

# 2013 NATS

NATIONAL AEROMODELING CHAMPIONSHIPS  
ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS · CHAMPAIGN IL · MUNCIE IN

# NatsNews

Academy of Model Aeronautics  
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Johnnie Berlin launches  
David Corvens' model  
during an early round.

**Today's Events:**  
RC Soaring



**Thursday, July 4**

# RC Soaring Day 5 Recap

## Unlimited Soaring Day 1

With the best weather of the Glider Camp week forecast for Wednesday, 56 intrepid pilots gathered at Flying Site 5 of the AMA field to contest day 1 of Unlimited RC Soaring. The day started very balmy, with no coats or jackets required and the lightest of winds from the southwest. After a quick pilots' meeting to define the safety aspects and rules of the contest, the first round was underway by 9 a.m.

The contest format was a 10-minute max with a 100-point/100-inch tape for a precision landing. A safety line was set roughly 15 feet from the hunskie where the pilot was required to stand, and a fairly large rectangular landing zone (marked by cones) defined where the model had to complete its flight to obtain a flight score.

The first round saw the early groups launch into very light air that was just floaty enough for the better-launched models to eek out their max flying upwind slowly. As Round 1 went on, however, the latter groups began to benefit from a rising sun as it warmed the treeline to the west and small pops became turnable for pilots to take downwind.

Dillon Graves suffered an aileron flutter during launch, which took out the use of the ailerons, leaving one hanging down. But to his credit, he flew the flight on rudder and achieved nearly 5 minutes and a scoring

landing. Dillon is 14 years old and a current F3J US Junior Team member and has practiced relentlessly during his holidays for the event, so it was disappointing that his first round ended short.

With Round 1 completed, last year's Nats Champion Chris Lee was on top of the leader board with a great 96 landing, and Norm Poti was second with Rich Burnoski (a US F3J Team representative) in third.

Round 2 saw improving air, and with that soft lift came the inevitable sink in between which caught some groups out and the winning flights were well short of the 10 minutes. The breeze had picked up a little and when Dillon Graves launched his backup model in Group B he fluttered the ailerons again and stripped both servos. Once again he found himself without ailerons and had to fly the flight on rudder. This time both ailerons remained stuck in a down position of approximately 20°, but he did an amazing job of flying it out again for five minutes.

It doesn't take long for the cream to rise to the top as after Round 2 Rich Burnoski had moved up to first while Chris Lee was in second and Darwin Barrie (the Futaba Team pilot from Arizona) was in third place.

A great pace was kept by the League of Silent Flight (LSF) volunteers running the contest. Each round was completed within an hour and Round 3 was underway before

11 a.m. The conditions were simply awesome for soaring with lots of puffy cumulus clouds building everywhere from the regular streams of thermal air lofting our models skyward. The wind had continued to gain strength with a good 7-10 mph, at times increasing to gusts of 12 mph as the thermals blew through.

An increasing number of pilots found themselves in trouble making it back to the zone. Others found it hard to outrun the sink, and groups of pilots landed very early when they couldn't find a piece of rising air in range.

In my group I was one of the last to launch and was surprised that the others had not followed lift downwind, but they were all loitering in down-air upwind and sinking out. I managed to hook up eventually over the cornfield in two separate pieces of lift and to almost make my time and get home in a very difficult round. At the end of Round 3 Rich Burnoski maintained his maxes and good landings to keep the first position with Doug Pike in second. They represented the only two pilots who had completed three rounds without taking a hit.

I had moved into third place on a very topsy-turvy leaderboard and it was pretty obvious that this contest could be won with some consistent scores because everyone was struggling in the conditions.

The pilots gather around the AMA "Whale" for the pilots' meeting.



Round 4 saw more difficult air. Some groups launched into amazing lift, but sometimes the entire group specked out within three minutes. Meanwhile, other groups succumbed to the Muncie sink and recorded less than three-minute flight times!

Jeff Duval (a new and fast-improving pilot from Florida) and I flew in such a group where most of us were on the ground in less than five minutes because we failed to go the right direction at the start.

Johnnie Berlin and Terry Edmonds made a better choice by venturing well right and buried the rest of us with fine displays of thermal soaring. CD Barb Robinson announced we would be stopping for lunch after Round 4, and many took the time to review the posted score sheet where Rich Burnoski remained on top, with a very consistent Peter Goldsmith in second and Doug Pike in third.

Lunch, as always, was supplied by the very reliable Carter's Nearly World Famous Hotdogs and I must say not only was the polish sausage good, but the price was extremely reasonable for such an event at \$3 for a hot dog and a drink.

By the time Round 5 was underway, the wind was gusting at times to 12-14 mph and the first off-field landings started showing up on the scorecards with Doug Pike dropping out of contention and others making the long walk into the corn to fetch their under-ballasted models. At the end of the round, Rich Burnoski



John Winstanley measures his landing on the 100-inch tape used at the Nats.

remained in first place, with Peter Goldsmith in second, while Darwin Barrie moved up into third.

A short pilots' meeting was held to see if the contestants would like to continue flying a little later to allow a seventh round to be completed. The decision was made to do so and Round 6 began at approximately 3 p.m.

During Round 6, the nose came off an Espada and the model began a spiraling, flat descent into the LZ area—finally coming to rest right where Dillon Graves and I were standing to complete his landing. In the process of dodging the falling wreckage, I had stopped making his count at 30 seconds to go and Dillon yelled, "How much time?" I restarted calling his time with 16 seconds to go and Dillon completed an on-time and quite decent landing in stressful circumstances.

Although Rich Burnoski had flown the most consistently all day, he wasn't familiar with the LZ rule requiring the model to be in the rectangular box to score. Although he made it back out of the corn after a low-level jaunt downwind, he didn't make the box, scoring a zero and dropping him back to 13<sup>th</sup>. This let Peter Goldsmith back up to first place, with Chris Lee in second, and a consistent Darwin Barrie in third going into the final round of the day.

I had fried an aileron servo in an earlier round



Tom Broeski guides his model in for a landing.



Dillon lands his model over the top of an Espada, which rained from the air 16 seconds earlier.

and replaced it, but didn't charge. The inevitable happened and much to my chagrin, my model decided to take an uncontrolled plunge 7 minutes into the flight. This is a lesson that seems to be hard to learn. It is not the first time that I have lost a model this way and have witnessed many others. It's a great reason to have telemetry providing battery readout to the pilot.

Although the wind had quieted somewhat during the afternoon, the Muncie sink still saw pilots landing in the corn. However, the top pilots remained on top with Peter Goldsmith staying rock-solid in first place and Chris Lee 93 points back in second, with Darwin Barrie 7 points behind Chris in third place.

It had been a tough day of soaring in typical Muncie conditions, with an even better soaring day forecast for Thursday. As we all know, anything can happen in Thermal Duration in Muncie—with crazy lift and crazy sink catching out many great pilots in the past. See you all Friday.

—Gordon Buckland, reporter/photographer



Jenni Orebaugh photo.



Barb Morrison is CD for the event and marshals each group before sending them to the flightline.



Jenni Orebaugh photo.

## RC Soaring

Carter's Nearly World Famous  
LSF-preferred hot dogs.



LSF Treasurer Gil Gauger was visited by  
three more generations of his family.



Jenni Orebaugh photo.



Chris Lee (the current Nats champion) prepares to launch his Aspire.



RC Soaring



The Mystique RES was on display by Horizon Hobby. This is an RTF model and is available as a great ALES or a normal sailplane with towhook.



Dillon Graves hits a perfect 100 but buries the nose a little too deep for a 100-point score.

Jack Strother and Ron Kukral lead their group to the flightline to battle.



## RC Soaring



Unlimited after seven rounds.

		RESULTS								
Place	Contestant	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Total Drop	Total	LSF Contest Points
		1	Peter Goldsmith	950	1,036	1,098	1,093	1,065		
2	Chris Lee	1,085	818	1,026	1,076	1,090	1,086	0	7,277	5,924
3	Darwin Barrie	1,078	837	1,031	1,080	1,063	1,090	0	7,267	5,818
4	Mike Fox	1,000	1,085	1,084	1,088	879	1,063	0	6,940	5,462
5	Adam Quennoz	658	1,000	1,024	1,061	1,016	1,057	0	6,873	5,316
6	John Berlin	689	1,043	889	957	1,084	941	0	6,603	5,017
7	Jeff DuVal	1,087	895	495	1,066	1,030	1,005	0	6,555	4,892
8	Terry Edmonds	965	1,037	1,000	1,047	785	910	0	6,515	4,774
9	Michael Trutwin	572	1,034	1,067	1,074	1,054	627	0	6,358	4,572
10	Richard Burnoski	1,093	1,082	1,049	993	0	1,050	0	6,358	4,486
11	John Winstanley	886	1,057	1,064	440	693	1,054	0	6,256	4,329
12	Jerry Griffith	584	867	1,053	1,066	1,000	660	0	6,189	4,199
13	Donald Cleveland	720	931	1,028	692	819	1,064	0	6,054	4,025
14	Ken Bates	1,029	982	1,069	538	1,061	454	0	5,996	3,905
15	John Nelson	569	931	985	1,017	405	1,059	0	5,973	3,809
16	Walter Adasczik	993	1,052	438	1,037	884	1,013	0	5,950	3,714
17	Tom Broeski	720	973	1,065	561	904	1,036	0	5,935	3,624
18	Charles Pinnell	384	997	761	1,049	668	993	0	5,892	3,518
19	Gordon Buckland	1,032	981	617	1,058	1,086	0	0	5,842	3,408
20	Dillon Graves	496	1,099	1,083	1,077	0	1,051	0	5,588	3,184
21	Dominick Lewis	592	1,088	1,030	1,029	633	588	0	5,576	3,102
22	Gordon Stahl	625	874	1,027	1,074	512	658	0	5,490	2,980
23	Gilbert Gauger	750	1,066	1,000	507	378	703	0	5,423	2,870
24	Jack Strother	1,071	889	432	997	579	1,064	0	5,381	2,774
25	Wayne Messner	1,074	749	1,004	627	108	870	0	5,375	2,698
26	Kerry Cochrell	706	1,000	696	998	732	1,016	0	5,148	2,515
27	Wayne Wimbish	967	665	1,000	1,000	884	145	0	5,118	2,431
28	Ron Kukral	508	506	1,030	638	477	998	0	5,113	2,359
29	John Lindsay	880	1,007	1,063	0	767	507	0	5,023	2,249
30	Paul Perret	577	988	860	1,000	577	529	0	5,006	2,174
31	Robert Robinson	1,000	670	995	1,002	456	426	0	4,988	2,098
32	Richard Perkins	613	584	980	497	955	1,000	0	4,935	2,009
33	Skye Malcom	1,043	603	873	985	0	634	0	4,883	1,921
34	Neville Newman	694	998	977	605	174	731	0	4,763	1,810
35	Douglas Pike	1,021	1,087	927	0	549	0	0	4,664	1,709
36	Robert Burson	1,078	983	997	0	576	1,012	0	4,646	1,639
37	Norm Poti	0	543	1,053	988	413	531	0	4,621	1,568
38	Ray Munro	559	194	1,000	215	998	617	0	4,479	1,459
39	Jack lafret	550	1,006	728	538	0	743	0	4,349	1,357
40	Jerry Shape	1,063	0	0	0	1,059	1,038	0	4,221	1,260
41	Arthur Hill	0	446	639	588	1,089	1,027	0	4,149	1,182
42	Ronald Allen	518	779	501	701	732	474	0	4,123	1,119
43	David Beach	1,053	974	564	432	1,069	0	0	4,092	1,055
44	Harold Jackson	803	913	119	557	498	440	0	4,060	992
45	Ken Shaw	996	312	474	496	1,000	736	0	4,014	926
46	Bill Jenkins	671	450	997	283	359	691	0	4,001	869

# This week's events:

**Friday**  
RC Soaring

**Saturday**  
RC Soaring

**Sunday**  
No events

**Monday**  
Free Flight

**Tuesday**  
Free Flight

**Wednesday**  
Free Flight

## Aviation Weather Forecast at Muncie, Indiana

Station: KMIE North: 40.23 West: -85.38 Timezone: Eastern Daylight Saving Time UTC: -4 Model: Aviation (GFS MOS Guidance)

DATE	THURSDAY JULY 4				FRIDAY JULY 5				SATURDAY JULY 6												
	8:00 AM	11:00 AM	2:00 PM	5:00 PM	8:00 PM	11:00 PM	2:00 AM	5:00 AM	8:00 AM	11:00 AM	2:00 PM	5:00 PM	8:00 PM	11:00 PM	2:00 AM	5:00 AM	8:00 AM	11:00 AM	2:00 PM	8:00 PM	2:00 AM
SKY	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
TEMP (F)	66	71	74	75	74	69	68	68	71	73	78	79	76	71	70	68	70	74	79	76	68
WIND DIRECTION (AZIMUTH)	190	190	160	160	160	150	140	090	090	190	240	230	220	210	210	220	210	220	210	200	200
AVERAGE WIND SPEEDS (MPH)	2	4	5	6	5	4	4	3	4	4	6	8	5	5	4	3	4	8	8	5	4

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- Fran Lebowitz

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Jenni Orebaugh photo.