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RC AEROBATICS

And then there were eight ... On our fourth day of competition, less than 10% of the pilots who began flying on Monday are flying today. The awards for Intermediate, Advanced, and Masters are on the way home with well deserving competitors.

The eight who remain are flying to be the 2015 F3A National Champion. The road to be in this elite group began years ago and represents literally years of practice.

Today is a whole new contest with two rounds of the 2015 FAI Final sequences and two rounds of all new sequences. The five sequences were computer generated following FAI guidelines, to include the proper range of K-Factors.



Some of us got to AMA's International Aeromodeling Center (IAC) so early that the only place we could eat breakfast was right on the flightline.



Others were getting a judge's briefing by Jon Carter, who is the National Society of Radio Controlled Aerobatics' (NSRCA) chairperson for the judging committee.



Others were just being dads as were Frank Collinson and Ron Lockhart, as they discussed the long path their sons have followed to be among the elite eight finalists. Actually there were five fathers and sons among these final eight pilots. Amazing!



Two demonstrating pilots flew the F sequence so the judges could clarify their understanding of each maneuver. They would also do the same for the two Unknown sequences to be flown later in the day. After these flights, the judges would get together to be sure that each contestant was equally and fairly judged.



So the flying began. Because of the morning sun several pilots opted for the sunspot. A pilot adjusts its height until the spot just covers the sun to keep it out of his eyes.

Another of the five father-son teams flying in the finals, pilot Matt Kimbro and his father, Jim, opted to use the device for their early morning flight.



Many others found some shade and just settled in for a morning of great flying. Actually it would be the best aerobatic flying seen anywhere in the US this year.



There was a rare break between the second F sequence and the final Unknown flight. Event Director Bob Kane took that time to look back on the past two years. Bob is especially appreciative of the pilots for their sportsmanship and support. They came prepared, knowing the rules and what was expected of them. They were also very cooperative during judging. And did I mention the superior flying?

One of the highlights of 2015 was the great conditions for flying we had this week, knowing the weather conditions at AMA's IAC that were likely during what is possibly rainiest summer on record. Tony Stillman was a great resource this year, as well.

Bob said, "As I end my two years as ED, my favorite thought is that I can come back in 2016 and *fly!* Thanks for two great years."

To us they seemed effortless, which obviously meant you were working very, very hard!



The 2015 FAI National Champion is AC Glenn.



The reserve FAI National Champion is Dave Lockhart.



The final eight from left to right are eighth, Joey Hayes; seventh, Dan Landis; sixth, Matt Kimbro; fifth, Mark Hunt; fourth, Peter Collinson; third, Chip Hyde; second, Dave Lockhart; and first, AC Glenn.



Three of our favorite competitors did not participate in the 2015 RC Aerobatic Nationals because they were making their final preparations for the World Championships in Switzerland. Our very best wishes go to this fabulous team.



Frank Capone, of Team Nor-Cal, has the final word for this year's RC Aerobatics *NatsNews*!





