

Friday
August 10

Nats News

Daily coverage of the 2012 National Aeromodeling Championships



Academy of Model Aeronautics International Aeromodeling Center, Muncie IN
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Free Flight Day 6

Today's Events: Free Flight

THE WEATHER of the week proved to be a fickle friend; its graces being withheld most of Thursday.

The day started cool, overcast, and rainy, and this persisted until late morning. Slowly and eventually, the skies cleared somewhat, although the rain intervened on and off until mid-afternoon.

Also, the wind direction, thankfully never very strong, shifted direction numerous times and required multiple changes in location throughout the day. On the positive side, the temperatures remained cool most of the day, only briefly climbing to the mid-80s late in the afternoon. However, Mother Nature didn't deter the Free Flight modelers on hand—we flew hard all day.

Once again, the gas-power fliers lead the way with a multitude of categories and strong participation. $\frac{1}{2}$ A NosGas proved the most popular with 17 fliers, with Larry Davidson (Virginia) winning way out in front with 1,200 seconds. Gene Christensen (Illinois) placed second with 1,050 seconds, and Rudy Kluiber (Ohio), third, with 670 seconds.

Two other gas categories furnished strong fields with $\frac{1}{2}$ A Classic Gas providing 14 fliers and A Gas, 11. Dan Berry took $\frac{1}{2}$ A Classic Gas with 743 seconds, with Brad Bane (New York) placing second with 680 seconds, and Bob Sowder (Virginia), third, with 464 seconds.

A Gas was won by Ronnie Thompson (Alabama) with 1,350 seconds, being trailed by Gerald Brown with 887 seconds and Dan Berry (Arkansas) with 744 seconds.

Closing out the gas-power dance card, ABC Pylon was won handily by Bud Romak with 600 seconds. Dan Kane (OH) won the fun Dakota event, and Hank Sperzel won AB Geef with 1,051 seconds.

Electric A provided a good test of skill, close scores, and a good show. Dick Covalt came out on top with 592 seconds, followed by Pete Reinhart (Texas) with 590 seconds and Dick Ivers with 419 seconds.

HLG proved to be the most popular category of the day with 33 fliers, and the results didn't surprise—shoving the usual suspects forward. The tricky conditions staggered official flights

until the final hour, and the issue wasn't decided until the very end. Stan Buddenbohm (California) gathered an impressive 805 seconds total, and this was enough to win. Tim Buxton (Ohio) placed second with 720 seconds and Kurt Klempetz, third, with 600 seconds. Larson Ringlien (Minnesota) won the Junior category with 89 seconds, and Sam Smetzer, the Senior category, with 540 seconds.

There was rubber-powered action as well. OT Rubber Cabin proved well contested with 12 fliers with Joe Williams (Pennsylvania) coming out on top with 674 seconds. Jim O'Reilly (Kansas) trailed with 540 seconds and James Gerszewski (Wisconsin), with 531 seconds.

F1B Wakefield proved to be a two-day affair. Many fliers made it to the fly-offs on Wednesday with seven still standing by the end of the day. The issue was finally settled Thursday evening after several more rounds with Junior World Champion Brian Pacelli (Connecticut) winning the Nats, too in a squeaker with a score of 2048 seconds. Tony Mathews (Canada) earned a terribly close second place with 2047. Young Ryan Jones (Ohio) took third with 2015 seconds and Paul Crowley (MI) fourth with 1985 seconds.

F1J was a day-long affair and wasn't settled until late Thursday evening. Faust Parker (Texas) won with 1,613 seconds. Robert Gutai (Pennsylvania) placed second with 1,560 seconds, and John Lorbieckie took third with 1,200 seconds.

F1G Coupe was a well-contested event with 20 fliers. It, too, went into the fly-off rounds. Tony Matthews (Canada) won a well-deserved first place with 900 seconds. Tom Vaccaro (CT) narrowly missed the top spot and settled for second place with 896 seconds. George Batiuk placed third with 846 seconds.

Friday morning dawned windy, chilly, overcast, and drizzly—not very promising. The forecast has it clearing by mid-morning and remaining cool. The experts vary on what the wind is going to do. Regardless, we'll be out there, giving the Free Flight Nats its final day's justice.

As is our way, fewer categories are being flown today: the massive Super D and $\frac{1}{4}$ A Nostalgia gassers, Nostalgia Wakefield, OT Rubber Stick, Classic Towline, Pee Wee 30, and the ever-popular P-30 will keep us busy. *///*



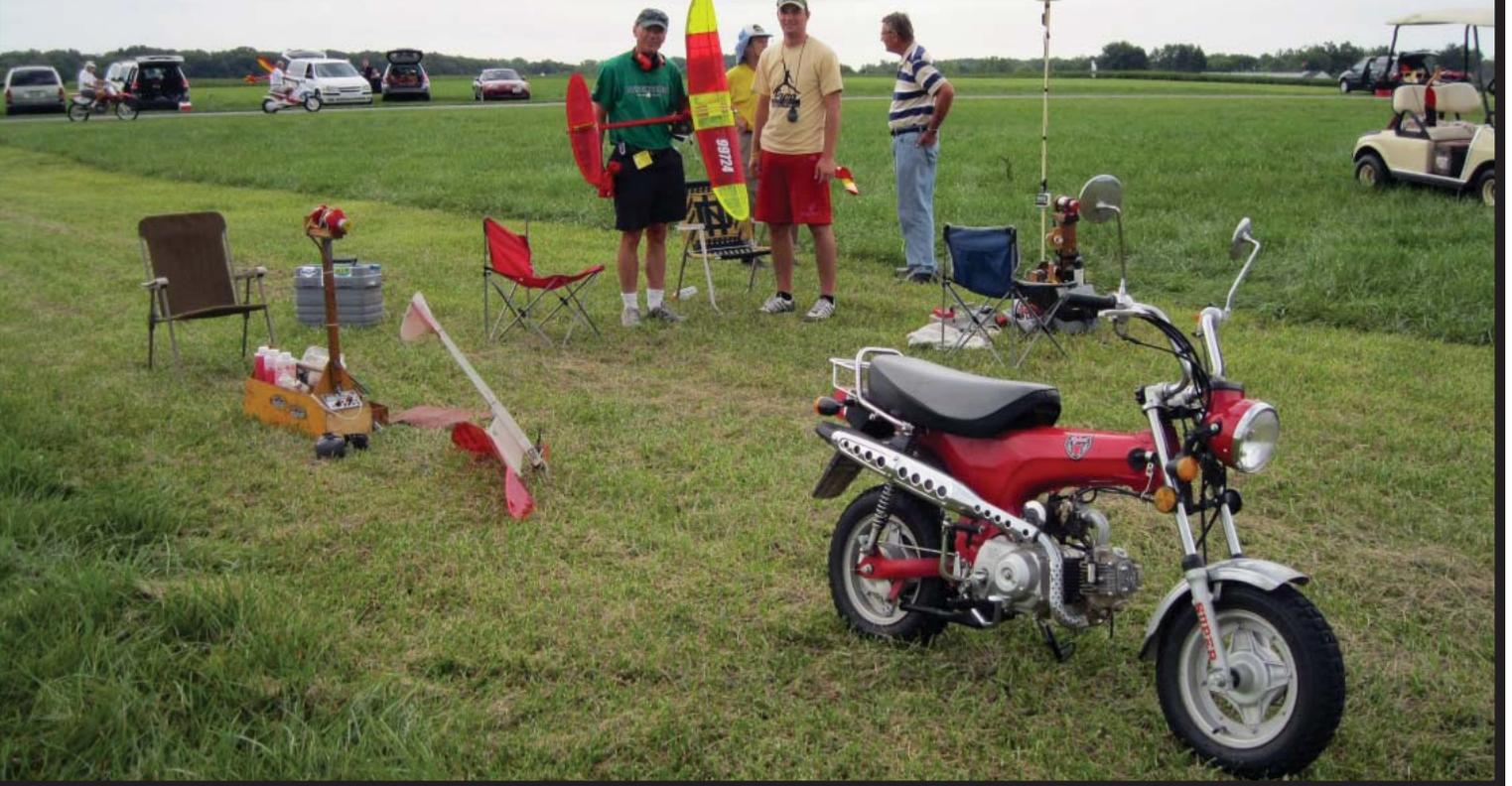
The HLG pen was busy all day—and stationary! The wind, rain, and thermal condition changes made for an interesting event.



John Seymour (OH) and his Bob White-designed F1G Coupe. It's a simple, popular, and very elegant model.

Something you don't see everyday, a homemade F1G Coupe by Andy Ringlien (MN).

In case you wondered what a well-equipped gas power flier's work station looks like—boys, toys, and noise.





David Sechrist's (IN) homemade F1G Coupe, which features many high-tech gadgets. You see few of these.



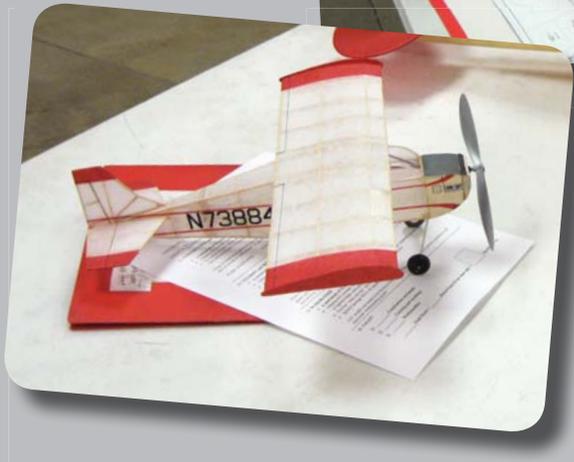
The local headquarters of Colorado's Magnificent Mountain Men club, with Rick Pangell and his A Gas Satellite in the middle.

James Miller (OH) and his cute-as-a-bug Martin MO-1 preparing for launch.



George Batiuk (CA) and his lovely F1G Coupe, full of all the bells and whistles.





Ted Allebone and Mike Welshans were generous with their time and knowledge and served as judges for the Flying Aces Club events. Many thanks, guys!

Meet Dave Guerin!

HIS MENTOR may have had to leave a couple of weeks early, but Dave Guerin seems to be fine standing on his own two feet. Dave is the new manager of one of the largest and longest events held at the International Aeromodeling Center (IAC): the Nats.

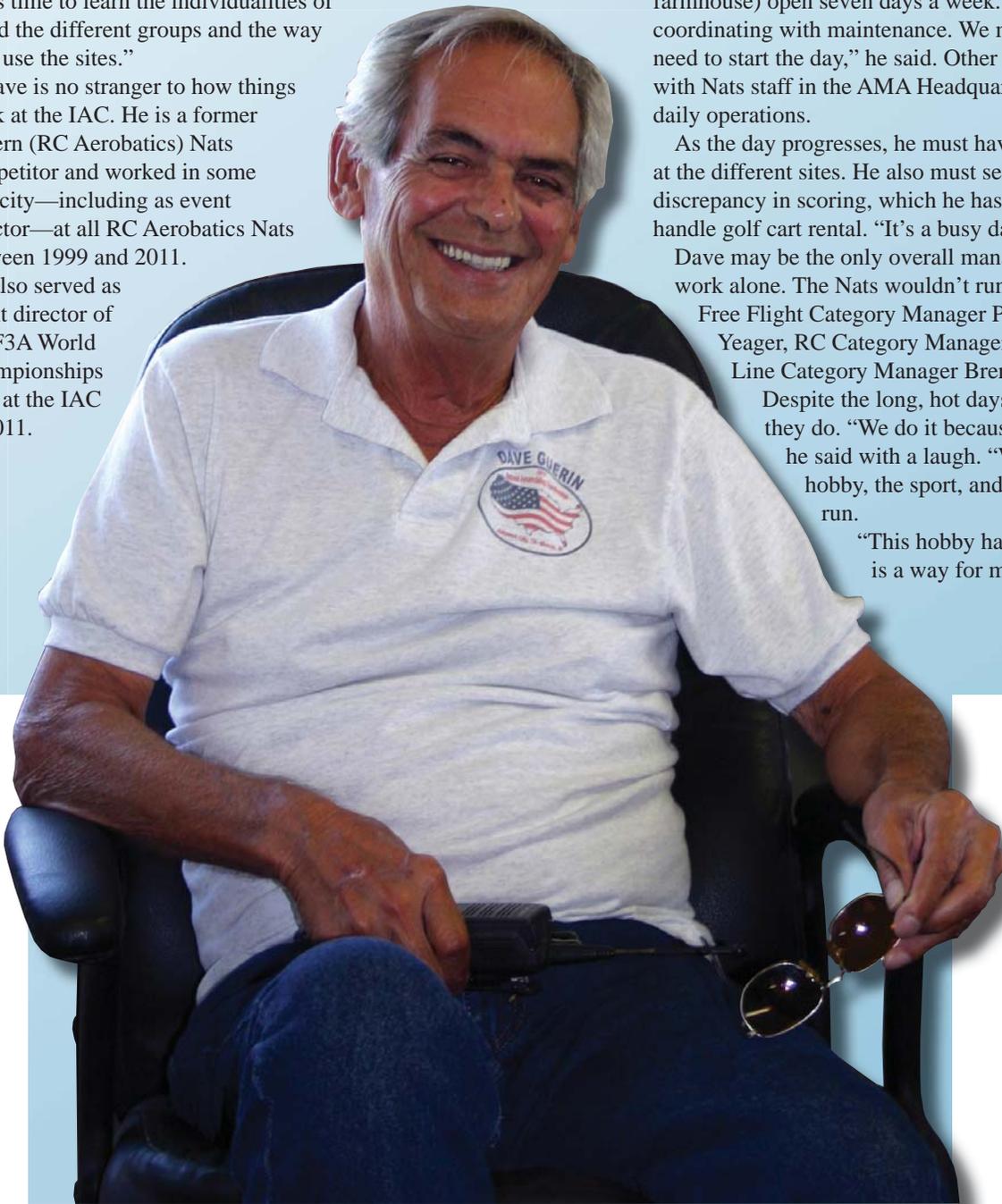
Dave, a resident of Burlington, North Carolina, replaces Ron Morgan, who decided it was time to step down after more than 50 years as Nats manager. Dave was appointed to the volunteer position by AMA President Bob Brown.

“I was supposed to spend this Nats [training] with Ron, but he had to leave, so I have been the manager since he left,” Dave said Thursday as the busy day’s events were winding down. Ron left before the Nats ended to handle personal matters. “Well, it was a shock,” he said of Ron leaving before completing the training. “Actually, it was good for me. I had three good weeks with him, and he taught me a lot.”

So far, Dave seems to be handling running his first Nats just fine, and is learning all about the uniqueness of each group and event. “The individual Special Interest Groups are very different, very unique. It takes time to learn the individualities of it and the different groups and the way they use the sites.”

Dave is no stranger to how things work at the IAC. He is a former Pattern (RC Aerobatics) Nats competitor and worked in some capacity—including as event director—at all RC Aerobatics Nats between 1999 and 2011.

He also served as event director of the F3A World Championships held at the IAC in 2011.



Although he no longer competes, he still enjoys building and flying Pattern aircraft. “I was a fierce competitor in the ’70s and ’80s, and the young kids kept making me look silly,” he said.

Dave admitted that he *really* enjoys building aircraft. So much so that he made a living out of it for 15 years. “I used to build Pattern competition aircraft for a living ... after I retired from the corporate world. I enjoyed every minute of it.

“I built airplanes for many top-level competitors. I have an airplane in the [National Model Aviation Museum] flown in 2006 by Quique Somenzini [a national and world champion].” This means of income ended when the popularity of ARFs surged.

Although he no longer gets paid for it, Dave still enjoys building model aircraft. He recently completed a Top Flite Elder. “I brought an airplane with me [to Muncie] to fly, but it’s been sitting behind the counter ever since I got here this year.”

It’s no surprise that Dave hasn’t had much time to fly. His day begins at roughly 6:30 a.m. and ends at approximately 6:30 p.m. He keeps the Nats Headquarters building (also known as the white farmhouse) open seven days a week. “We start off the morning by coordinating with maintenance. We make sure everyone has what they need to start the day,” he said. Other daily duties include coordinating with Nats staff in the AMA Headquarters building and overseeing daily operations.

As the day progresses, he must have a handle on what is going on at the different sites. He also must serve as a jury if there is some discrepancy in scoring, which he has done once this summer, and handle golf cart rental. “It’s a busy day,” he said.

Dave may be the only overall manager of the Nats, but he doesn’t work alone. The Nats wouldn’t run as smoothly without the help of Free Flight Category Manager Phil Sullivan, RC Director Wayne Yeager, RC Category Manager Al Williamson, and Control Line Category Manager Brenda Schuette.

Despite the long, hot days, Dave and his crew love what they do. “We do it because we’re sort of insane people,” he said with a laugh. “We do it because we love the hobby, the sport, and that’s what it takes to make it run.

“This hobby has been very good to me and this is a way for me to give something back.”

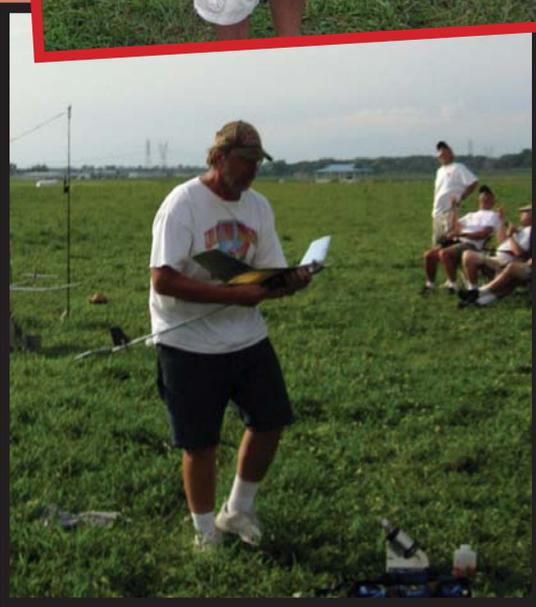
—Rachelle Haughn
NatsNews staff



Jim Buxton (OH) and the latest in HLG sophistication, one of a short production run of three. There were vacuum-bagged and skinned wings and composite materials everywhere. Very cool!



John Rousseau (NY) tests his Dawn Unlimited Rubber model.

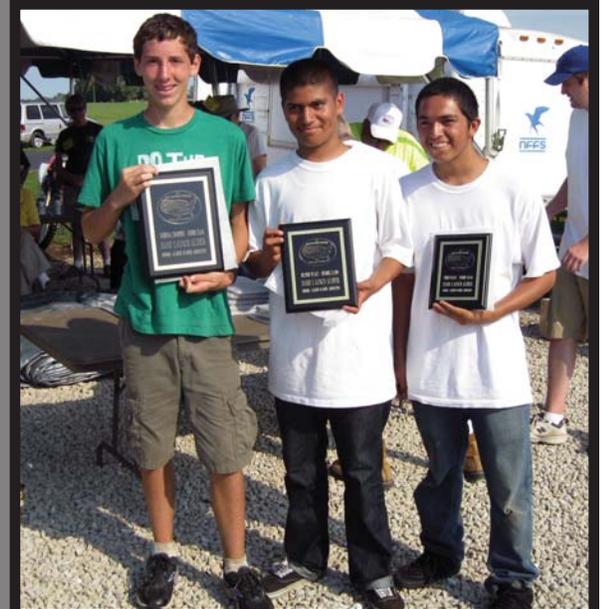


John Lorbieckie (WI) prepares to launch his F1J in the late afternoon fly-offs.

The motley winners in 1/2A Classic Gas: Gary Oakins (MN), Bob Hanford (OK), Bob Sowder (VA), Dan Berry (AR), first, and Brad Bane (NY).



This great nation's all-California winners in Senior HLG: Sam Smetzer, 1st, Ricardo Samario, 2nd, and Anthony Guzman, 3rd





This great nation's winners in Junior HLG: Larson Ringlien (MN), first, and Ian Wicks (IN), second.



The happy winners in Electric A: Pete Reinhart (TX), Dick Covalt (OH), first, and David Sechrist (IN).

F1B Wakefield

1	Pacelli **	Brian	788155	Wallingford	CT	2048
2	Matthews	Tony	maac 7762	Brampton	ON	2047
3	Jones	Ryan	590967	Avon Lake	OH	2015
4	Crowley	Paul	2298	Warren	MI	1985
5	Vaccaro	Tom	327506	Plantsville	CT	1569
6	Radziunas	Sarah	726413	Northford	CT	1260
7	Batluk	George	10862	San Luis Obispo	CA	1260
8	Jones	Charlie	45287	Avon Lake	OH	1238
9	Simon	Greg	71097	Commerce Twp	MI	1231
10	Horak	Ladislav	maac 23208	Toronto	CN	1227
11	Simon	Evan	71096	Commerce Twp	MI	1216
12	Schlosberg	Aram	63362	Bayside	NY	1192
13	MacCleery	Richard	81670	Birmingham	MI	1180
14	Clapp	John	19400	Sayre	PA	1133
15	Richardson	Mike	29768	Westfield	IN	897
16	Joyner	Louis	71244	Richmond	VA	841
17	Seymour	John	12550	Radner	OH	779
18	Allen	Carrol	8395	Copake	NY	777
19	Sifleet	Robert	18326	Glen Rock	PA	741
20	Radziunas	Michelle	751580	Northford	CT	628
21	Ioerger	Thomas G.	94350	Fulton	MD	370
22	McGlashan	Jerry	985446	Clear Creek	ON	240



The reigning national champion in Junior F1G Coupe, Larson Ringlien (MN).

Scores

National Aeromodeling Championships

ABCPylon

1	Romak	Bud	27032	Lincoln	CA	600
2	Sperzel	Hank	80586	Bellevue	NE	350
3	Edmonson	Dave	9788	Eagan	MN	317
4	Troutman	Mark	264864	Galveston	TX	293
5	Bocckinfuso	Jim	10745	Hardy	VA	253
6	Bartelt	Woody	11222	Galesburg	MI	184

Agas

1	Thompson	Ronnie	327893	Athens	AL	1350
2	Brown	Gerald	79269	Henderson	TX	887
3	Berry	Daniel	79311	Benton	AR	744
4	Hanford	Robert M	7272	Broken Arrow	OK	721
5	Marsh	Douglas K.	99724	Granger	IN	702
6	Bell	Tom	499747	Houston	TX	475
7	Demeritte	Jim	5487	Palm Bay	FL	459
8	Pangell	Rick	16165		CO	398
9	Surguine	freneau	339200	Orman Beach	FL	345
10	Reuter	Bill	36554	North Olmsted	OH	214
11	Clawson	Joe	31101	Palm Bay	FL	125

1/2AClassicO

1	Berry	Daniel	79311	Benton	AR	743
2	Bane	Brad	54695	Lyndonville	NY	680
3	Sowder	Bob	22179	Troutville	VA	464
4	Hanford	Robert M	7272	Broken Arrow	OK	349
5	Oakins	Gary	39905	Birchwood	MN	344
6	Reuter	Bill	36554	North Olmsted	OH	337
7	Brown	Gerald	79269	Henderson	TX	334
8	Landy	Stephen	L297	Farmingham	MA	323
9	Paillet	Jean	2222	Lake Lady	FL	313
10	Marsh	Douglas K.	99724	Granger	IN	289
11	Pangell	Rick	16165		CO	254
12	Marsh	Jack	99723	South Bend	IN	226
13	Schueider	Glenn	1648	Diablo	CA	199
14	Harper	Charles	38220	Blanchester	OH	73

Half A Nos Gas

1	Davidson	Larry	118	Moneta	VA	1200
2	Christensen	Gene	831325	Elk Grove	IL	1050
3	Klulber	Rudy	10945	Lakewood	OH	670
4	Hanford	Robert M	7272	Broken Arrow	OK	445
5	Bocckinfuso	Jim	10745	Hardy	VA	421
6	Marsh	Jack	99723	South Bend	IN	343
7	Schueider	Glenn	1648	Diablo	CA	342
8	Erridge	Roger	20953	Saranac	MI	335
9	Sowder	Bob	22179	Troutville	VA	332
10	Schuetler	Robert	13271	Lorida	FL	330
11	Troutman	Mark	264864	Galveston	TX	328
12	Marier**	Robert	842547	Roswell	GA	321
13	Edmonson	Dave	9788	Eagan	MN	315
14	Murphy	Jerald	917	Maniton Springs	CO	314
15	Kane	Dan	9192	Marion	OH	185
16	Stone	Blaine	862815	chesterfield	MO	133
17	Vollmer	Allan	7771	West Haven	CT	50

Electric A

1	Covatt	Richard	32551	Anderson	IN	592
2	Reinhart	Pete	9585	Austin	TX	590
3	Ivers	Richard	683557	West Newton	MA	419
4	Sechrist	David	574560	Bristol	IN	353
5	Tomasch	Andrew D.	61444	Northville	MI	298
6	Freeland	Mark	212748	Yeego Harbor	MI	266
7	Mattes	Robert	31928	St. Charles	MO	217

ABGeef

1	Sperzel	Hank	80586	Bellevue	NE	1051
2	Erridge	Roger	20953	Saranac	MI	929
3	Schueider	Glenn	1648	Diablo	CA	452
4	Sullivan	Phil	4556	Anderson	IN	244

F1GJ

1	Ringlen*	Larson	865223	Cgarkifte	NC	184
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F1JO

1	Parker	Faust	15980	Houston	TX	1613
2	Gutai	Robert	8008	Allentown	PA	1560
3	Lorbieckie	John E	53956	Hubertus	WI	1200
4	Fedor	Mike	16763	Arlington	TX	716
5	Lorbiecki	John T.	655236	Hubertus	WI	600

Dakota

1	Kane	Dan	9192	Marion	OH	-6
2	Kelly	Jim	37564	Yorktown	VA	-8

Scores

National Aeromodeling Championships

OHLGO

1	Buddenbohm	Stan	189385	Westminister	CA	805
2	Buxton	Jim	75154	Hilliard	OH	720
3	Krempetz	Kurt	69866	Bartlett	IL	600
4	Yost	John	906929	Decatur	TN	549
5	Batiuk	Tim	L135	San Juan Capistr	CA	495
6	Jones	Ryan	590967	Avon Lake	OH	464
7	Bauer	Ken	30748	Chino Hills	CA	452
8	Ferrario	Anthony	762814	Napa	CA	344
9	Peterson	Richard	151145	San Clemente	CA	341
10	Shailor	Paul	18712	Royal Oak	MI	319
11	Lewis	Jim	119	Macon	GA	319
12	Simon	Evan	71096	Commerce Twp	MI	307
13	Ringlien	Andrew W.	76902	Charlotte	NC	305
14	Hines	Lee	7334	Costa Mesa	CA	302
15	Johnson	Miles	816974	New Haven	CT	301
16	Langelius	Jan	32138	Haslet	TX	285
17	Ray	Ralph	5007	Boulevard	CA	278
18	Edmonson	Dave	9788	Eagan	MN	275
19	MacCleery	Richard	81670	Birmingham	MI	273
20	Gagliano	Charles	110082	Hilliard	OH	248
21	Mekina	Joe	16734	Donnelsville	OH	243
22	Powell	Chuck	465518	Benton	KS	161
23	Bays	Kit	3150	Winterville	NC	161
24	Mills	David	7717	Atlanta	GA	138
25	Berry	Daniel	79311	Benton	AR	109
26	Griner	J.B.M.	10506	Indianapolis	IN	14
27	Ringlien	Jeff	569054	Northfield	MN	10

OHLGJ

1	Ringlien*	865223	Cgarkittie	NC	89
2	Wicks*	103377	Normal	IL	15
	Larson		lan		

1/2AClassics

1	Marier**	Robert	842547	Roswell	GA	309
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F1GSO

1	Matthews	Tony	maac 7762	Brampton	ON	900
2	Vaccaro	Tom	327506	Plantsville	CT	896
3	Batiuk	George	10862	San Luis Obispo	CA	846
4	Horak	Ladislav	maac 23208	Toronto	CN	810
5	Simon	Greg	71097	Commerce Twp	MI	757
6	Joyner	Louis	71244	Richmond	VA	736
7	Seymour	John	12550	Radner	OH	727
8	Richardson	Marlin	18650	Grosse Ile	MI	713
9	Radziunas	Kathy	751798	Northford	CT	585
10	Markos	Charles	5869	Deerfield	IL	575
11	Lacey	David	25895	Alexandria	VA	565
12	loerger	Thomas G.	94350	Fulton	MD	556
13	Ringlien	Andrew W.	76902	Charlotte	NC	544
14	Masterman	Paul	182816	Porter	IN	501
15	Sechrist	David	574560	Bristol	IN	418
16	Konefes	Ed	53758	Wauconda	IL	358
17	Jones	Darold	33265	Maniton Springs	CO	297
18	Proffitt	Alexandra	735133	Newport	RI	240
19	Pivitt	Richard	86371	Taylor	MI	143
20	Ferwerder	James	83710	Kenosha	WI	101

OHLGS

1	Smetzer**	Sam	954297	Napa	CA	540
2	Samario**	Ricardo	917392	Napa	CA	427
3	Guzman**	Anthony	917393	Napa	CA	357
4	Moore**	Tyler	968227	Napa	CA	333

OTRubCabin

1	Williams	Joe	247709	Brookville	PA	674
2	O'Reilly	Jim	9729	Wichita	KS	540
3	Gerszewski	James L.	367788	New Berlin	WI	531
4	Sneed	Ed	556614	Columbus	OH	509
5	Scobrich	JOHN	604608	Lake Bluff	IL	493
6	Andrews	Jean	11001	Tucson	AZ	349
7	Romak	Bud	27032	Lincoln	CA	343
8	Carson	William	90167	Gainsville	TX	260
9	Buchele	Elvin	16590	Sylvania	OH	210
10	Stewart	Roy	20360	Princeton	IN	170
11	Andrade	Paul	28900	Highland Ranch	CO	100
12	Coffin	Jim	163	Annandale	VA	89

NFFS Barbecue and Raffle

David Mills reporting.



Phil Sullivan imparts some wisdom to Jim Buxton (OH).



Tim Batiuk (CA) and Jim Bocckinofuso (VA) take charge behind the grill.



This week's events:

Saturday
RC Helicopter
(practice only)

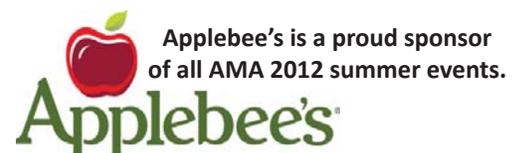
Sunday
RC Helicopter

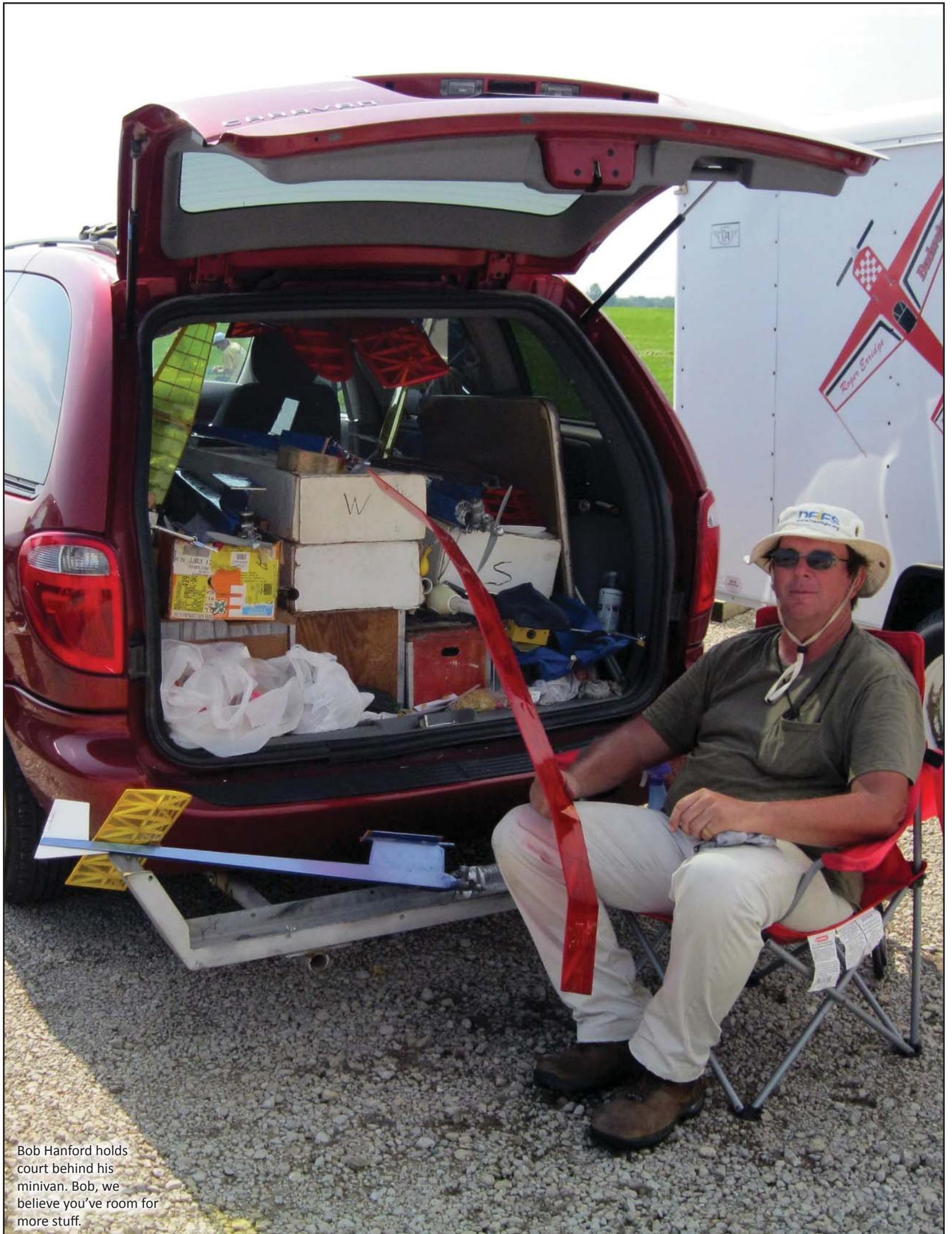
Monday
RC Helicopter

Tuesday
RC Helicopter

Wednesday
RC Helicopter

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Bob Hanford holds court behind his minivan. Bob, we believe you've room for more stuff.