

# NATSNEWS



**CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF COMPETITION**

**July 14**

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**RC Aerobatics (Pattern)**



# RC AEROBATICS (PATTERN)

Text and photos by Jim Quinn

The third day of our Nats competition has many changes. Many of the FAI pilots are not flying on day 3. On days 1 and 2, all FAI pilots flew the "P" Preliminary sequence. Of that group, only the top 20 pilots flew on day 3, flying the "F" or Final sequence. Later in the day, that group of 20 pilots will be further reduced to eight that will fly on the fourth day of competition. The Masters pilots will see the same reduction to eight finalist pilots for the fourth day of Finals.

Our Intermediate and Advanced pilots will have their final day of flying on this third day of competition. Our event director, Albert Glenn, wanted an early start to be sure that we would finish all of the rounds in a timely fashion. AI needed that extra time because day 3 began with a judges' meeting to review some of the finer points of the "F" Final sequence. John Carter and Derek Kooplowitz led the judges' meeting. It went along as planned, but a low ceiling prevented the anticipated early flying.



Surprise of surprises, even the hard-working ladies who do tabulation at the AMA whale had time to relax and enjoy a friendly visit from Cindy Wickizer. You never see these very hard working and dedicated ladies outside of the whale, especially for a casual visit with friends!

To be sure that the ceiling was high enough and safe enough for competition flying, Site 1 sent up a test airplane. Jim Willing volunteered to fly his airplane. It didn't take long before you couldn't see the airplane, so Jim idled down and spun down out of the low cloud.

Site 3 had a less-traditional idea. Chad Northeast had a datalink quadcopter that would record the altitude at the base of the clouds. Chad's quad took off and everyone was watching the quad, except Chad, of course. He was watching the monitor to know when the multirotor got to the base of the clouds.



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During the delay, Team Futaba took a photo of competitors on Site 1. Those on Sites 3 and 4 were busy with other considerations.



Finally, the ceiling lifted and competition flying began. All of the FAI pilots bring their "A" game every day, but in the finals, they bring an "A++" game. That means that their primary and backup planes are both on the line and their backup is equally ready to fly if a problem develops with their primary airplane.

Andrew Jesky and his caller, Kevin Young (back cover photo), are ready and waiting for the line chief's signal to arm the motor. (Andrew's plane is electric powered. If it were glow powered, he would then start his engine.) After that signal, each competitor has eight minutes to take off and complete all of his maneuvers. At the end of that eight-minute period, no other maneuvers will be scored. It is a long sequence, so time is critical.

With a two-hour delay, flying began in earnest. The results of the day's flying would not be announced until later in the day at the banquet. The storm did come, but the flying was over. Day 3 of our competition ended, and so it was on to the banquet.



Following a delicious meal, Albert Glenn and John Carter began presenting awards.

In Intermediate, the highest five finishers are:

1. Hunter Jones
2. Tim Pritchett
3. Peter Vogel
4. Curt Oberg
5. Monte Richards



In Advanced, the highest five finishers are:

1. Chuck Edwards
2. Dan Rocha
3. Lawrence Tougas
4. Scott McNickle
5. Mike Gaishin



A new four-round contest will begin for Masters. There are eight finalists for Thursday: Greyson Pritchett, Chris Odom, Joe Walker, Derek Emmett, Brenner Sharp, Chuck Hochhalter, Gary Courtney, and Robert Green. All eight pilots reached into a hat to draw the starting order for the morning flights. Greyson drew first.



The eight FAI finalists are Jason Shulman, Andrew Jesky, Brett Wickizer, Chip Hyde, Peter Collinson, Chad Northeast, AC Glenn, and Joseph Szczur.

As with the Masters finalists, each FAI finalist drew a starting number from John Carter's hat. Andrew drew first. 🍀

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## SAVE THE DATE

# 8.13.2016

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