

# National News

Daily Coverage of National Aeromodeling Championships

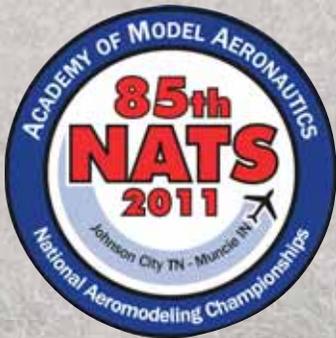
**August 3, 2011**

**Thursday**  
RC Aerobatics

**Friday**  
RC Aerobatics

**Saturday**  
RC Aerobatics

**Sunday**  
RC Helicopter



**Inside:**



Academy of Model Aeronautics International Aeromodeling Center, Muncie IN  
website: [www.modelaircraft.org](http://www.modelaircraft.org); email: [nats@modelaircraft.org](mailto:nats@modelaircraft.org)  
Copyright Academy of Model Aeronautics 2011  
Editors: Ashley Rauen, Rachele Haughn, Liz Helms

# RC Aerobatics

Photos by Jim Quinn.

**A**MA's International Aeromodeling Center has been bustling with activity while hosting the F3A World Championship. As teams and judges from the World Championship start home, an influx of more RC aerobatic pilots arrive and register for our National Championship.

The first stop is at Event Headquarters. Who else should we see for registration, but the smiling face of Jane Morgan? Jane processes you through in the wink of an eye as well as confirms custom shirt orders and a variety of other jobs. Here, Ken Velez is checking in with Jane to get his credentials for this year's FAI competition.



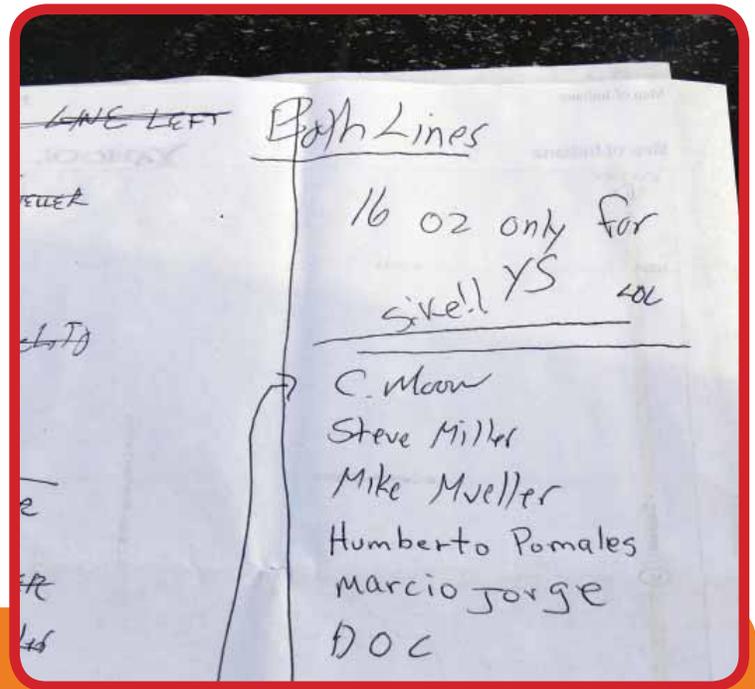
In the office just behind Jane is her husband Ron Morgan, who for more than 50 years has been the backbone of our National competitions. Ron has the help of Al Williamson, who sheds light on everything radio-controlled. Al is up early and goes to bed late to be sure every thing is in order for our day of flying. Recently, one of this year's competitors joked that Al lives at Event Headquarters. Al just smiled and kept working. A special thanks goes out to Ron and Al for a great job.



At Site 1, it seemed like it was a contest day because so many airplanes were lined up.



When you looked at the sign-up list for a flying order you were sure it was not a day at the Nats, but just early practice. Obviously, this note was written by some of our electric-powered pilots, "16 oz only for YS..."



It wasn't quite so crowded at Site 2, but there were plenty of airplanes being unloaded in the parking lot.



The big surprise of the day came with a visit to Site 4. Flashing down from the sky came "Captain JR" in his full cape and wrist guards. Upon closer inspection it was actually one of the Advanced pilots, Joseph Szczer.



Brian Strahan was getting in some early morning practice.



Shortly after Brian landed, Jeff Hatton took his turn to fly a practice round. At the same time, Austin Wingo began his flight on the other line. Tragedy struck Site 4 when the two airplanes collided in a catastrophic midair. Both planes were destroyed.

If there can be any brightness in this tragedy, it is with our current (at least for the next few days) reigning National Champion, Andrew Jesky. Andrew and his family were walking through Site 4 when the midair occurred. After receiving the highest honor in the F3A World with a first-place team trophy and an amazing third-place over all, what did Andrew do? Like most other modelers, this world-class pilot walked out into the field to help pick up some of the pieces and give a word of encouragement to the two pilots. Andrew, you really are a world-class guy!

It seemed like only a few minutes had passed when Chris Moon and Mickey Losardo met with the same tragic fate. Early practice on registration day did not go so well. When you see Jeff, Austin, Chris, or Mickey, give them an extra kind word.

**Pilots flying** at the Nats are generally asked to spend some time in the judge's chair. When your class is not flying you most likely will be sitting in a judging chair. NSRCA offers a Judging Seminar each year during the registration day so all the pilots can be updated on any changes in our sequences as well as other rule changes. Although the atmosphere was casual and friendly, a lot of learning went on.



Rusty Fried, our Event Director for the 2011 RC Aerobatic Nats, brought us all to attention at the 5 p.m. pilots' meeting. Before the meeting, all the participants were treated to some delicious Baskin-Robbins ice cream, compliments of NSRCA. While we were enjoying a dish of ice cream, Rusty briefed us on everything related to the smooth flow of opening day's flying.



The NSRCA Board left the pilots' meeting to go to yet another meeting, our annual Nats Board meeting. We were updated on the World Championship by Derek Koopowitz. We were updated on everything Nats-related by Rusty Fried.

We appointed a new vice president, Tony Frankowiak. There also was a serious discussion on an electronic K-Factor, including other types of aerobatic flying, such as SPA, BPA, etc., under the blanket umbrella of NSRCA. Developing an eye-catching brochure and many other factors also were discussed.

You can read the minutes of the meeting on our website, [www.nsrca.us](http://www.nsrca.us). The meeting was adjourned a little after 9 p.m., and we met Dave Mathewson, AMA's Executive Director, who bid us a farewell and wished us well on our first day of flying. ➔

—Jim Quinn

