



# NatsNews

Daily Coverage of the 2011 National Aeromodeling Championships

May 25, 2011

Wednesday

IHLG

Std. Catapult

Unlimited Catapult

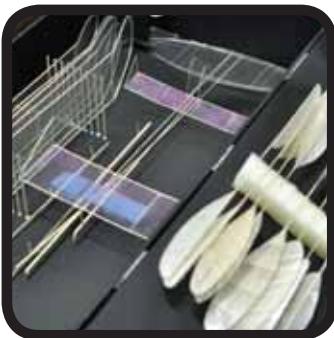
RTP Speed\*

Straight Line Speed\*

Race to the Roof\*



\*unofficial events



**Inside:**



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# Indoor Nats Opening Day

**A**pparently an entire year has gone by—it's time for the Indoor FF Nationals again already!

A few faces will be absent this time. For example, Brett Sanborn has a new job (and no vacation time) after completing graduate school, and Jim Buxton used up his "family credits" at the EAA contest and now has to remodel the house and finish refurbishing his Mach 1 Mustang classics.

A bunch of others are going to make up for it, though.

Kang Lee attended his first Nats last year, participating as an Amateur in the Limited Pennyplane Pro/Am. Since then, he's been focusing on F1L and narrowly missed setting the Category II National F1L record recently, making him one of the favorites to take home the F1L National Championship this time. Check out Friday's *NatsNews* to see if he did it.

Relative newcomer Leo Pilachowski has been concentrating on Limited Pennyplane, winning the EAA contest's LPP event earlier this year against some big guns. Will Leo be able to continue his win streak with a LPP National Championship? Not if defending champion Tom Iacobellis has anything to say about it! The LPP battle will be held on Sunday.

Joshua Finn is well known in FAC circles for tackling such challenging subjects as an eight-engine Hughes H4 flying boat—and for making them fly well. Recently he's turned his attention back to Indoor FF Duration, constructing a model for one of the Nats' premier events: the F1D National Championship category held

Wednesday and Thursday. Watch Wednesday's *NatsNews* to see how he fares in his first Indoor FF Nats appearance.

Aviation luminary, David Aronstein, is returning to the Indoor FF Nats with his son Zevi, after about a decade break. I'm decent at copying successful designs; with a PhD in aeronautical engineering, David is an expert at creating revolutionary designs.

He transformed Bostonian with his lifting-body Time Machine. Top A-6s use his ultra-efficient Federation ROG wing planform. His Tupolev A.N.T. 25 Coconut Scale model regularly doubled the time of its nearest competitor.

Check *NatsNews* throughout the week to see what surprises he brought this time.

For the past few years I have been using the Nats as a more relaxed, fun





**Leo Pilachowski has his sights set on the Limited Pennyplane crown.**  
Hood photo.

event—flying old models past their competitive prime. Lately I've been worrying that the new guys might not know that I used to fly some pretty good times.

So, I've spent about 40 hours on a new Intermediate Stick (affectionately known as my "Immediate" Stick since it is always last-minute). Check Wednesday's *NatsNews* to see how it does.

The Limited Pennyplane Pro/Am returns, with about 10 teams signed up. Some of the previous Ams have graduated to Pro status, and we have a brand new batch of newcomers. See which team takes home the top prize, and meet the next generation of Indoor FF stars in Saturday's *NatsNews*.

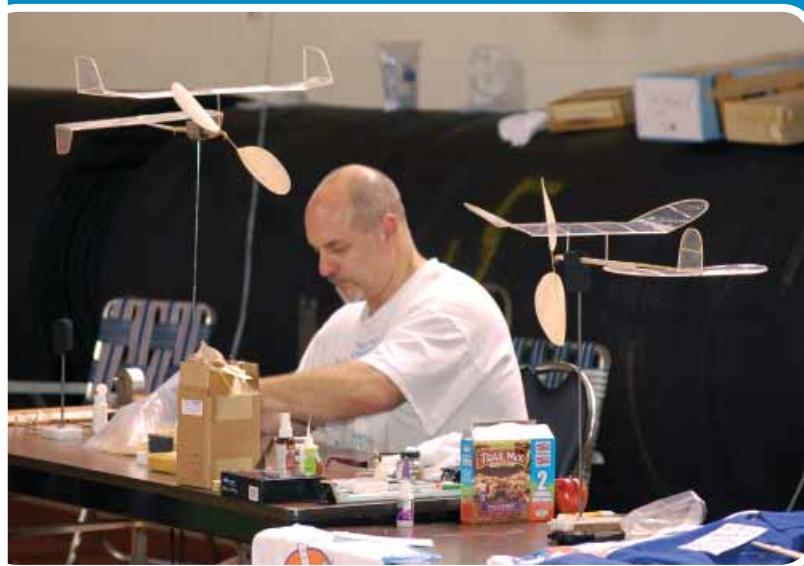
Event Director Abram Van Dover is offering hundreds of dollars in cash prizes for a One Design contest featuring Wally Miller's prototype EZB design, initially created as an easy model for his son to build and fly. It also happens to be the first Indoor FF model I ever built. I never did get it to fly.

In an attempt to overcome that trauma—as well as my fear of the model's less-than-ideal looks—I have constructed an entry. Check Saturday's *NatsNews* to see if it flies, and to discover the Wally Miller One Design top dog.

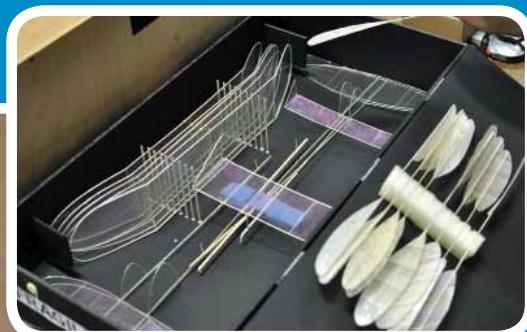
Lastly, I will attempt to broadcast a live feed of the Indoor FF Nats. No guarantees, but if it works take a peek at the Indoor FF Nats 2011 at [stickam.com/usic2011](http://stickam.com/usic2011).

Indoor FF Nats 2011! ↗

**Kang Lee has been flying just over a year, but is one of the top contenders for the F1L title, after narrowly missing a Category II record earlier this year.**  
Hood photo.



**Tom Iacobellis will defend his Limited Pennyplane National Champion title against a wave of new talent.**  
Hood photo.



**Kang Lee has also jumped into EZB feet first. Neatness helps.**

CHAMPION

CHAMPION

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1<sup>ST</sup> ROUND

1990-91

BUCCANEERS



Joshua Finn seeks out challenging subjects, such as this 52-inch, eight-engine Spruce Goose. He's flying F1D at the Indoor FF Nats!