

NATS News

The 2011 National Aeromodeling Championships

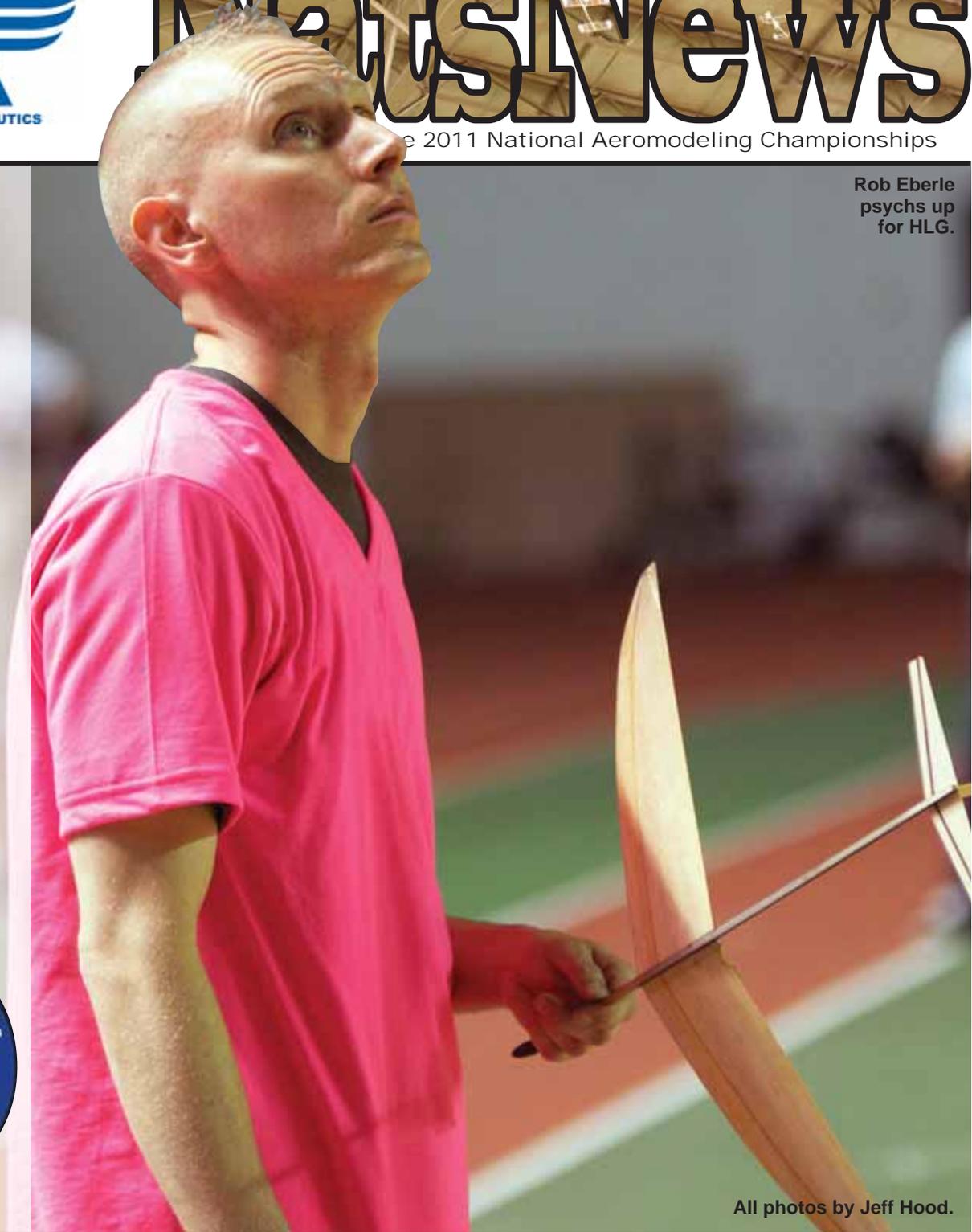
May 26, 2011

Thursday

- Bostonian
- F1D
- Hand Launch Stick
- Model Civil Production*
- Unlimited Rubber Speed*
- Bostonian Mass Launch*

*unofficial events

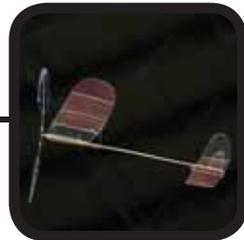
Rob Eberle psychs up for HLG.



All photos by Jeff Hood.



Inside:



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Indoor Nats Day 1



With a recent Category IV record in his pocket, Ralph Ray flexed his glider “muscle,” winning both Standard and Unlimited Catapult Glider. He got both up to the girder zone and managed to avoid the maze of wires. At the other end of the spectrum, the scoreboard ate my Standard Catapult model and spit out the wing—the fuselage is history.

Romash suspects he grabbed the wrong Standard Catapult model when he was packing for the contest, which is his excuse for finishing behind my late-night special. Buxton called in for an update and didn’t let the accomplishment get to my head, pointing out that I only flew 6 seconds longer than my Cat. II time.

Kurt Krempez won the Hand Launched Glider trophy along with taking second place in Unlimited

Catapult. Kurt and the rest of the field used tip-launch models, sweeping up next to the scoreboard and circling in the open area to the side. Rob Eberle started with a discus model, but rekitted it by core sampling the scoreboard on an errant launch. He switched to his standby javelin launch plane and finished his series.

Race to the Roof featured a lot of excitement and fun, with handful of models tearing around in barely controlled dashes for the ceiling. Ray Harlan’s previous winner was showing the wear and tear from countless high-speed encounters with the building, refusing to behave properly.

John Whittles slated RTR as one of his premier events, revamping his micro Ramrod for the task. When the smoke cleared, however, nobody actually got all the way to the top, so there was no winner. Next year, guys!

The P-24 mass launch got underway right on schedule at 1:15 p.m., but unfortunately, a few favorites were still winding and missed the launch. A midair took out two more competitors (me, included). It was a little confusing with the late entries in the air, but Tem Johnson came out on top with an excellent flight.

Joshua Finn cruised in for one day of competition. He started with a catapult glider that would have been great ... if the site had been 200-foot tall and the event had a 6-inch-wingspan limit. He was just messing around, though. His main focus was F1D, Intermediate Stick, and 35 cm.

Living up to his reputation for enjoying challenges, his airplanes featured continuously variable-diameter propellers and elliptical dihedral that required in-the-air building. He was shooting for 20

minutes in F1D, and came oh-so-close with 19-plus. I predict he'll be back next year with even better attempts—Indoor FF is addicting.

Tom Sova switched to an old F1D propeller on his well-worn Intermediate Stick. It turned in some promising partial motor flights, but the extra power required ended up collapsing his motorstick and destroying the model.

I put up a 33:05 to start Intermediate Stick. Ray Harlan topped it with 33:49 and sat back to see if anyone else would step up.

I planned to get my official flights done early so I could avoid the last-minute beat-the-clock attempts. I took my first flight around 5 p.m. The second hung on the girder next to the speaker; however, I nudged it loose with a Mylar balloon, but the wing

collapsed on the way down, breaking the spar and tearing the film.

After some hectic repairs, patches, and test flights, I was ready to go again, but now it was about 9:30 and time was running out. Of course, I broke three motors trying to get one wound. Exhausted, I finally got it in the air. Fortunately, everything went great this time and I put in a buzzer-beater 35:19 for the win.

Day 1 of F1D provided its own set of challenges. Jim Richmond logged a semi-decent 30-minute official, but had steering problems and ended up collapsing his airplane on the second flight.

Larry Cailliau stuck his F1D in the speakers, hanging it by the stabilizer in a location that usually results in a write-off. He fussed

around with a retrieval balloon and miraculously popped it out. After my Intermediate Stick shenanigans, I decided to wait until Thursday to tackle F1D.

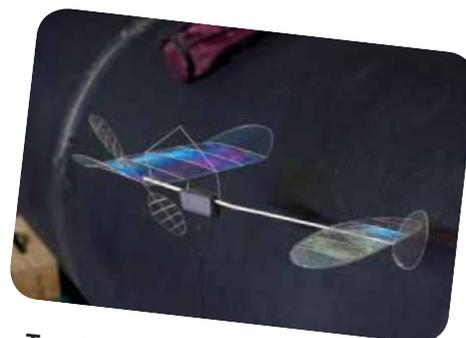
There was lots of F1D flying, but not much to show for it yet. Stay tuned for Day 2 to see who gets his or her act together best.

Just as we were wrapping up for the day, Max Zaluska cartwheeled in and immediately stuck his EZB in the most remote corner of the building. He, too, pulled off a retrieval miracle and got his airplane back. If he can manage to stay focused, Max should be a shoe-in for EZB on Friday. Check back to see how he does.

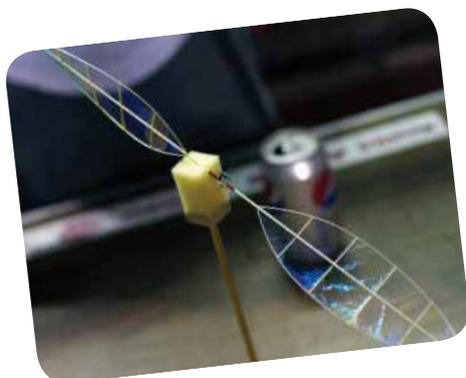
The on-site Wi-Fi has been locked, so the planned live webcam stream is on hold. We are trying to locate the password. →



Tom Iacobellis is happy to stooze for John Whittles' RTR Ramrod.



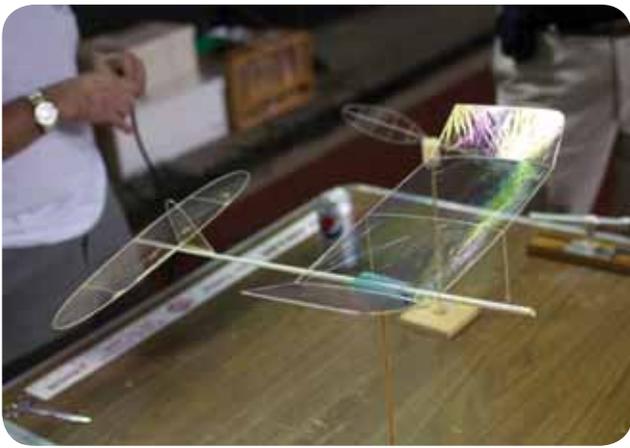
Tom Iacobellis' 35cm.



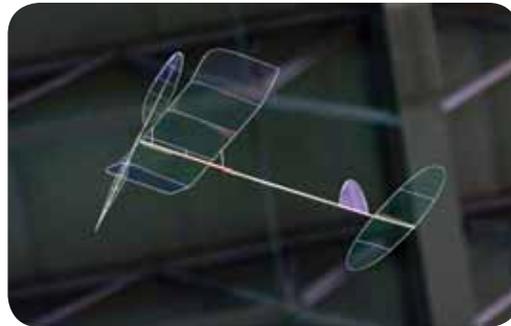
Tom Sova's 35cm.



Ray Harlan gets his Intermediate Stick underway.



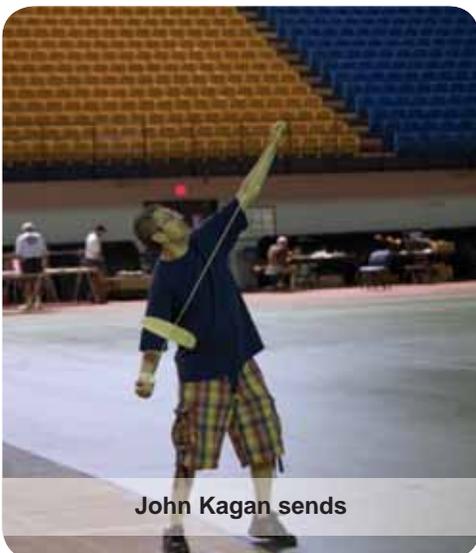
**Rob
Romash's
35cm.**



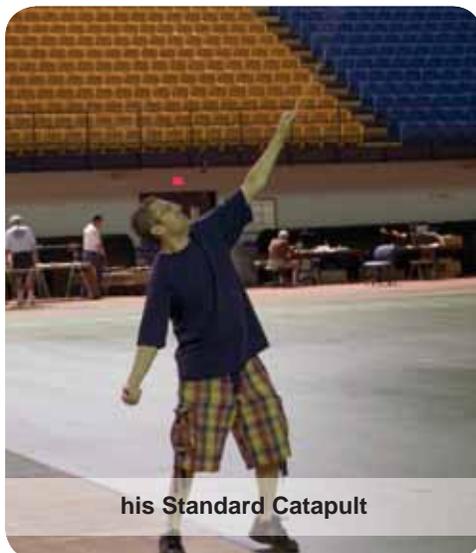
**Ralph
Ray's
Standard
Catapult.**



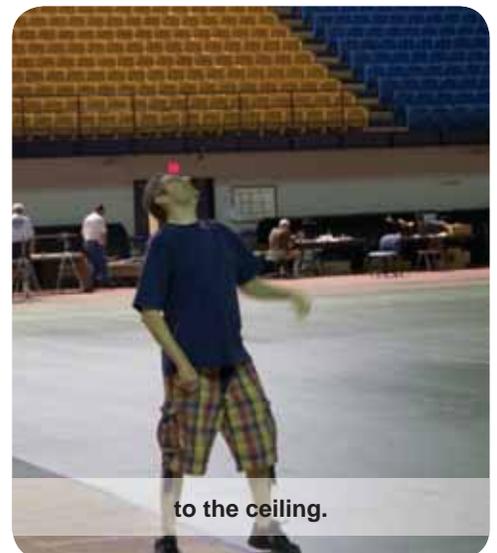
Rob Eberle.



John Kagan sends



his Standard Catapult



to the ceiling.



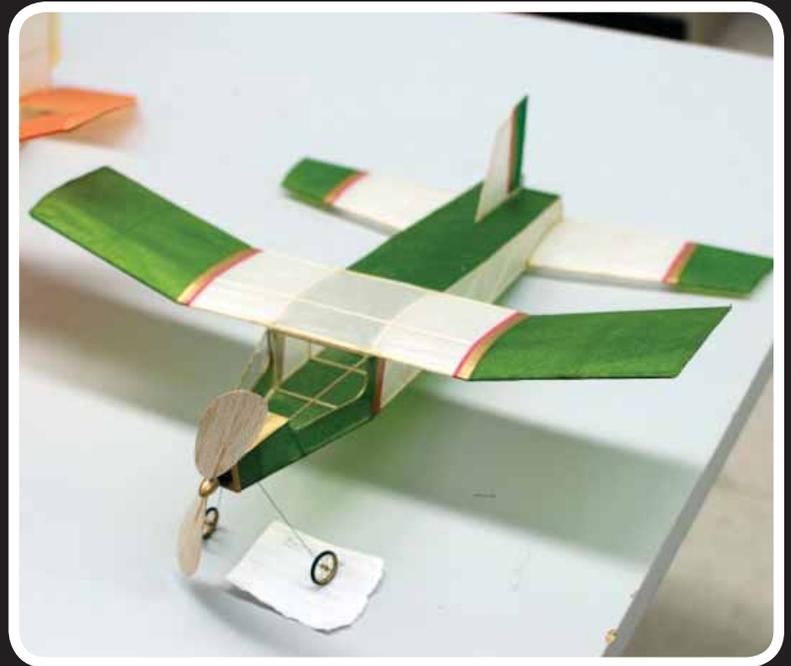
Bob Warmann's
Bostonian.



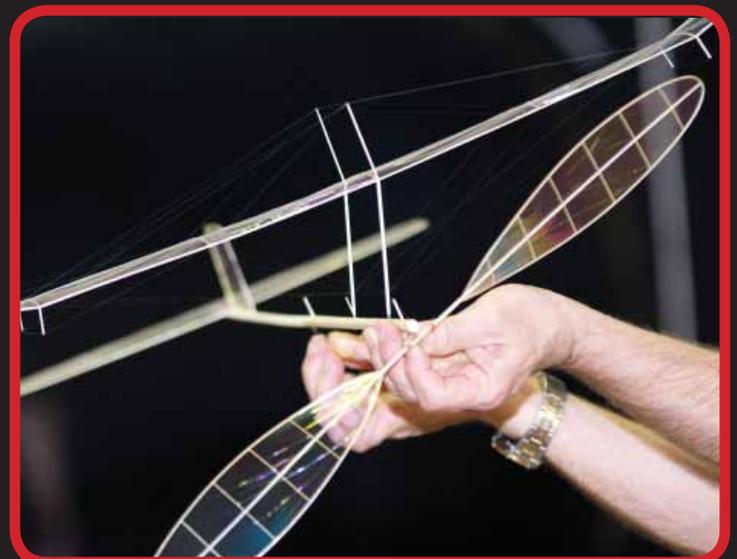
Ray Harlan's
Bostonian.



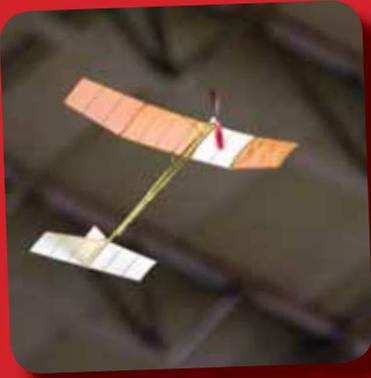
Tom Iacobellis' Bostonian.



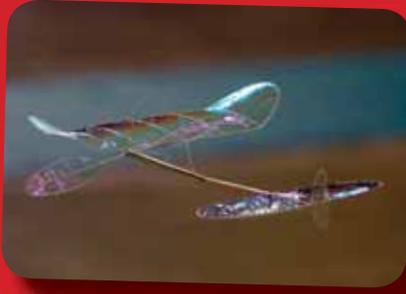
Chuck Markos shares some Standard Catapult
glider secrets with John Kagan.



Intricate bracing on Tom Sova's Intermediate Stick.



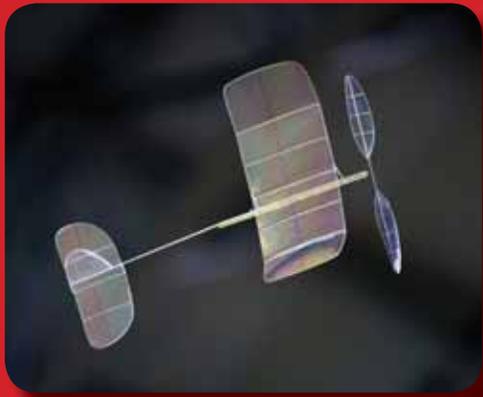
Tem Johnson's winning P-24.



Tom Iacobellis' microfilm 35cm in full glory.



Joshua Finn's F1D with its propeller at maximum diameter.



John Whittles and John Kagan.