



NATS 2009 NEWS

July 23, 2009



A Michael Ramsey photo shows the events of the day—all day. The Soaring site on Wednesday was nearly deserted as the weather forecast called for rain, rain, and more rain.

*Bringing Modelers Together
Begins With You!*
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2009
APRIL 1 - SEPTEMBER 14

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Thursday
RC Soaring

Friday
RC Soaring

Saturday
RC Soaring

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**.

The forecast for the RES (rudder, elevator, stabilizer) contest day was rain, rain, and more rain. This time the weather man was right as the rising sun failed to penetrate thick low rain clouds.

A bunch of enthusiastic and hopeful contestants arrived at the field and registration got under way around

RC Soaring: RES Day Washout



Twelve neatly boxed winches wait for clearing weather under gloomy skies while Tom Kallevang (left) reviews the gloomy radar picture on his GPS.

Below left: Robert Robinson and his wife enjoy a dry spot under the tents with friends.

Many fliers left the AMA site for the day to catch a movie or shop but others stayed and, as the weather improved during the afternoon, a winch was setup and many fliers trimmed aircraft and shot landings.

Yours truly found it was a great opportunity to catch some much needed sleep in readiness for a big day's flying on Thursday.

—Gordon Buckland



Tom Broeski does a little flying out of the rain.

8:30. It was clear from the constant drizzle that flying was not going to begin on time—if at all. After consulting the weather radar, the decision was made to call off the contest until 11:30 a.m., at which time a reassessment of the conditions would be made and a decision reached on flying for the day.

Many fliers used the delay as an opportunity to catch up with the latest gossip and review the vendors' offerings. A couple of brave souls braved the rain and flew DLG while we waited on the weather gods.

At 11:30, with the drizzle continuing, the decision was made to cancel the contest for the day and run three rounds of RES starting at 7:00 a.m. Thursday. This would push back the Unlimited contest and we may need to fly Unlimited as late as 7:00 p.m. to complete the day.