

The 2011 FAI-F3A World Championships

Event Director's Final Report

Dave Guerin, Event Director

The 27th FAI-F3A World Championships was held at the AMA International Modeling Center from July 24th – August 1st 2011. Eighty-two competitors from thirty countries participated, including several new teams and five junior contestants. This was the first World Championships to crown an official Junior F3A World Champion.

On July 25th the traditional Opening Ceremony began with each team marching down the access road at Site #3 displaying their country's flag with their national anthem playing. They continued their entrance until the teams formed a semi-circle around the speakers' platform. After a few words of welcome from the Mayor of Muncie and AMA Officials, Michael Ramel, Chairman of the CIAM subcommittee for F3 Aerobatics, declared the Official Start of the event. The Welcome Barbeque dinner was served to all teams and staff immediately following the opening ceremonies.

July 24th and 25th was a busy time for the staff at the World Championships. During these two days we registered all contestants, processed their equipment, conducted the random draw for flight order, managed Official Practice at Sites #1 and #3, supported judge's training on Site #4, and created all flight line documents for the preliminary flights.

Spread Spectrum has provided flexibility to the management of an event of this size. Only one pilot flew on 72 MHz. This simplified the process of creating the flight orders and no frequency control was required. We allowed practice for contestants at Site #4 throughout the event and opened the official sites at the close of competition each day without concern for interference.

Preliminary flight operations began on the 26th. Sites #1 and #3 were used for the preliminary rounds with each site conducting a morning and afternoon session. The pilots were divided into four groups. Each pilot flew one round per day and at the conclusion of the preliminary rounds all pilots had flown both morning and afternoon sessions at both sites. The judges were also rotated to give equal exposure of time of day at both sites. Both flight lines ran extremely well and the flight schedule was maintained throughout the event, a tribute to the crews that ran them. Every aircraft that flew was sound checked, all electric powered aircraft were weighed after each flight, and 20% of the aircraft were subjected to a complete inspection on the flight line. The flight line staff conducted the entire operation with calm professionalism, which was noted by the competitors and the FAI Jury. At the conclusion of Preliminary Rounds the scores were tallied, normalized, and audited by the FAI Jury. The top thirty competitors moved on to the Semi-Finals.

Saturday gave the staff a much needed day of rest and then we entered into the Semi-Finals competition on the 31st. Both sites were used with ten judges at each site. A morning and an afternoon session were run with the pilots changing sites at the noon break. When both rounds were complete the top ten competitors moved on to the Finals.

The Unknowns Meeting for the Finals was held in the board room at AMA Headquarters in the evening on the 31st. The judges drew for their assignments; the pilots drew for starting order and proceeded to create their Unknown Flight Schedules for the finals. When the schedules were complete the flight rotation, Aresti drawings, and score sheets were prepared for the next day.

Finals day at last! The Finals competition was held at Site #3 with twenty judges divided into three groups. Five judged the right hand turn around maneuver, ten judges judged the center maneuvers, and five judged the left hand turn around maneuver. The four flights flown were two of F-11, and one each of the two Unknown Schedules. The best normalized F-11 combined with the best normalized unknown determined final placing.

When the competition was complete, the scores were audited and verified by the FAI Jury. The FAI's portion of the Awards Ceremony took place on the flying site with Individual, Team, and Junior awards given out by FAI Officials. Leaving the site, we moved on to the Banquet and Official Closing Ceremony where we enjoyed good food and good friends, new and old. Additional awards were presented and Michael Ramel, Chairman of the CIAM subcommittee for F3 Aerobatics, officially declared the 2011 F3A World Championships closed.

I am extremely proud that the FAI Jury gave excellent performance reviews to the Operations Staff. This event was run without a single protest and no deviation from the rules or procedures was noted. This was accomplished under conditions where the temperatures reached mid to high 90 degree levels during every day of competition.

I want to offer my thanks and gratitude to Colleen Pierce, AMA's FAI Coordinator, for her tireless dedication to making this a successful and memorable event. We are also very fortunate to have a dedicated maintenance crew at the AMA. They worked efficiently behind the scenes to prepare the sites and address our needs throughout the event.

Being the Event Director for the 2011 World Championships was a great honor for me. The successful operation of an event of this magnitude is only accomplished by blending the many skills and depth of experience of a dedicated staff with a job that needs to be done. The 2011 World Championships was a total team effort. I can only express my heartfelt Thank You to the people that worked with me for long hours, under very extreme conditions. Their skill, hard work and dedication are the reasons we were successful.

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| Assistant Event Director | Tom Miller |
| Site Coordinator | Al Williamson |
| Processing Manager | Earl Haury |
| Processing Staff | Dave Lockhart Andre Bouchard Joe Lachowski Ron Van Putte John Fuqua AC Glenn Don Szczur Ron Lockhart |
| Scoring Manager | Bob Kane |
| Scoring Staff | Linda Jesky |
| Flight Operations | Tim Jesky Jerry Plyler Robert Gainey |
| Volunteers | Gary Harris Dana Bouchard Margaret Guerin |