

NATSNEWS



CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF COMPETITION

August 5

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Helicopter



RC HELICOPTER ends

Text and photos by Mike Unger

Hello from the Nats Day 3.

After pushing deep into the after-dinner hours on day two, everyone was back at Site 5 for the final two rounds of the Nats. First up were Classes 2 and 3 finishing up their rounds from the night before. Those competitors got caught up by 9 a.m. and everyone was ready for the final rounds.

For F3N, the final two rounds were freestyle and music freestyle. The skills that all of these competitors have is simply amazing. Not only do they do maneuvers that seem to defy physics, but they do them as described in the flight diagrams.

For the final round with music, one speaker was turned toward the crowd and one was turned to the pilots. The other change was the volume was turned waaay up! Wow, what a difference! These guys not only do crazy things with helicopters, they do it synchronized with the music. It's truly an art form and something that you need to see in person to really appreciate.

After it was all said and done, Nick Maxwell was the winner by a mere 14 points over Jamie Robertson. Devin Hammond finished third overall. It is also worth mentioning that Devin competed in a local contest in Huntsville, Alabama, this spring making him the first official F3N pilot in the USA. This event also determines the three pilots who will represent the USA at next year's World Championship in Poland next spring. Those three are Nick Maxwell, Jamie Robertson, and Greg Jackson as Devin opted not to be considered for the Worlds this time around. Based on what I saw, I am confident that the USA will have a very competitive F3N team at the World Championship.

For F3C the final two rounds were what is called schedule F, which is a totally different series of very complex maneuvers than what was flown the previous two days. This not only increases the amount of maneuvers each pilot must learn and practice, but also increases the chances of mixing up the standings in the final rounds.



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In the end, Nick Maxwell finished on top winning six of the seven total rounds outright followed closely by Daniel Hiatt and Dwight Shilling in third. Like F3N, these three pilots, plus Cliff Hiatt as an alternate, will represent the USA next year in Poland. After watching these guys compete, I am sure we will be represented well in F3C.

Classes 1, 2, and 3 finished up their rounds without a hitch. Class 1 (Sportsman) finished with Bernard Shaw winning in decisive fashion, taking the win in each round he entered. Second was Vincent Drouillon competing in his first Nats followed by Peter Bisbal rounding out the final podium position.

Class 2 winner was last year's Class 1 winner, Robert Montee, followed by Eaton Bryce. Class 3 winner was Dennis Purduski followed by Don Miller. Congrats to all of the competitors!!!

But as in years past, the serious competition didn't end with the flying. It was now time for the Dwight Shilling Food Challenge. This is a crazy contest that Tim Diperi and another one of the F3C guys came up with many years ago. The challenge is to find a food that Dwight will not eat or will not eat again. Rules are simple: the "food" must be suitable for human consumption and have a bar code on the label. Other than that anything goes. Entries this year were crisp black fungus (no I did not make that up, it actually said that on the label), fish spears in milk juice, some kind of spicy concoction, and some rolls of seaweed. To everyone's shock, Dwight ate everything and then in a final unprecedented maneuver, he took some seaweed, added some crisp black fungus, a fish spear and a touch of the spicy sauce and rolled it up into a tasty wrap and yes ATE it all! Geeeee, talk about a showman. Maybe next year he will step it up and do it to music!

One final note to the 2016 RC Helicopter Nats, Craig Bradley, the contest director, officially made this one his last after 22 years of tirelessly running the program. I have only been involved in the Nats for two years but I can say Craig has the appreciation of not only the competitors from 2016, but a thank-you from each pilot of the 22 years prior. Craig, I know I speak for everyone when I say THANK YOU for your service!!! We also want to have a special callout to his wife, Karen, for putting up with him for all those years and for the last five or so doing all the scoring and computer work! Craig, you will always be welcome at the Nats. Don't be a stranger.

Next year I challenge YOU to come join us. You think you're the best? The Nats is where you will find out. 🚁



Final Scores

F3N

1	Nicholas Maxwell	2994.79
2	Jamie Robertson	2980.84
3	Devin Hammond	1978.57
4	Robert Montee	1878.96
5	Greg Jackson	1769.52

F3C

1	Nicholas Maxwell	3000.000
2	Daniel Hiatt	2938.002
3	Dwight Shilling	2807.210
4	Cliff Hiatt	2744.002
5	Nob Muraki	2534.491
6	Tim Diperi	2375.205
7	Mike Goza	2191.881

Sportsman

1	Bernard Shaw	6000.000
2	Vincent Drouillon	5806.991
3	Peter Bisbal	5621.051
4	Dan Brickman	5481.090
5	Michael Unger	5447.169

Expert

1	Dennis Purduski	6000
2	Don Miller	5167.19

Scale

1	Bernard Shaw	1886.806
2	Mike Zaborowski	1865.337

*One round of static, 3 rounds of flying
drop lowest normalized*

Advanced

1	Robert Montee	6000
2	Eaton Bryce	5040.707





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