

# AMA NATS

2019 NATIONAL AEROMODELING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Muncie IN • Blytheville AR • Springerville AZ

## RC COMBAT

July 17



SSC pilots and Civil Air Patrol Cadet judges.

By William Drumm ([midair72@hotmail.com](mailto:midair72@hotmail.com))

Just as everyone was ready to fly the first round of Combat for the 2019 Nats on Tuesday, the sky opened up for a brief morning shower. Everyone did his or her best to get his or her gear covered up to prevent water damage.

After that little setback, RC Combat started out with Slow Survivable Combat (SSC). SSC is the most popular class RC Combat has to offer. Only having a .15 engine and an rpm limit reduces the speed and the severity of the crashes that are bound to happen.

With the fresh rain, we had to start out with the red flagging-tape streamers. These can get wet and still stay together in the air. We went with two heats for each round to help get a new pilot, Cody Oosting, used to the thrills of Combat.

We were again lucky this year to have the Civil Air Patrol Cadets come out and help us judge. This really takes a load off of the pilots so they can fix their airplanes when they aren't up in the current heat.

After two rounds of red flagging tape, we switched to the normal black crepe paper. The crepe paper is easier to see and tends to get more cuts for the pilots. Having the cadets there allowed us to quickly run through five rounds of SSC before switching to all nine pilots in the air at once. With the target-rich environment, the last two rounds of the day

had some higher scores. After seven rounds of SSC, Andy Runte is again leading the way with the rest of the Wisconsin gang right behind him.

We broke for lunch at noon and the Civil Air Patrol had some food cooked up for us to enjoy. After our bellies were full, we switched to Limited B. Limited B is a lot like SSC because there is an rpm limit to reduce the speed, but Limited B has up to a .29 engine. The bigger motor makes launches easier and the vertical envelope is much wider.

After only getting in one round of Limited B, the sky decided to fall on us once again. The first popup shower caught us off guard because it wasn't on the radar before we got started. We waited out the scattered showers until a bigger area opened up.

Once again, with the freshly watered grass, we had to go with the red flagging tape. After the fourth round of Limited B, the radar was showing a developed area of rain heading our way and Combat was called for the day. The rain came pouring down once again, just as everyone was getting the last of their gear packed up.

Wednesday we will be finishing up SSC and Limited B when Mother Nature decides to turn off the faucet. After those two classes are finished, we will be starting Scale 2948. Come on out and enjoy the action!!!





George Pritchett getting his planes ready.



George Pritchett's fleet all ready to go.



Mike and Denise LaPacz taking cover during the brief morning rain.



The Oosting's fleet in rain gear.



Smiling Bill Geipel itching to get SSC started.



Andy Runte putting the final touches on.





Brian Delahunty filling 'er up.



Cody Oosting all ready to go for his first meet ever!!!



Bob 'Long Haul' Loescher ready to go on one of his closer meets of the year.



Dirk Oosting ready to go.



George Pritchett getting his transmitter on the right model while his wife puts the sticky on.



Mike LaPacz ready to get some cuts.



Heath Bartel chucking up his electric SSC.



Cody Oosting getting ready to launch his grandpa's plane.



George Pritchett giving Dirk a toss.



Andy Runte lining up for the cut.

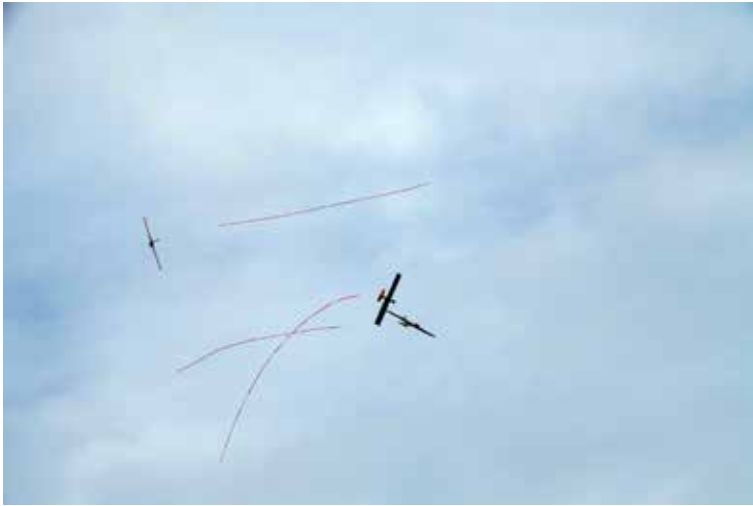


Brian Delahunty itching for a cut.



George Pritchett getting some points.





Bob Loescher reaching for that streamer just out of reach.



Andy Runte once again lined up for the cut.



Heath Bartel going in for the sneaky cut.



Oops! Andy Runte got a little too close.



George Pritchett reaching up to grab another streamer.



Bill Geipel relaxing after SSC finished up for the day.



Umm ... Dirk, the motors usually go on the front of the plane.



These combat planes are fully grown and ready to be picked.

Mike LaPacz's jigsaw puzzle of a van all loaded up.



Civil Air Patrol getting their chow on.





# RC COMBAT

July 18



Cody Oosting giving the 'George' a perfect launch.

## By William Drumm (midair72@hotmail.com)

Mother Nature did not let up with the rain overnight.

Day 2 of RC Combat started off with puddles all around. This again led us to start out using the red flagging tape streamers for the remaining three rounds of SSC. We continued flying all up and even with all of the planes up in the air. The scores were kept a little on the low side. This helped keep the rankings close together and the importance of every cut that much more important.

After all 10 rounds of SSC, the Wisconsin boys swept up all of the hardware. Bringing home fourth was Bill "3-Handed" Geipel with 1,800 points. With over a 600-point jump to third place, Mike LaPacz took it home with 2,404. Heath Bartel, with his electric planes, took down second place with 2,620. That left Andy "Dr. Kamikaze" Runte in first place with 2,780. Good job on bringing the wood back to Wisconsin!!!

After SSC wrapped up, we began the rest of the rounds of Limited B. Luckily, the grass dried off enough for us to switch to the black crepe paper streamers. Going all up and the black streamers led to some high scoring rounds and the rankings were spread out. Streamers were being traded back and forth off wings. Everyone had at least a two-cut round today! With the help of the Civil Air Patrol Cadets, we were able to get the rest of Limited B finished before the noon lunch break.

After 10 rounds of Limited B, third place went to Mike LaPacz with 2,168. Scoring consistently through all 10 rounds and sneaking in between the Wisconsin boys for second place was Brian Delahunty with 2,608. After having an abnormal day yesterday, Andy Runte came out swinging today with a low score of 340 and topping it off with a 960 and 840. After all was said and done, Andy took home first with a score of 3,940. Nice work Andy!!!

Once again, the Civil Air Patrol put on a great lunch for us

Wednesday. After the lunch break, we went into Scale 2948. In this class, the planes are World War II fighter aircraft designs. They can have up to a .29 engine and have an rpm limit and a minimum weight limit. Building 2948 planes is much more time-consuming and the number of pilots who take up the task are few.

This year, we only had three pilots who were up to the challenge for the Nats. With the smaller wing area, most pilots prefer to have someone else launch for them so they can have their fingers on the sticks right away. Even so, launches can be hairy without having a good headwind. With only three pilots, the scoring was low and every cut was precious.

Bob Loescher had a malfunctioning aircraft and withdrew early in the meet. That left only two pilots to fight it out up in the sky, George Pritchett and Mike LaPacz. They both had their opportunities for cuts and took advantage when they could. Because it was just the two of them, they agreed to only fly a total of six rounds. In the end, Mike LaPacz took second with 840. With just one cut and 1 foot of streamer more, first place went to George Pritchett with 944.

After 2948, we broke out the E-1000 planes for four rounds of combat. E-1000 is a class being tested out by the RCCA. It is an all-electric class with a maximum battery size of three-cell 1,000 mAh. Various designs were flown Wednesday, from foam GNAT-style planes to flying wing pushers. Each design has its own pros and cons. The class is developing as pilots are trying out new designs.

As of now, Mike LaPacz is in third with 600. Andy Runte is currently holding second with 920. Electric guru Heath Bartel is taking the top spot with 960. There may be more rounds flown on Thursday after the official Nats events are flown, if everyone isn't worn out by then.

Thursday morning, we will be starting out with the GNAT class and then Open B. Come on out and watch!





Mike LaPacz sporting some stylish footwear.



Bill Geipel getting ready to sticky up with the nasty Tanglefoot.



It's becoming a family affair with the Dosting's.



What's that devilish smile for Bob Loescher ... What airplane do you have there?



Civil Air Patrol Cadets going through their morning briefing.



Once again there's a combat plane ready to be picked. Muncie sure does grow them fast.





Heath Bartel sporting some well-earned cuts.



Brian Delahunty and Bill Geipel out for a joy ride.



Andy Runte lining up one of many cuts today.



Cody Oosting sporting a 2-cut round.



Looking good Cody Oosting.



Getting the furball going.



Limited B winners. 1st Andy Runte. 2nd Brian Delahunty. 3rd Mike LaPacz.



Mike LaPacz getting his Scale 2948 ready.



Can't fool us in scale Bob Loescher.



George Pritchett with his 'George'



Some Scale 2948 action.



Mike LaPacz lining up for a hard to get cut in Scale 2948.





SSC winners. 1st Andy Runte. 2nd Heath Bartel. 3rd Mike LaPacz. 4th Bill Geipel.



Yes Bill Geipel, it looks bigger if you come closer.



Scale 2948 winners. 1st George Pritchett. 2nd Mike LaPacz.



RCCA 2018 National Points Champions Mike LaPacz and Andy Runte.



E-1000 action keeping the action up close today.

# RC COMBAT

July 19



Andy 'Dr. Kamikaze' Runte in the rising sun.

## By William Drumm (midair72@hotmail.com)

Day 3 for RC Combat started out beautifully. Only a few clouds painted the sky, and the sun was shining brightly.

GNAT Combat was on the agenda for Thursday. GNAT airplanes are easy to build and are quite rugged because they are built out of coroplast and are all of the same design. They use a .15 engine that is legal for SSC and use the same 8 x 3 propeller without an rpm limit.

With only seven pilots flying GNAT this year, we went all up once again. The heavy morning dew forced the use of red flagging tape streamers again. The scoring was average until the grass finally dried enough for the use of the black crepe paper streamers. Then the cuts started to fly!

Newcomer Cody Oosting got his first of many to come, three-cut rounds. With the help of the Civil Air Patrol Cadets judging, we were able fly right through all 10 rounds quickly and finished before lunch.

After all was said and done, Heath Bartel squeaked out third place with his final round of 540 and a total score of 1,880. Andy Runte had one bad round and ended up taking second with a score of 2,680. That left the opening for Bill Geipel to take home first with consistent rounds and a score of 2,812.

After another great lunch from the Civil Air Patrol, we were ready to start Open B. But ... Mother Nature had different plans. A good shower popped up right over Muncie and forced everyone to scurry to protect their equipment.

After the rain setback, we finally started Open B and had to use the red flagging tape streamers again. Open B planes can use up to a .30 motor and have no propeller or rpm limits. Most pilots fly a .25 engine because that's what is readily available. With no restrictions, they were the fastest RC Combat planes that flew at the Nats.

George Pritchett loaned Cody Oosting a plane so that there would be three pilots flying. It quickly turned to only two pilots when Bob Loescher had water issues with his gear. With only the two of them, George and Cody agreed to fly just six rounds to determine the winner. George was having motor troubles throughout the rounds. But in the end, Cody Oosting ended up in second with 784 and George Pritchett took home first with 1,040.

After Open B wrapped up, the E-1000 planes were broken out again and Bob Loescher joined the fight today. Unfortunately, Dirk Oosting slipped in the standings after crossing the pilot line on launch and then was out for the day with no more airplanes to fly. Crepe paper streamers were able to be used and are much preferred in E-1000 because the slow and lightweight planes struggle to cut the red flagging tape.

After four more rounds to make a total of eight, the Wisconsin boys topped the rankings. Mike LaPacz took third with 924. Heath Bartel was unable to hang onto first and slipped to second with 1,388. Andy Runte again took first with a score of 1,816

And that's a wrap for RC Combat at the 2019 Nats. Cutcha next year!!!





GNAT group photo.



Some early morning GNAT action.



Hey George ... where's your tail going?



One GNAT ripe to pick and one that needs more time.



They just keep popping up all over Muncie.



GNAT furballing.



Top Wisconsin boys mixing it up.



Cody Oosting showing off his 3-cut round!



George Pritchett is ready for some fast and furious Open B.



Bob Loescher is ready to go fast.



Cody Oosting getting ready to fly like he stole it.



Some E-1000 action after the official events wrapped up for the day.





GNAT winners: 3rd Heath Bartel, 2nd Andy Runte, and 1st Bill Geipel.



E-1000 winners. 3rd Mike LaPacz. 2nd Heath Bartel, and 1st Andy Runte.



Open B winners: 2nd Cody Oosting and 1st George Pritchett.

## RC Combat Results

### 2019 NATS - 2948 Scores

# Rounds Flown: 6

Called Due To Attrition

	Name	Total	Avg.	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	George Pritchett	944	157.3	160	140	224	100	160	160
2	Michael LaPacz	840	140.0	140	0	140	240	160	160
3	Bob Loescher	120	20.0	120	0	0	0	0	0

### 2019 NATS - GNAT Scores

# Rounds Flown: 10

	Name	Total	Avg.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Bill Geipel	2812	281.2	272	140	560	360	160	240	340	260	340	140
2	Andy Runte	2680	268.0	240	40	200	248	148	404	540	148	560	152
3	Heath Bartel	1880	188.0	276	240	48	192	140	20	240	140	44	540
4	Cody Oosting	1732	173.2	104	340	140	108	60	140	20	420	260	140
5	Michael LaPacz	1444	144.4	160	276	56	168	48	340	140	160	40	56
6	George Pritchett	1280	128.0	0	140	0	0	0	120	360	40	360	260
7	Bob Loescher	872	87.2	140	0	0	120	420	52	0	140	0	0

## 2019 NATS - E-1000 Scores

# Rounds Flown: 8

	Name	Total	Avg.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andy Runte	1816	227.0	340	340	0	240	260	140	356	140
2	Heath Bartel	1388	173.5	440	240	240	40	240	120	68	0
3	Michael LaPacz	924	115.5	20	120	460	0	56	0	128	140
4	Bob Loescher	720	90.0	0	0	0	0	120	260	240	100
5	George Pritchett	460	57.5	124	336	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Cody Oosting	216	27.0	120	76	20	0	0	0	0	0
7	Dirk Oosting	80	10.0	160	160	160	0	-400	0	0	0

## 2019 NATS - Open B Scores

# Rounds Flown: 6

Called due to attrition

	Name	Total	Avg.	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	George Pritchett	1040		360	20	140	140	120	260
2	Cody Oosting	784		152	160	160	140	160	12
3	Bob Loescher	20		20	0	0	0	0	0

## 2019 NATS - Limited B Scores

# Rounds Flown: 10

	Name	Total	Avg.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andy Runte	3940	394.0	40	40	140	160	440	540	340	960	440	840
2	Brian Delahunty	2608	260.8	240	260	260	240	280	300	140	440	308	140
3	Mike LaPacz	2168	216.8	320	160	260	40	380	40	200	140	288	340
4	Heath Bartel	2020	202.0	460	176	140	240	120	140	320	244	140	40
5	Cody Oosting	1500	150.0	20	140	100	120	260	100	260	140	240	120
6	George Pritchett	1400	140.0	168	260	40	140	120	156	116	-100	260	240
7	Bob Loescher	1124	112.4	140	0	0	0	260	244	340	120	20	0
8	Dirk Oosting	880	88.0	120	160	0	160	120	240	0	40	0	40

## 2019 NATS - SSC Scores

# Rounds Flown: 10

	Name	Total	Avg.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Andy Runte	2780	278.0	256	200	240	140	160	440	404	220	380	340
2	Heath Bartel	2620	262.0	136	260	40	240	260	192	440	440	384	228
3	Mike LaPacz	2404	240.4	240	160	360	160	0	0	244	340	440	460
4	Bill Geipel	1800	180.0	20	160	140	340	160	220	240	40	340	140
5	George Pritchett	1756	175.6	220	100	220	220	160	140	40	252	144	260
6	Brian Delahunty	1380	138.0	248	0	120	140	260	120	192	40	160	100
7	Cody Oosting	1052	105.2	120	140	20	160	40	0	140	120	152	160
8	Dirk Oosting	720	72.0	120	120	120	100	140	0	0	120	0	0
9	Bob Loescher	600	60.0	0	260	220	0	0	0	120	0	0	0