

NatsNews

Daily Coverage of the 2011 National Aeromodeling Championships

August 6, 2011

Sunday

RC Helicopter

Monday

RC Helicopter

Tuesday

RC Helicopter

Wednesday

RC Helicopter

One exciting avenue for advancing our sport is the Vanquish 2M airplane. One of these planes flew in the World Championship last week and two are flying on Site 4 this week. Jim Willing is on the left and Victor Diaz is on the right. There are very few of these airplanes in the USA today. We can hope to see many more in the future.



Inside:



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RC Aerobatics

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Bobby Stout is a legend as the director of Site 4. If you look closely at Bobby's shirt, it is from 1998. That is 13 years ago and that is not Bobby's oldest site director shirt. His hat, however, is for 2011. Thanks for all your hard work and the smoothness of which you direct Site 4. Bobby has been involved with every Nats beginning with the first one held here at AMA's International Aeromodeling Center.

The Lockhart name is very familiar with all who regularly come to the Nats. So what can we name as a first for the Lockharts in 2011? Ron and Dave are well known names, but Karen Lockhart is attending her first Nats! Karen is Ron's wife and Dave's mother. When this picture was taken, Karen was watching Dave fly one of his semi-final rounds. Looking at her hands, is there also a mother's prayer for her son's flight?



As batteries are becoming more and more popular for powering our aerobatic airplanes, managing them is a new task we never had in our days of glow power. Andrew Taylor is checking his batteries to see if they are ready for his next flight.



When you watch an aerobatic flight, the only person working on the flight is the caller. When it comes to World Championship flights the work load on a pilot's caller increases exponentially. Giving Andrew Jesky every accolade and all possible praise, we also need to give credit to Verne Koester, Andrew's caller. Where Verne found the reserve to fly in our National Championship immediately after our World Championship, amazed me. Verne, thanks for flying with us and bringing Andrew home with a third-place finish in the Worlds!



Did you ever wonder how everything gets set up or torn down? How the grass gets mowed? How everything happens here at AMA? Much of it happens with Josh Green and Greg Messer of AMA's maintenance department. They transform our flying site so often they even have a "Transformer" on the front of their truck. Greg is on the left and Josh is on the right.

When you come to the Nats you, like to fly against the best in the country. In 2007, Glen Watson won the Masters first-place trophy. In 2008 he placed second, just a few points away from first. We've missed Glen for the last two years, but we are most pleased to see his return this year. Welcome back Glen.





Victor Diaz is not only an excellent pilot; he is also a master chef. It is lucky for all of the pilots on Site 4 that the airplanes don't eat. If they sampled Victor's food, every airplane on Site 4 would be overweight!



How do our pilots get ready for their day of flying? Mark Leseberg's girlfriend, Angela Morgan, gives him a gentle rub on the back. Scott McHarg's wife starts his flight with a little kiss.

Can you identify this logo? Clearly there is the letter, "A" in red on the side of a bear.



If you say the above as one word you get "abear." Accent the first letter and it might begin to sound like Bryan Hebert's last name. The logo represents a valuable part of our aerobatic world, Hebert competition designs.



In between flights how do you fill the time? Brandon Landry decided to build a small electric Reactor.



Leslie Hochhalter is at our Nats for the first time. She is here as the caller for her husband, Chuck. She describes our International Aeromodeling Center as awesome! The people, the planes, and the skill level are like a dream come true to her. Coming from Texas the heat is fine. Leslie works in the fire protection industry, so heat is part of her life. After calling for her husband her favorite thing is just watching other pilots fly.



Ken Velez is getting friendly with his newly acquired Cation. It is the first in the country and possibly only the third in the world.

How do you get from one site to the other easily? It takes some time to disassemble and reassemble a biplane. Mark Leseberg seems to have found a quick solution.

You could be out flying the new SBACH 342 if you were Brian Strachan, or if you were Joseph Szczur you could be flying a Beast.





From left to right going from first to sixth place our Intermediate Champions are: Brian Strachan, Houston Schweitzer, Steven Insalaco, Brandon Sobolweski, Austin Wingo, and Jim Gruntkowski.

By now we've been fed, moved our airplanes, and finished round two on day three. The Intermediate and Advanced pilots are waiting to hear the good word on who gets awards.

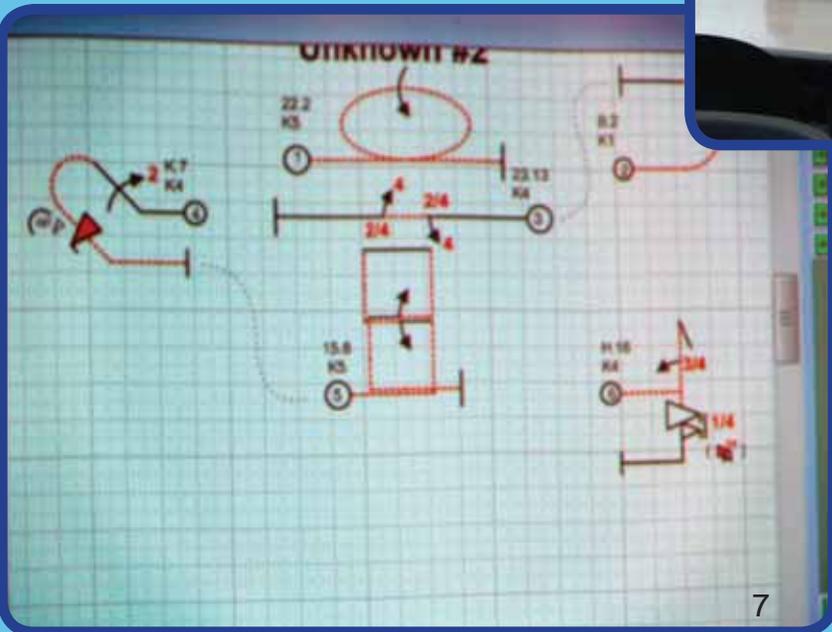
Congratulations to Brian Strachan, our new Intermediate National Champion, and Joseph Szczur, our New Advanced Champion. Each of these pilots finished the contest with 4,000 points!



From left to right, going from first to sixth place, our Advanced Champions are: Joseph Szczur, Scott McHarg, Victor Diaz, John Gayer, Larry Koffman, Bob Condra, and Adam Barry-Ford.



Now, all that is left for the third day of our competition is to choose the flight order for the finalists in Masters and FAI. There is one additional responsibility for the FAI pilots. They must create two previously unknown sequences for their final day of competition. On the last day the remaining FAI pilots will fly two F-11 sequences and the two unknown sequences. This afternoon we will know the National Champion for Masters and FAI.





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