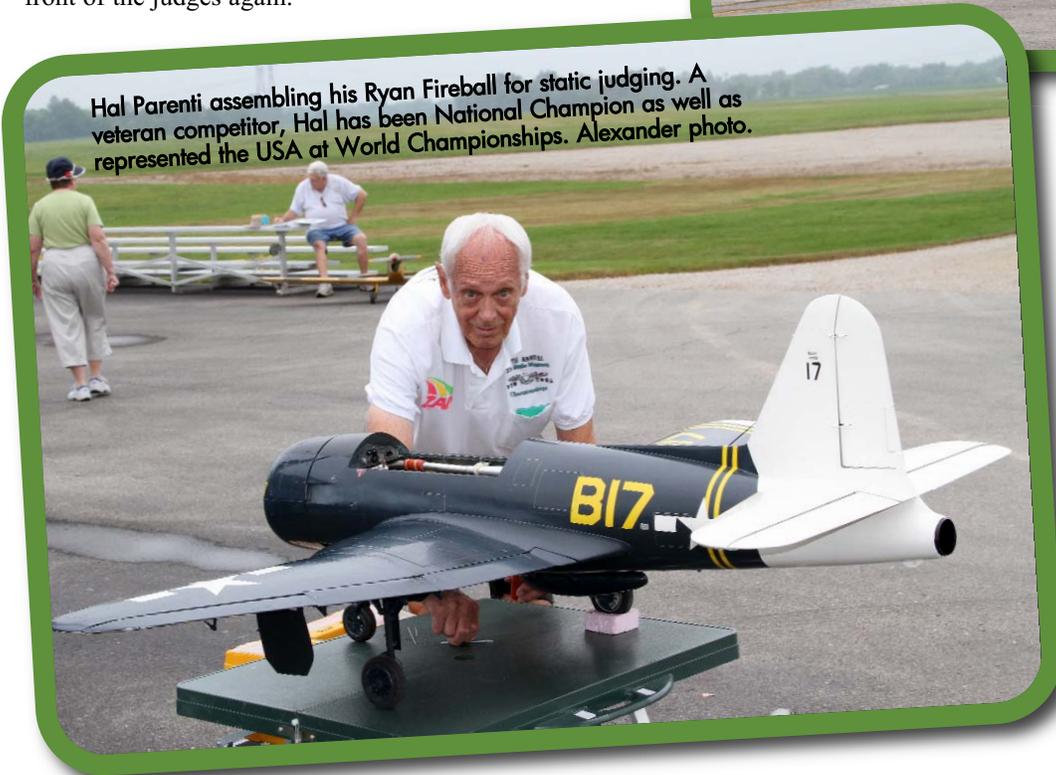
As the day passed the noon hour, the skies started to lighten up and by around 2 p.m. the sun popped out. It turned out to be a great day for all who attended the first day of this year's Scale Nationals. This gave a lot of modelers a great chance to practice flight routines and specific maneuvers for the upcoming flight competition.

One maneuver we saw being practiced by the WWI models was the 360° descending circle. In this maneuver you begin by flying parallel to the flightline at high altitude. When your model arrives at the center point of judges' position you call "now" and cut the throttle and bank the model to start your descending circle.

During the descent you want to keep the throttle cut to just above idle and be careful to make both halves of the maneuver the same size and shape. When you finish the maneuver you should be about ten feet off the pavement in front of the judges again.



Dave Pinegar's Top Flite Cessna 310 down and dirty coming in for landing. Flaps out, gear down. Alexander photo.



Hal Parenti assembling his Ryan Fireball for static judging. A veteran competitor, Hal has been National Champion as well as represented the USA at World Championships. Alexander photo.

It's a great maneuver and one you can easily practice with any type of model. Getting both halves the same size and keeping the descent at a consistent rate are just a couple of the ways to maximize your points. Keeping the throttle at the same position and not letting the wings rock are also something to work on.

Our thanks to Mary Arvin, Dale Arvin, Paul Cain, Ed Terry, and the entire NASA staff for making his portion of the static come off without a hitch. The Event Staff wanted us to thank Ron Morgan, Wayne Yeager, and the AMA maintenance staff for setting up all of the tents, shelters, tables, and other prep areas for the event!

—Stan Alexander



Alexander photo.



Vickie Pinegar and Steve Ort stand behind his Stinson SR9 while static judges do their work. Alexander photo.

The Piper Arrow II, built by Dave Pinegar, is one of the smaller models at the Nationals this year. It spans 81 inches and is powered by an O.S. 91FSR. Retracts and flaps are some of the options on this great-looking model. Alexander photo.



Steve Ort's Stinson SR9.
Alexander photo.



Static judges start the process of judging the model versus the modeler's documentation on Friday morning.
Alexander photo.



Steve Eagle's Nieuport 17, built from a Balsa USA kit. Steve shortened the nose by 2 1/2 inches, and changed the landing gear as well as the wingtips to make the model more to scale.
Alexander photo.

Alexander photo.



Dave Johnson's Albatros D.Va entered in Team Scale this year awaits its turn on the static judging tables. Alexander photo.

CL Scale photos by Ted Kraver.



We poured over the detail work of Frank Beatty's Hawker Fury in the hotel lobby. He freely shared a number of tricks of the trade, including a slick way to paint a "perfect" checkerboard with simple use of masking tape.

SCALE STATIC JUDGING DAY, CONTROL LINE

Informal judging and critiques began the night before in the hotel lobbies. Contestants gathered around their "pride and joys," pointing out the features and hand-out pointers. The next day they gathered under the big tent at the RC circle to assemble their planes. The winds and rain from yesterday had passed, and the clouds kept us in the balmy 70s.

After checking in and weighting the aircraft for pull test, the contestants handed their documentation to the judges. For three-view conformance, color, and craftsmanship, the contestant

displayed whatever side the judges wanted: top-bottom, right-side, and head on. Cadres of two to three judges handled each of the four categories.

The change this year that FAI F4B, the top scale category, is going away on the international domain. With AMA Scale discontinued in the past years, the remaining "museum scale" event is Designer Scale.

The unique aspect of Designer is that the judges inspect up close, cockpits and all, instead of from 15 feet away.

The roster for flying competition Saturday and Sunday is:

Contestant Designer Scale	Plane
Bauer, Charles	J-3 Cub
Beatty, Frank	Hawker Fury
Profile Scale	
Bauer, Charles	Connie
Jensen, Jeff	T-34 Mentor
Bauer, Aaron	TA154
Alberty, Mindy	P-40
Bauer, Jason	A-26
Whitney, Robert	Pond Racer
BrownHill, Chris	Hampden
Byron, Richard	KI83
Crespo, Harry	Yak-9U
Kraver, Ted	GAL 38 Fleet Shadower
Avera, William	P-51 Mustang
Wright, John	Corsair FG1
Hitchcock, Jeffrey	P-39
Sport Scale	
Bauer, Charles	Islander
Alberty, Thomas	AiraCobra
Bauer, Peter	Skyraider
Beatty, Frank	Stearman 4EM
Bauer, Jason	A-26
Alberty, Melinda	PT 21
Bauer, Aaron	Buster
Mason, Edward	Miss Angela
	B-17
Brodak, John	Shoestring
Goff, Allen	WACO
Wright, John	Cessna 195
Hitchcock, Jeffrey	P-40
Fun Scale	
Klepsic, Pete	B-25
Alberty, Thomas	Tigercat
Jensen, Jeff	P-39 AirCobra
Mason, Edward	Fuddy Duddy, B-17
Brownhill, Chris	Fairchild Cornell
Crespo, Harry	Bearcat F8F2
Goff, Allen	PT-17
Kraver, Ted	OV 10A Bronco
Hitchcock, Jeffrey	P-63
Pardue, Bob	Art Chester Jeep
Rist, John	Xtra 300S

The static score and first day of flying—two flights—will be posted in the next *NatsNews*. Keep posted!

—Ted Kraver



Melinda Alberty is showing the top view of her PT-21 in Sport Scale.



Peter Klepsic designed and built his profile B-25 in 2000. He has lights, bomb-drop (4), and a rotating top turret and two LA25s. Peter plans to have it kitted.



Above: At the hotel John Brodak is listening to Richard Schneider respond to John's list of Scale questions including the new rules. Frank Beatty looks on.

Right: Charlie Bauer is adding a fine detail to his profile Connie: a pilot behind the darkened windows of the 1:1 scale Constellation.

Inset below: Typical minimum documentation for Fun Scale: pictures of the real aircraft, color verification, scoring sheets, and on the back of the picture sheet the three-views.



Competitors and spectators check out the wide array of CL Scale models. Allen Brickhaus (L) is planning a small version of the OV 10A Bronco.



Left: John Brodak is talking to Frank Beatty about how he has used two gallons of fuel test-flying his Shoestring, setting the plane up for the Nationals.

Below: Harry Crespo holds the tail of his Yak 9U, to give a frontal view to the judges that matches the three-views.



Above: Thomas Alberty admiring Robert Whitney's Pond Racer. Last year Bob traveled from Miami to St. Louis and to Tucson, Arizona, to compete with the very speedy Profile Scale.



Left: Frank Beatty is presenting the right side of his Hawker Fury to the Designer Scale judges.

Ramsey photos.

