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July 11, 2010

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NATS NEWS

Daily coverage of the 2010 National Aeromodeling Championships



Academy of Model Aeronautics
2010 National Aeromodeling Championships

Nats

Muncie Indiana • Johnson City Tennessee

Inside the cockpit of Phil Sibble's Super Cub, the details he's added to this model are outstanding. Photo by Stan Alexander.

Academy of Model Aeronautics
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A special thank-you to members of **AMA's Flight Support Team**. Our community partners recognize that AMA onsite events bring thousands of visitors during the flying season who spend dollars in our community. Their generous donations help AMA continue to host the many competition events held annually, and in turn, AMA promotes and encourages our members to look for and support members of the **Flight Support Team**.

CL SCALE: DAY 1

With static scores determined the competition heated up (85° but with some break with the cloud cover). Designer Scale saw Frank Beatty with a 6.4-point static lead. Both contestants had problems during flying. First place is wide open depending on who can best solve today's flight problems.

In Jr.-Sr. Sport Scale, Mindy Alberty has a solid lead over Jason and Aaron Bauer. But in Jr.-Sr. Profile Scale the tablets are turned and Jason and Aaron Bauer brothers have approximately a 15-point lead over Mindy.

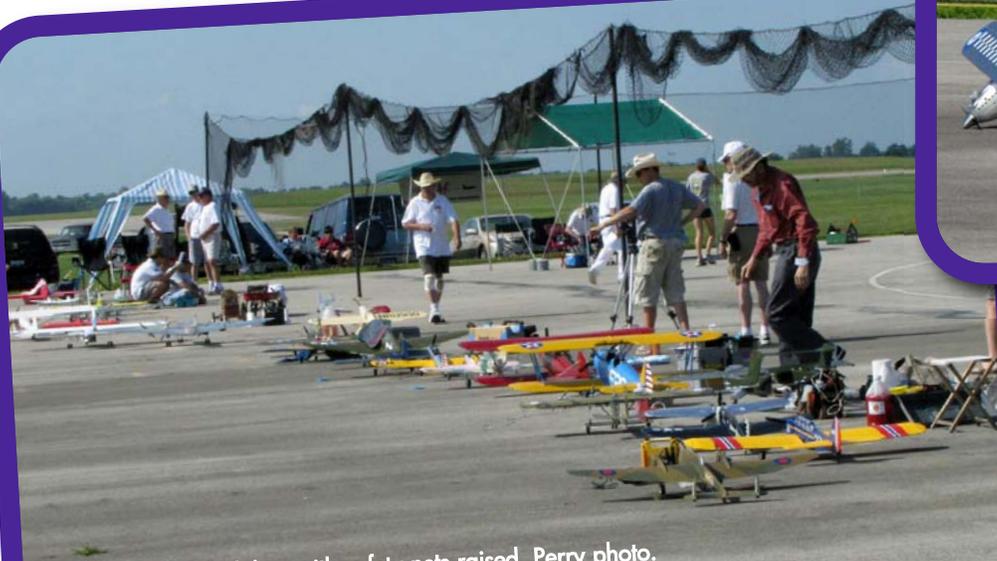
Sport Scale has Frank Beatty with the highest static score in any category but he has to get a fuel problem straightened out on Sunday to be in the awards circle. Allen Goff is about 9 points up on John Brodak do to his static score.

John has the highest flight score with a 93.5. Both are in the hunt for the Scale Flight trophy where the static plus all four flight scores are added together.

One of two of Ed Mason's B-17's, each having four quick-starting O.S. 25s.
Photo by Richard Perry.



Frank Beatty and his new Hawker Fury in the other three-point position. Perry photo.



Early morning flightline with safety nets raised. Perry photo.

Profile Scale has Chris Brownhill in the lead with his Hampton with highest static score and close to best flight score. The next-to-highest flight score of the day in any event was John Wright and his long-in-the-tooth Corsair FG-1 with a 93.3. I have had the pleasure to pit for John and compete with him for many years in the west.

Fun Scale is dominated by the flight score and Allen Goff seems to have a commanding lead with his PT-17. There are several fliers in the low 80s that will do battle on Sunday.

A handful of contestants are having mechanical flight problems but there have been no serious crashes. The Control Line fliers are making flight after consistent flight with 39 different aircraft.

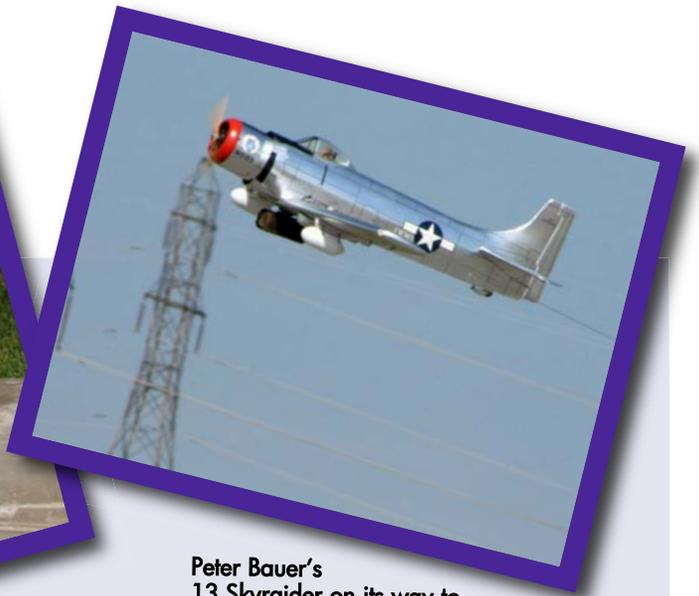


Arguably the oldest model on the field, an early 1990s Cessna 195 by John Wright.
Photo by Ted Kraver.

—Ted Kraver



Your illustrious NatsNews author putting together a six-piece 3-D puzzle to make an OV-10A Bronco. Perry photo.



Peter Bauer's 13 Skyraider on its way to bomb the enemy's power lines. Perry photo.



John Brodak's Shoestring is coming in for a landing. Perry photo.



Jim Wright and his grooving Corsair. Kraver photo.





Alan Goff launches his Waco. Kraver photo.



Alan Goff fires up his WACO. Kraver photo.



John Brodak is known to be well-grounded mechanic for his Shoestring. Kraver photo.



Frank Beatty flying his Stearman 4EM featured in a construction article in Flying Models a couple of years ago. Perry photo.



Dale Arvin auctioning off a model during the Saturday night banquet. Kraver photo.



Saturday night banquet under the tent at Stage Center. Kraver photo.

RC SCALE

Saturday dawned with just beautiful weather—a light breeze, sun, low humidity, and a temp of about 85° during the day. The site was well planned, with plenty of pit area and almost unlimited overfly area for the larger models in the group. You couldn't ask for much better conditions than this anywhere.

The spectrum of models included several jets, multiengine aircraft as well as WW II and WW I models. It's a great mix of models to watch in flight, for both the spectators as well as the judges.

There is a huge variety of color schemes—especially in Fun Scale Open. The more serious competitors will be in Expert and Designer Scale, but Fun Scale Open has become the class of choice in Scale competition around the country including the Nationals.

After the first two rounds today, Danny Craig flying a P-51D Reno Racer, Miss America, was still in first place. The model is a Hangar 9 ARF with a wingspan of only 57 inches and of all things the model is also electric-powered with an E-flite Power 90 motor swinging a 16x8 prop.

Zack Spychilla came to the event with a new model which he just finished this spring: a A-4E Skyhawk painted in the Aggressor Squadron colors representing the Eastern Block countries. Jason Danhaki is in third.

Peter Goldsmith was in fourth position with his BAE Hawk. The Hawk is from a Skymaster kit at 1/5 scale and has a weight of 35.25 lbs. He uses a JR 12X radio system with a spectrum Power Safe receiver. Paul stated that he uses nickel metal hydride batteries without a regulator and 2-2700 mah packs.

Expert Class has seen several jets entered there also. Bob Bush, who entered the Nationals last year with a F4U4 Corsair, came to the Nationals this time with a BVM F-100 Super Sabre. He's still having a few teething problems with the model but still managed to make second place so far. Veteran competitor Larry Folk is so far in third place with his 1/3-scale Super Cub.

But the sleeper in Expert Class is Dave Pinegar with his Piper Arrow II built from a Top Flite kit. The 81-inch model weighs in



Mike Barbee's T-34C on takeoff, all fiberglass construction in Expert class.

Ki-61 Tony by new RC Scale competitor Chuck Snyder, entered in Sportsman class. The 86-inch model was powered by a ST-2500 from Don Smith Plans.



Steve Eagle's
Nieuport
engaging in
combat?



Inset: The $\frac{1}{3}$ -scale Fokker D.VII was built by Dave Johnson and flown by Brian Bolard in Team Scale this year. The model is built from a Balsa USA kit.



Left: Mike Wartman assists Steve Eagle out to the grass runway with Steve's Nieuport. Note the wing tips on the $\frac{1}{3}$ -scale model.

at about 15 lbs. with an O.S. 91FSR for power. Dave states that he only flies the model at about half throttle to keep it as close to scale speed as possible.

The kit builds into a great model, and it will fit onto most paved fields. Dave used MonoKote to cover and mark the model. It also has retracts and flaps for mechanical options. With mechanical options of retracts and flaps as well as a simple flight pattern, which he has down pat, combine this with a 97 static score and so far he's in first place.

We are seeing several more models this year with electric power. While electrics seem to be wildly popular with many modelers, they haven't dominated the Scale RC scene so far. In talking with Dave Pinegar about his Cessna 310, he first powered it with electrics, but he said after one flight you had to pretty much charge the batteries for two hours and he eventually switched to two O.S. .46 2-stroke engines. He has that model entered in Fun Scale this year also.

The NASA Banquet on Saturday night was a huge success with all of the additional tents being used as well as the large tent that evening. The menu was simple food to fix with lots of it. If you went away hungry it was your own fault!

There was barbecue, grilled chicken, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, boiled corn on the cob, vegetables and another list of deserts. I'm sure I'm leaving something out probably lots of other stuff, but there was plenty. Dale Arvin did the honors for the Auction that night and added a little humor with Al Kretz receiving a special award for his feats of aeronautical skill. Ah, we'll just leave it at that ...

We would like to thank Shannon Ort (banquet guru), Judy Folk (balloon and pole deco), Ed Terry (grill master), as well as Esther Alexander (corn mixer), for all their help, work, and planning of this yearly event. The corn was locally grown and purchased from the little produce market on Hwy 32 just east of Country Club Rd. Great stuff!

Everyone settles down for dinner after a long day at the field while others are still flying in the background. It was a great time for all.

It was a great evening at the field with friends, fellowship, and family. Models flew till dusk at Stage Center. Some were practicing for tomorrow, some checking out repairs, and others just taking the time to enjoy the site as much as possible while they are here.

We've seen several newcomers to the Nationals this year. One couple I talked to is from eastern Tennessee. Mike Wartman and Cindy Kern came with two models entered in both Fun Scale and Sportsman class. Mike has a Fokker DVII entered in Fun Scale.



Right: David Axon and his wife Toni came from Southern Australia to attend the Nationals this year. They plan a full couple of weeks at the Muncie site! Welcome!



Competitors and friends help each other. Fellow competitors and friends Ron Hemphill and Tom Poole assist each other at the flightline. Scale modeling, guys and gals this is what it's all about!

The Hangar 9 model was extensively modified and recovered during the process as well as being electric powered. He also has a Balsa USA Eindecker E-IV entered in Sportsman Class. We are just glad to see them here and that they are having a great time. It's always great to see couples modeling together!

We've had modelers Toni and David Axon from as far away as Australia and on a closer side Washington State attend this year. The 3,000 mile trip from Seattle is a long one but our friends from "down under" really made a long haul to attend the scale Nationals this year.

—Stan Alexander

RC Photos by Stan Alexander



Allen Mrock's Sikorsky S-39 lifts off for another flight entered in Team Scale with Chris Hass as the pilot. The 104-inch-span model is powered by an Electric Power Hyperion 250-352 motor swinging a 18x12 prop.



The large Cessna 152 by Ron Hemphill is entered in Fun Scale Open.



P-51 Miss America flown by Dan Craig in first place after two rounds of flight competition.

The P-51 Racer Voodoo on a take off run entered by Joe Hass powered by a Thunder Tiger .46.



Hal Parenti's Ryan Fireball 81-inch span entered in Designer Scale is a model of the first production jet/prop airplane used by the U.S. Navy.



The unique outline of the Saab Draken by Frank Alvarez in Expert Class. Landing gear problems have kept this beautiful model out of contention. Built from a Peter Liebetrau kit.



Mike Wartman and Cindy Kern discuss maneuver placement for their upcoming flight. Having a dedicated caller can make a huge difference in your flights!



North American F-100 Super Sabre by Bob Bush, built from a BYM kit, comes in for a landing with the gear, flaps all down and ready!

Zack Spychalla's Tam Jet kit of the Skyhawk A4E, he has about 32 flights on this new model just finished this spring, gear and flaps down for landing.





Tom Alberty calling for his daughter Mindy. Kraver photo.



Tom Alberty calling for his daughter Mindy. Kraver photo. It takes a family, in this case Charlie Bauer's three generations, to get a Skyraider launched. Kraver photo.