Wednesday
July 25

nats news

Daily coverage of the 2012 National Aeromodeling Championships

Jim Quinn photo.

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RC Aerobatics Day 3

Today's Events: RC Aerobatics

OUR FIRST DAY of competition flying for the 2012 Nats ended pleasantly. While we slept, however, Mother Nature paid us an unexpected visit. We needed the rain, but not so much and not so fast. Little did we know that the best was yet to come.

During the first round on Tuesday morning, our Event Director stopped all flying. All the airplanes were put away and each site was secured as best we could. The more than 60 mph winds and the slashing rain had other ideas of how we would spend the balance of Tuesday morning and the early afternoon.

By 1:30, however, things were drying out, sites were being put back together and flying was beginning to resume where we left off in the morning. By the end of the day, each pilot had the opportunity to complete both of his flights and history was made.

We had our first team member selected for the 2013 World Championships in South Africa. Joseph Szczur will represent the USA as our first Junior team member! We all congratulate Joseph and wish him the very best.

Joseph Szczur.

Joseph Szczur has been flying for nine years. He is currently 12. At approximately age one, Joseph's dad, Don, found him sleeping in his favorite onesie with a small CAP 21 in his hand. His first solo came with a flight simulator because his small J3 never had enough power to take off.

At three years old, Joseph was determined to launch that airplane, but it only resulted in hour after hour of taxi runs up and down the driveway. Joseph's Alpha .40 seemed too big and intimidating for a real solo. It wasn't until he got a smaller Ace High three-channel airplane that he could get into flying at age four, and by age five, Joseph was a solo pilot.

It took two more years before his first contest with a Diamonte E-Flight in 2007. By 2008 Joseph was flying his dad's Brio at the Nats as an Intermediate pilot. Joseph was back in 2009 flying FAI. In 2011, Joseph finished first in Advanced. This year, of course, Joseph was our highest-placing Junior pilot entered in the team trial.

Ethan Chariandy.

NSRCA and the AMA would also like to congratulate Ethan Chariandy, who is the Junior team member going to South Africa representing Canada. Ethan is 13. Ethan began flying foamies at age seven. He didn't solo until he was eight. He wanted to go to the Canadian Nationals in 2008, but he had not yet received his wings from his home club in Oakville, Ontario.

Without officially receiving his wings, Ethan was not permitted to fly by himself. Two days before the Canadian Nationals that year, he received his wings and won one round of Sportsman and finished the contest in second place.

Ethan is flying an electric-powered Integral, but has his eye on a Xigris, like his dad, Colin, flies. Electric is easier to maintain and clean, and most of all, "I don't have to start the engine! I don't like to do that." He thinks South Africa will be an incredible experience and it will be a great honor to represent his country of Canada in a World Championship.

Brian Strachan.

Credit and congratulations go to Brian Strachan as well. Brian is 15. Brian also entered the Team Trial to represent the USA as a Junior in South Africa. Before getting serious about Precision Aerobatics, Brian was a successful Pylon Racer. He was only nine at the time. At age 11, Brian entered his first Aerobatics contest with

a Super Hotts .60. He entered his first Nats in 2009 and finished first in the 2011 Nats as an Intermediate pilot.

It wasn't until several months ago that Brian decided to skip Advanced and Masters and go straight to FAI. "I wanted to step up to the flightline at the World Championships," he said. More than 500 flights later, and even more coaching hours from Brian Hebert and Chuck Hochhalter, Brian Strachan stepped up and was counted.

We are all grateful to this young man for his courage and tenacity to follow this dream. Brian's sights were not set on South Africa, but on this year's Nats. There will come a time when we will read about him competing at a future World Championship.

RC Aerobatics has so many wonderful people who look out for each other. Two buddies came to the 2012 Nats anticipating success. Chuck Hochhalter is a great Masters pilot and an excellent builder of Mark Hunt's EVO Pentathlons. Chuck had a finely tuned EVO ready for his trip to the Nats.

On Sunday before the Nats started, his buddy, Brian Strachan, had a radio problem with his primary plane and it crashed. Brian was familiar with Chuck's primary EVO, but not so much with Chuck's backup. Chuck was not so familiar with this recently purchased EVO, nor did he have much stick time with it. What to do? Not a problem. Just do what best buds do, give your primary airplane to you buddy and fly your backup yourself. Chuck you get the Best Buddy Award for the 2012 Nats! Congratulations. (See a picture of the two on the cover.)

We met the "new crew" yesterday, so for today let's remember and be grateful to those who have been with us for years and years. They work so we can fly and enjoy.

The "dean" of Site 1 is Tim Jesky. Any time you go to Site 1, Tim always has a smile for you and will give you all the time you need. It will seem like you are the only person Tim needs to attend to that day. Don't go to McDonald's for a Smoothie, just go to Site 1.

At Site 3 we run into Jerry Plyler. Jerry has been working for us to allow us to enjoy the air above Site 3 for 16 years! If you need a class in site directorship, see Jerry at Site 3.

Tim Jesky.

Who tabulates our scores? Site 4 has Tara Stafford.

Bobby Stout is the master and chief of Site 4. Ever since the Nats have been held here at the AMA's International Aeromodeling Center, Bobby has been in charge of Site 4. Ask Bobby to go out for ice cream with you and you'll find an eager partner.

Tabulation for Sites 1 and 3 is done in the Whale by two-and-a-half returning veterans, Linda Jesky and Jennifer Hatton. Young Erin Hatton is the returning veteran making it a full two-and-a-half team members.

Finally, you might wonder who Archie Stafford is? Is he the amazing event director (ED) who pulled all this together so we could enjoy a wonderful week of flying? Or is Archie the quintessential competitor flying on the Masters line? Or you might ask, how can he do both? We all know you can't be ED and fly at the same time. So each afternoon, Archie takes off his ED hat and exchanges his ED shirt for his orange Futaba shirt. He passes the responsibilities of ED to his assistant ED, who becomes the official ED for the afternoon while Archie does what he loves best. Archie just flies! A very special thank you goes out to Archie for becoming our ED while still holding onto his passion to fly! *RN*

Archie Stafford.

While moving around the sites today, this shirt was spotted. If you can identify the owner see her for a custom-made shirt. If you can't identify her and would still like one of these shirts, see the ED or Assistant ED for more details.

To view daily scores of the competition, visit www.nsrca.us and click on the Nats 2012 tab.

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When it comes to aeromodeling in America there is one place above all others: the International Aeromodeling Center at AMA's Headquarters in Muncie, Indiana. The IAC has a beautifully-designed Walk of Fame that is a wonderful way for you to honor AMA, a loved one, your club, or your organization with a commemorative brick. At the IAC, bricks are on permanent display for all visitors to see.

With your $100 donation to the Academy, a brick in the Walk of Fame will be engraved in black with the AMA "wings" and two lines reserved for your name, a friend, loved one, club, or organization. A $500 donation will secure a "gold wings" brick with logo and wording handsomely engraved in gold. At the $1,000 level, you will receive an 8 x 8-inch black granite brick engraved in gold. Your donation is considered a gift in support of the AMA.

Jenni Orebaugh photography.

RC Aerobatics

Jenni Orebaugh photography.

This week's events:

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
RC Aerobatics	No Events	RC Soaring	RC Soaring	RC Soaring	RC Soaring

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REVISIONS

2012 Nats Navy Carrier Unofficial, Class 2, Sportsman

WEDNESDAY

Navy Carrier Class II				
1	450.26	Pete Mazur	Sugar Grove	IL
2	416.20	Bill Bischoff	Dallas	TX
3	380.02	Dale Gleason	Valley View	TX
4	243.41	Art Johnson	Rockford	IL

TUESDAY

Navy Carrier Sportsman				
1	180.14	Ted Kraver	Phoenix	AZ

THURSDAY: Unofficial and provisional events

Navy Carrier Skyray Profile				
1	249.97	Pete Mazur	Sugar Grove	IL
2	190.73	Art Johnson	Rockford	IL
3	ATT	Burt Brokaw	Tucson	AZ

Navy Carrier 15 Profile Sportsman				
1	170.61	Art Johnson	Rockford	IL

Navy Carrier 15 Profile Expert				
1	186.26	Paul Smith		
	ATT	Burt Brokaw	Tucson	AZ
	ATT	Eric Conley	Garnerville	NV
	ATT	Dave Wallick	Ocklawaha	FL

Navy Carrier E Profile				
1	238.09	Pete Mazur	Sugar Grove	IL
2	74.84	Art Johnson	Rockford	IL

Navy Carrier E Class I				
1	74.84	Art Johnson	Rockford	IL
	ATT	Pete Mazur	Sugar Grove	IL

Navy Carrier E Class II				
1	373.60	Eric Conley	Garnerville	NV
2	219.40	Pete Mazur	Sugar Grove	IL

Navy Carrier Nostalgia Profile				
1	383.46	Paul Smith	Sterling Heights	MI

Navy Carrier Nostalgia Class I				
1	160.10	Paul Smith	Sterling Heights	MI

Jenni Orebaugh photo.

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