

NATS 2009 NEWS

July 24, 2009



Karl Miller shows his technique as he launches his Supra in Round 2 of Unlimited.

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

Academy of Model Aeronautics International Aeromodeling
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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**.

RC Soaring: RES Day 2 and Unlimited

After a full day of inclement weather on Wednesday (RES Day) with no contest flying completed, 56 pilots woke early on Thursday for a 7:30 a.m. start at the Muncie AMA Soaring Site. The flying site was alive with the largest group of people so far this week as 90 Unlimited pilots also arrived for the first day of the big boys.

The only problem was that the weather had not yet fully cleared Muncie and we had overcast skies with very low fog and a firm breeze of about 7 knots. Flying was not an option at 7:30 a.m.

By 8:05 a.m. the winches were set and Cody Remington, Mike Fox, and Blaine Chastain launched from each winch to test them prior to the contest beginning. Cody took the first launch in very heavy conditions and halfway through his zoom off of

winch one, his Espada RL disappeared into the low cloud. Cody was unfazed and a few seconds later his plane reappeared travelling vertically downward. We now knew what height the cloud base was: about 100 feet less than launch height, at least Cody's launch height.



RES sailplanes await their turn to launch.

The pilots' briefing was delivered by Mike Stump, LSF president, "JT" Jim Thomas, and Glauco Lago, the RES CD who stressed the importance of safety and explained the field boundaries etc. The first round of RES got underway by 8:30 a.m. in still gloomy, London-like conditions.

Many fliers in the first few groups found good buoyant air by just penetrating into the wind. Though not all made their max and a couple of ships blew up on launch, plenty of maxes were achieved and as the score sheets came in it was Larry Jolly with the new Super AVA who was atop the leaderboard after Round 1 with a fine 1000 and a 76-point landing. Second was Mario Scolari, flying a new Hobby Club ship called a SUP-RES.

Third was David Beach with a great score of 1073. Fourth and fifth positions were filled by Robert Glover and Jim Frickey. There was less than 20 points between first and 20th place so flight times and scores were very good for the 56 RES entries.

By the time the second round started, the conditions were improved markedly with the occasional small breaks in the cloud cover allowing the sun to peak through. This added warmth increased the thermal activity and Round 2 fliers were specking out downwind on a regular basis.

The strong breeze and overzealous



Blayne Chastain prepares to launch his Pike Perfect in the early morning gloom. Blayne, a member of the JR Team, demonstrates the technique required to properly hold and launch an Unlimited sailplane correctly for the best launch result.



Cody Remington tensions the winch line just prior to his throw to test the winches before the contest begins.



Above: Anker Berg Sonne discusses the finer points of the construction of his 16-foot-wingspan, scratch-built XCBD (Cross Country Bubble Dancer).

launching saw three of these beautiful RES sailplanes shed parts on launch, which resulted in a less-than-gentle return to Mother Earth. One of those ships was a beautiful, hand-built RES machine owned by Pat Crosby. He had crafted a simply special Challenger, which at 7:30 in the morning was a site to behold. Its rapid return to earth when the wing joiner failed on launch, resulted in a total loss of the aircraft.

Larry Jolly cemented his lead in the contest in Round 2 with an impeccable piloting display resulting in a 1090 score.

Mario Scolari also kept the good scoring going with a 1057 to shore up his first round 1074. Doug Pike jumped into third place with a great 1089 and fourth place was filled by our CD of three days, TK.

Next came the two Australians, Peter Goldsmith in fifth and yours truly in sixth, just seven points behind.

The third round started in warming conditions with the occasional puffy cumulus gradually building and patches of blue sky appearing for short moments. This constituted some of the best contest soaring conditions possible as regular lift presented itself to flight groups with patches of sinking air between. The stiff breeze continued which required judicious decisions regarding how far downwind pilots could go before leaving lift.

After the third and final round was over, the presentation of trophies was done by Mike Stump and Glauco Lago, our CD. First to tenth were given wood with Steven Myer of the Chicago SOAR club in tenth, Ken Bates in ninth, and our Two Meter National Champion Mike Fox was



Left: Peter Goldsmith on the right and yours truly Gordon Buckland (both ex-pat Australians) share a moment with sixth- and seventh-place RES trophies.



Don Cleveland guides his sailplane into lift as his timer Don Richmond provides him with info on the air and what's up and what's down.

presented with eighth place.

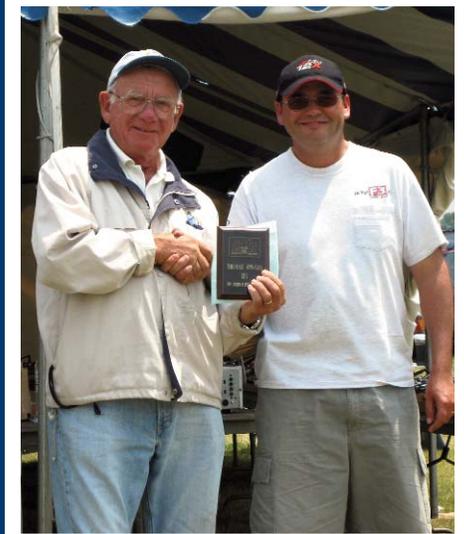
Your humble *NatsNews* reporter and first timer at the Nats



Larry Jolly the winner of RES receives his award from CD Glauco Lago.



In second place was Mario Scolaro quietly went about scoring consistently each round.



Don Richmond is rewarded with a third-place trophy in the RES category after flying three maxes and getting three good landings.



The large group of 54 pilots gather around Glauco Lago for the pilots' meeting prior to the beginning of the RES contest.



Mike Fox and John Nelson discuss AVAs while they shelter from the fog before the RES contest begins.



somehow managed to take seventh place with a score of 3041 points. The other Australian, Peter Goldsmith, squeaked into sixth with 3043 points with a great final round flight in difficult, sinky conditions.

Jim Frickey jumped into fifth place with a final round score of 1039 and a total of 3089 and Doug

Pike completed a trio of 1000-point rounds to finish on 3106. The top three place-getters were Don Richmond (who continues to fly solid rounds in every contest) in third with 3118 points, Mario Scolaro easily held second place with his new ship with 3198, but there was no catching Larry Jolly though as he showed the experience of a master glider guider with rounds of 1076, 1090 and 1096 to win RES easily as our worthy National RES Champion.

—Gordon Buckland

Pat Crosby shows the damage to his aircraft after a spectacular blow-up on launch during the first round of RES.

Scores and Standings

7/23/2009 6:07 PM

2009 AMA / LSF SOARING NATIONALS

July 19 - July 28

Unlimited

Jim Deck - Contest Director

Tom Kallevang - Soaring Event Director

RESULTS

| Place | Contestant | | | | | | | Total | LSF Contest Points |
|-------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--------------------|
| | | Round 1 | Round 2 | Round 3 | Round 4 | Round 5 | Round 6 | | |
| 1 | Verzuh Mike | 1,090 | 1,093 | 1,090 | | | | 3,273 | 10,700 |
| 2 | Burnoski Richard | 1,086 | 1,091 | 1,079 | | | | 3,256 | 10,545 |
| 3 | Monaco Jim | 1,084 | 1,075 | 1,090 | | | | 3,249 | 10,423 |
| 4 | Huffman Neal | 1,080 | 1,087 | 1,077 | | | | 3,244 | 10,308 |
| 5 | Gellart Robert | 1,070 | 1,086 | 1,085 | | | | 3,241 | 10,199 |
| 6 | Glaab Josh | 1,070 | 1,086 | 1,081 | | | | 3,237 | 10,088 |
| 7 | Thomas Jim | 1,068 | 1,096 | 1,072 | | | | 3,236 | 9,986 |
| 8 | Fox Charles | 1,071 | 1,088 | 1,073 | | | | 3,232 | 9,875 |
| 9 | Goldsmith Peter | 1,091 | 1,062 | 1,079 | | | | 3,232 | 9,776 |
| 10 | Miller Karl | 1,069 | 1,075 | 1,085 | | | | 3,229 | 9,668 |
| 11 | Miller Skip | 1,082 | 1,063 | 1,082 | | | | 3,227 | 9,564 |
| 12 | Trussell Gavin | 1,082 | 1,067 | 1,071 | | | | 3,220 | 9,445 |
| 13 | Clerx Ben | 1,069 | 1,068 | 1,081 | | | | 3,218 | 9,340 |
| 14 | Mong Ron | 1,059 | 1,076 | 1,069 | | | | 3,204 | 9,202 |
| 15 | Crosby Patrick | 1,030 | 1,082 | 1,079 | | | | 3,191 | 9,067 |
| 16 | Walter Jeffrey | 1,055 | 1,074 | 1,056 | | | | 3,185 | 8,953 |
| 17 | Chastain Blayne | 1,092 | 1,087 | 1,000 | | | | 3,179 | 8,839 |
| 18 | Glover Robert | 1,064 | 1,046 | 1,065 | | | | 3,175 | 8,731 |
| 19 | Carr Jeff | 1,036 | 1,069 | 1,068 | | | | 3,173 | 8,628 |
| 20 | Frickey Jim | 1,066 | 1,025 | 1,080 | | | | 3,171 | 8,526 |
| 21 | Wilson Edwin | 998 | 1,084 | 1,083 | | | | 3,165 | 8,413 |
| 22 | Stohr Steven | 1,069 | 1,059 | 1,035 | | | | 3,163 | 8,311 |
| 23 | Bruzual Jose | 1,044 | 1,042 | 1,071 | | | | 3,157 | 8,199 |
| 24 | Lago Glauco | 1,070 | 1,014 | 1,066 | | | | 3,150 | 8,084 |
| 25 | Strother Bernard | 1,053 | 1,014 | 1,072 | | | | 3,139 | 7,960 |
| 26 | Pike Doug | 1,047 | 1,004 | 1,081 | | | | 3,132 | 7,847 |
| 27 | Stump Mike | 1,037 | 1,027 | 1,068 | | | | 3,132 | 7,751 |
| 28 | Kukral Ronald | 1,015 | 1,090 | 997 | | | | 3,102 | 7,582 |
| 29 | McCarthy James | 1,068 | 1,021 | 995 | | | | 3,084 | 7,444 |
| 30 | Broeski Tom | 1,022 | 997 | 1,057 | | | | 3,076 | 7,331 |
| 31 | Atchison Lee | 1,038 | 998 | 1,039 | | | | 3,075 | 7,234 |
| 32 | Bustamante Luis | 1,072 | 997 | 998 | | | | 3,067 | 7,122 |
| 33 | Berg-Sonne Anker | 1,077 | 987 | 1,000 | | | | 3,064 | 7,021 |
| 34 | Herider Bruce | 1,033 | 990 | 983 | | | | 3,006 | 6,796 |
| 35 | Padilla Jon | 1,062 | 1,028 | 904 | | | | 2,994 | 6,678 |
| 36 | Meyer Steven | 992 | 1,032 | 932 | | | | 2,956 | 6,503 |
| 37 | Mackenzie Patrick | 824 | 1,042 | 1,089 | | | | 2,955 | 6,410 |
| 38 | Diniz John | 1,083 | 1,061 | 773 | | | | 2,917 | 6,239 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|--|-------|-------|
| 39 | Wrinkle David | 1,047 | 1,070 | 697 | | | | 2,917 | 6,239 |
| 40 | Campbell David | 760 | 1,061 | 973 | | | | 2,814 | 5,932 |
| 41 | Ruble Larry | 1,000 | 993 | 801 | | | | 2,794 | 5,805 |
| 42 | Burson Robert | 782 | 1,015 | 995 | | | | 2,794 | 5,719 |
| 43 | Buckland Gordon | 688 | 1,056 | 1,042 | | | | 2,792 | 5,630 |
| 44 | Schneider Steven | 872 | 913 | 1,000 | | | | 2,786 | 5,533 |
| 45 | Berlin Johnny | 1,082 | 1,077 | 582 | | | | 2,785 | 5,446 |
| 46 | Bothell Rick | 624 | 1,054 | 1,062 | | | | 2,741 | 5,276 |
| 47 | Nelson John | 988 | 993 | 740 | | | | 2,740 | 5,190 |
| 48 | Edmonds Terry | 1,076 | 1,027 | 611 | | | | 2,721 | 5,071 |
| 49 | Scolari Mario | 1,075 | 549 | 1,085 | | | | 2,714 | 4,975 |
| 50 | Lucke Steve | 1,050 | 1,063 | 589 | | | | 2,709 | 4,883 |
| 51 | Massmenn Robert | 995 | 993 | 679 | | | | 2,702 | 4,788 |
| 52 | Kallevang Tom | 1,046 | 1,000 | 604 | | | | 2,667 | 4,645 |
| 53 | Scully Tom | 1,045 | 571 | 993 | | | | 2,650 | 4,534 |
| 54 | Winstanley John | 564 | 1,039 | 990 | | | | 2,609 | 4,384 |
| 55 | Baumeler Peter | 1,000 | 571 | 998 | | | | 2,593 | 4,278 |
| 56 | Schlitzkus Peter | 1,083 | 1,066 | 395 | | | | 2,569 | 4,160 |
| 57 | Marcicki Gerry | 977 | 502 | 983 | | | | 2,544 | 4,042 |
| 58 | Lueke John | 491 | 1,010 | 950 | | | | 2,462 | 3,836 |
| 59 | Nikola Greg | 1,077 | 621 | 716 | | | | 2,451 | 3,744 |
| 60 | McGowan Michael | 657 | 1,000 | 745 | | | | 2,414 | 3,614 |
| 61 | Jolly Larry | 212 | 1,090 | 1,051 | | | | 2,402 | 3,523 |
| 62 | Gross Jerry | 782 | 987 | 571 | | | | 2,353 | 3,379 |
| 63 | Hass Chris | 1,074 | 883 | 376 | | | | 2,340 | 3,289 |
| 64 | Giesecking Philip | 547 | 983 | 793 | | | | 2,333 | 3,208 |
| 65 | Mackenzie Ivan | 710 | 1,013 | 516 | | | | 2,323 | 3,123 |
| 66 | Terry Robert | 1,036 | 469 | 720 | | | | 2,239 | 2,942 |
| 67 | Lee Chris | 512 | 614 | 1,083 | | | | 2,225 | 2,855 |
| 68 | Wallner Jack | 1,056 | 652 | 494 | | | | 2,209 | 2,767 |
| 69 | Remington Cody | 1,075 | 1,086 | 0 | | | | 2,202 | 2,691 |
| 70 | Cleveland Don | 664 | 430 | 1,058 | | | | 2,161 | 2,575 |
| 71 | Whitney Bob | 345 | 1,036 | 765 | | | | 2,152 | 2,499 |
| 72 | Wade Mike | 652 | 753 | 708 | | | | 2,146 | 2,426 |
| 73 | Hayes Joseph | 712 | 691 | 701 | | | | 2,113 | 2,324 |
| 74 | Bates Ken | 662 | 1,062 | 376 | | | | 2,104 | 2,250 |
| 75 | Smith David | 1,000 | 586 | 503 | | | | 2,100 | 2,181 |
| 76 | Cunningham William | 448 | 659 | 975 | | | | 2,089 | 2,106 |
| 77 | Shape Jerry | 992 | 1,060 | 0 | | | | 2,082 | 2,036 |
| 78 | Robinson Robert | 0 | 1,049 | 997 | | | | 2,052 | 1,944 |
| 79 | Samuels Robert | 628 | 829 | 588 | | | | 2,046 | 1,875 |
| 80 | McCann Charles | 547 | 666 | 807 | | | | 2,045 | 1,812 |
| 81 | Hutchings Wilbert | 1,031 | 394 | 583 | | | | 2,020 | 1,728 |
| 82 | Carlton Jim | 1,050 | 505 | 447 | | | | 2,008 | 1,656 |
| 83 | Beach David | 820 | 1,075 | 0 | | | | 2,002 | 1,590 |
| 84 | Jeffery Larry | 487 | 382 | 992 | | | | 1,895 | 1,447 |
| 85 | Lindsay John | 459 | 763 | 622 | | | | 1,861 | 1,365 |
| | | | | | | | | 1,844 | 1,296 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|-------|-------|--|--|-------|-------|
| 86 | Richmond Don | 532 | 592 | 696 | | | 1,820 | 1,223 |
| 87 | Coleman Bernard | 0 | 750 | 1,056 | | | 1,806 | 1,159 |
| 88 | Haskins David | 302 | 408 | 988 | | | 1,698 | 1,038 |
| 89 | Marcicki James | 125 | 1,037 | 516 | | | 1,678 | 974 |
| 90 | Swanson Steward | 547 | 23 | 1,000 | | | 1,570 | 863 |
| 91 | Glaab Josh Jr. | 403 | 413 | 488 | | | 1,304 | 677 |
| 92 | ***Leach David | 0 | 1,007 | | | | 1,007 | 492 |
| 93 | ***Nguyen Hogan | 655 | 0 | | | | 655 | 300 |
| 94 | ***De Boer Harry | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 95 | ***Lawicki Adam | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 96 | ***Chuck Anderson | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 97 | ***Estep Tony | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 98 | ***Glaab Luke | 0 | 0 | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 99 | ***Green Severn T. | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 100 | ***Harter Scott | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 101 | ***Hill Jr. A. George | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 102 | ***Kennedy Barry | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 103 | ***Moya Luis | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 104 | ***Robertson Jerry | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 105 | ***Searl Sanford | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 106 | ***Walter John | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| 107 | Schwerin Alan | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | 0 |



Cammack Station Restaurant
 9200 W Jackson St
 Open 7 Days a Week
 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.



Unlimited

As soon as RES was completed around 11:30, our CD for Unlimited, Jim Deck, held a brief pilots' meeting and the long-awaited Unlimited Sailplane contest got underway. Ninety pilots were on hand to contest the national title, and though it would be a long day, our wonderful



Above: Rich Burnoski, a USA World Championships team member, guides his sailplane with assistance in spotting the air being provided by 17-year-old Jeff Walter, a USA Junior Worlds team member.

organizers and AMA staff thought we could possibly achieve four rounds before dark.

Thermaling conditions for the contest were excellent with just enough heat in the earth and the parking lot to produce those elusive bubbles of lift down low for sailplane pilots to exploit when they were scratching out a time. There were also waves of excellent lift up high which carried many fliers a long way downwind as they climbed out. Though the breeze was a good 7-10 mph, the lift did hold together and was workable enough for the majority of pilots to achieve their 10-minute maxes every round.

First round saw Blayne Chastain posted the round-winning score of 1092 with Peter Goldsmith a close one point behind. Mike Verzuh was

one point farther back on 1090, and Rich Burnoski put in his usual solid performance to be in fourth place on 1086.

Jim Monaco was two points farther back on 1084 and the spread for the first 20 places covered only another 14 points or 14 inches. This was clearly a landing contest and a very good landing was required in the first round just to make the top 50.

Round 2 was more of the same with great opportunities in the sky and landings were the required remedy to set the men apart from the boys. Lift was still strong and could be found successfully upwind as well as downwind.

The top pilots all achieved their maxes and the landing contest began again. A position in the top five would require landings as close as 15 inches or less and though many pilots made great scores in the 1060s they still found themselves as low as 20th place in this excellent field of pilots.

After Round 2 was complete, the top five were Mike Verzuh in first, Blayne Chastain in second, Rich Burnoski in third, and Neal Huffman and JT (Jim Thomas) in fourth and fifth respectively.

Round 3 started around 4:30 p.m. with conditions starting to cool a little but the lift continued to flow across the Soaring site. Once again the landing became the crucial test of skill to determine the final placings for the day as the CD Jim Deck announced that Round 3 would be our last.

Above: Seventeen-year-old Christopher Hass pilots his Emerald in the Unlimited contest under the assistance of timer Cody Remington as Jamie Buckland looks on.

Mike Verzuh remained in the lead as a result of his perfection in landing technique. Three landings in a row inside 10 inches is hard to beat. It is that sort of consistency that makes champions.

Maybe Mike could be showing us what is ahead tomorrow.

Rich Burnoski hung onto second just 17 points behind Mike, with Jim Monaco



Above: Rich Burnoski sticks another landing with his Supra on the way to a worthy second-place position.



Right: Rich Burnoski's landing distance is carefully measured by Jeff Walter before the sailplane is moved from its position.



long way down the list.

After three rounds were complete, the spread from first to 20th was 102 points. It was less than 200 points from first to 30th. Friday anybody can win but it certainly will require multiple landings very close to the spot.

The heroes of the day were the workers behind the scenes: the organizers in the registration area, scoring, on the flightline, and the winch trolls. A lot of flying took place and 90 pilots had a lot of fun, only made possible by these folks who sacrifice a lot of their own time to make our day a success.

Thank you.

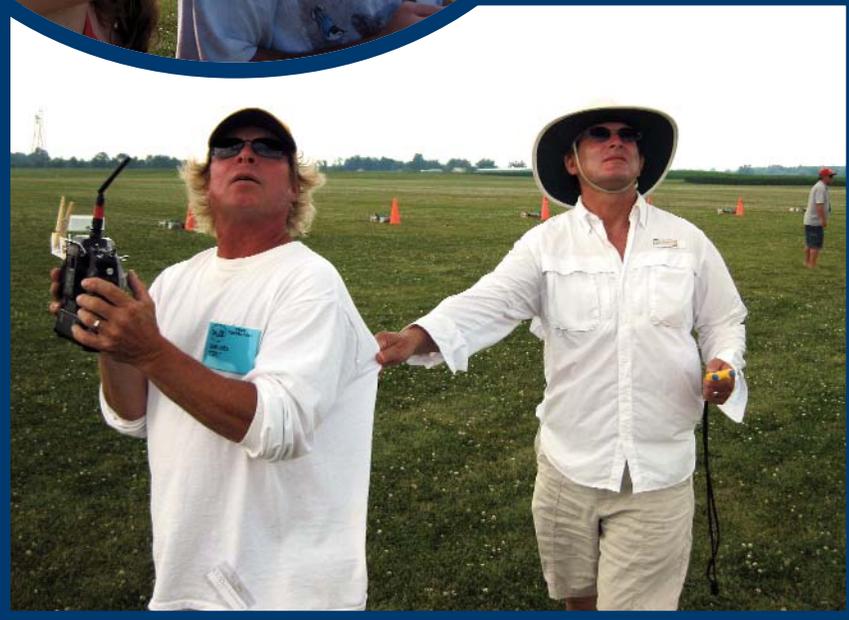
—Gordon Buckland

Left: A well-executed throw sends this beautiful Supra on its way up the line.



Above: Pilots relax as they watch others take their turn with the “thermal gods.”

Above left: Gordon Buckland is supported on the flightline by his wife Sheralyn.



Left: John Lueke is assisted to the landing area by his timer, famed Free Flighter Norm Poti, as he carefully thermals his sailplane.



Left: Jenny Meyer and Sheralyn Buckland carefully enter the flight scores into the computer. They are just two of the many people who work very hard behind the scenes at a large contest like this.

Below: The unseen heroes, the winch trolls, wait patiently at the end of the field to retrieve the next bunch of tow lines.



Mike Stump puts his sailplane on the spot.



The next flight group walks out to the winches to launch for their 10-minute task.

Left: "TK" Tom Kallevang pilots his sailplane with Marc Gellart providing the moral support and the official timing duties.