

# 2013 NATS

NATIONAL AEROMODELING CHAMPIONSHIPS  
ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS · CHAMPAIGN IL · MUNCIE IN

# NatsNews

Academy of Model Aeronautics  
International Aeromodeling Center, Muncie IN  
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Today's Events:  
Aerobatics

The 2012 Intermediate Champion was Brandon Sobolewski. Brandon is back this year in a new class with a new airplane. Brandon and Harry Ells had a midair which brought an end to his Integral.

Luckily for Brandon, Mike Mueller was also flying in the same contest. He loaned Brandon his Prolog and somehow the Prolog went home with Brandon, not Mike, thanks to Steve, Brandon's dad.



Monday, July 22

# RC Aerobatics

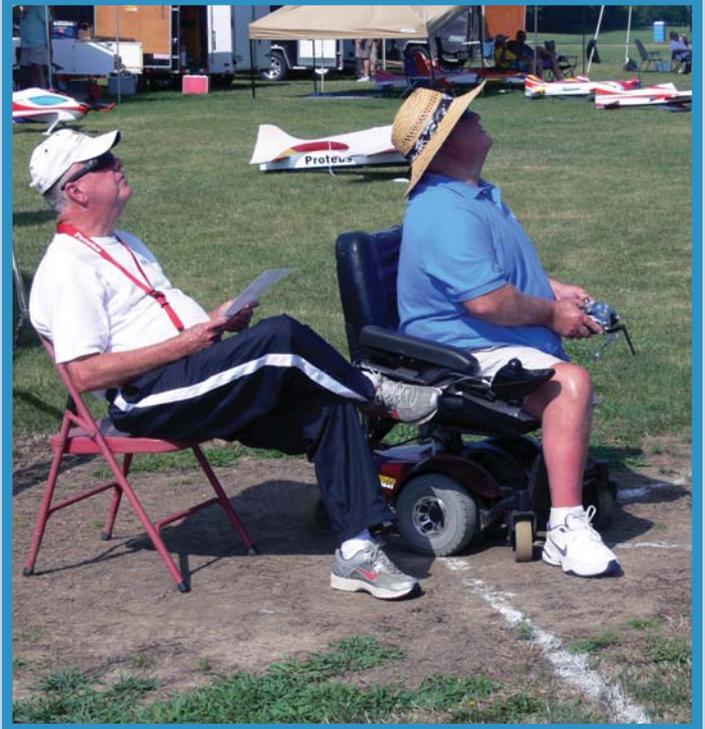
Our first day for RC Aerobatics at the AMA International Aeromodeling Center was designated as a day of practice and an afternoon pilots' meeting. The day was crammed with activity.

As luck would have it Mark Radcliff, AMA's District III vice president, stopped by Site 4 to visit with District X Vice President Larry Tougas. That gave me a perfect opportunity to feature AMA's basic message and the heart of everything good about our RC Aerobatics contest. The message is on AMA's EZ-Up, "Bringing Modelers Together." Larry also had a support system with him all the way from California: his parents, Ed and Rita, who have been married 51 years.



because he has had a leg amputated at the hip. Did this stop Mike from pursuing his passion for RC Aerobatics? Absolutely not!

Mike even brings his own airplane to and from the flightline. Mike is flying an electric-powered Osmose and has been a Nats participant since 2008. Mike comes all the way from Alabaster, Alabama. He is an inspiration to everyone with his can-do spirit.



While at Site 4, I noticed a pilot and his caller both sitting during his practice flight. The reason Mike Williams sits to fly is

It is always a treat to see Jim and Matt Kimbro return to the Nats each year. This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in which Jim has flown one of his original designs in competition.

This year's design is a collaboration between Jim and Matt. Jim says each of his current designs flows from all the previous designs. Most recently, Jim's Assassin gave rise to his current design, the Asylum.

Of course, everyone wanted to know the reason for the name and yes, your guess is correct. You need to be a little bit crazy to fly RC Aerobatics. Matt says, "There's something a little bit off with all of us."

Jim was quick to point out, "I'm the most sane of the bunch." All the way across the site from Site 1 to Site 4, an unsolicited, independent comment was made by Mike Mueller. Mike always thought he was a little bit crazy to be doing RC Aerobatics until he came to his first Nats and found hundreds of others doing exactly the same thing.

Back to the design itself. Jim was clear to say this biplane design was actually a monoplane. He said, the top wing is part of the fuselage, unlike a typical biplane. Others commented that it was just a very large cantalizer.

Jim and Matt went back to glow power for the Asylum after two years of electric with the Assassin. They just like the feel of the YS 175. Did you wonder what Jim named his first design?

I did. Back in those years, he said, names were usually not given to airplanes. Design one was unnamed. My only other question was where will the Kimbros go after the Asylum?



As a courtesy, Event Director Stafford offered anyone who wished a weight or dimension check. Bob Gainey's smile says his airplane is ready for action. During the contest, airplanes will be weighed at random after a flight to be sure everyone is in compliance with the weight rule.

Many individuals and companies have been very generous in supporting our World Championship team going to South Africa. F3A Unlimited has sponsored our ice cream social for the last two years, but their major sponsorship has been to our World Championship Team. If you see Chris Moon with his BiSide or Mike Mueller with his Griffin out and about this week, be sure to thank them. They also have several kits offered by F3A Unlimited here on-site this week. Be sure to support them.





Sunday officially ended with a 5 p.m. pilots' meeting. Event Director Stafford checked for Monday morning's judges, talked about our safety considerations, and Jon Carter clarified some considerations for the judges. Then it was back to practice while the sun was still shining.



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When it comes to aeromodeling in America, there is one place above all others: the International Aeromodeling Center at AMA's Headquarters in Muncie, Indiana. The IAC has a beautifully designed Walk of Fame that is a wonderful way for you to honor AMA, a loved one, your club, or your organization with a commemorative brick. At the IAC, bricks are on permanent display for all visitors to see.

A commemorative brick would make a timeless and well-received gift during the holidays or any time of the year for that special person who has everything and needs nothing, as a permanent sign of his or her dedication to aeromodeling.

With your \$100 donation to the Academy, a brick in the Walk of Fame will be engraved in black with the AMA wings and two lines reserved for your name, a friend, loved one, club, or organization. A \$500 donation will secure a "gold wings" brick with logo and wording handsomely engraved in gold. At the \$1,000 level, you will receive an 8 x 8-inch black granite brick engraved in gold. Your donation is considered a gift in support of the AMA.

**This week's events:**

**Tuesday**  
Pattern (Aero)

**Wednesday**  
Pattern (Aero)

**Thursday**  
Pattern (Aero)

**Friday**  
RC Helicopter

**Saturday**  
RC Helicopter

**Sunday**  
RC Helicopter



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**Thank you for joining us this year!**

Jenni Orebaugh photo,  
2012 Aerobatic Nats.

