

NATSNEWS



CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF COMPETITION

July 25

Indoor Free Flight | Rantoul, Illinois

Rob Romash helping an aspiring young modeler with her P-18.



INDOOR FREE FLIGHT ends

Text and photos by Mike Kirda

Saturday evening flying was scheduled until 11 p.m. and everyone was required to be out by midnight. By 9 p.m., almost everyone had had enough of the heat and humidity and had left.

Evan Guyette decided to take advantage of the open hangar and fly his F1D late. He commented about a couple of things. One is that with the humidity being so high, his times were down quite a bit. Another was that it was pretty freaky being in a quiet hangar when you are alone late at night.

Also, I forgot to highlight that Bill Gowen's F1M got hung up on an already hung up LPP Saturday night. Unfortunately, there's no photo.

Sunday morning was the glider battle that we were waiting for. After having slept in a bit late, I came in to see a

young boy tossing a hand-launch glider. Immediately, I was impressed. He couldn't be more than eight or nine years old and his toss was amazing. (The glider hit the ceiling several times.) He had an arm like a Buxton. As it turns out, he was a Buxton—Jim's son, Benjamin. They had planned to come earlier to the Nats, but with the heat and humidity, decided to come for the last day only, while on their way to Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Jan had rebuilt his hand-launch glider overnight, adding polyhedral and maybe a larger stabilizer. It seemed to be much more stable Sunday, with a more consistent launch and transition. Kurt, Rob, Jim, Jan, Randall, Rob, and Stan were all battling in various glider classes and it was quite fun to watch. There is something about a catapult-launch glider

transitioning mere inches from the ceiling panels. Many great flights were made by all.

After the glider time was over, the LPP battle started in earnest again. Last time we were here, Bill Gowen was only a few seconds off the record for Cat2. Sunday, the winning times were more than two minutes lower. It seemed like no matter what anyone did, he or she couldn't get around the humidity. (I blame the humidity rather than the heat, because when the last contest was held here, it was almost as hot with much lower humidity.)

Another Indoor Nats is in the bag. I hope to see you all next year!

Thanks to Bud Layne for his generous sponsorship of the lift this year. We did not lose a plane to the building. Every single one was recovered. 🛩️



Benjamin Buxton giving it his all.



Your LPP winners—lots of new faces for 2016!



Stan's glider coming in.



Jan's glider coming in.



Rob wins Hand-Launch Glider.



Benjamin Buxton launching his catapult glider.



The happy glider winners.



Jan just has to get into the picture somehow.

Jan giving his glider a gentle push.

