

Thursday
July 26

Nats News

Daily coverage of the 2012 National Aeromodeling Championships



Jenni Orebaugh photo.

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Today's Events: RC Aerobatics

THE THIRD day of our RC Aerobatics at the Nats

began a little differently than the first two. After two days, some of our friends have gone home. On day three, FAI semi-final rounds began. For days one and two, the preliminary sequence (P-13), was flown.

After those first four rounds, only the top 20 pilots return for the third day of competition; their semifinals. Today the F-13 (final sequence) is flown. These 20 pilots also know that only eight of them will be flying in the finals on the fourth and final day of competition.

The same is true for our Masters pilots. Although they are all still flying on day three, they also know that only the top eight in their class will fly on day four as well.

The Intermediate and Advanced pilots from Site 4 know this is their final day of competition and if anything is to be decided, now is the time to pull out all the stops. For these two classes of pilots, there is no tomorrow.

Before the day slipped away from me, I was able to connect with Randy Hicks—famous for his design of the TALON series of airplanes.

In 2011, Randy promised a newer version of his airplane for 2012. If you saw the TALON EXTREME on the FAI line, you know Randy delivered on his promise of a radically new airplane.

Planning for the TALON EXTREME began on the way home from the 2011 Nats. Concept to first flight took the better part of 10 months. The fuselage is composite and balsa, while the wings and tails are made of the more traditional foam. Randy kept this very large airplane at the 5000-gram limit by carefully selecting and weighing everything. There was almost no room for error.

The TALON EX is powered by a YS 175. Randy prefers glow to electric, but he thinks the aircraft can easily be built to accommodate electric power. A second handmade TALON EX might not take much more than a month or more to finish. All the templates and molds are finished.

Brandon Landry is Randy's pilot

RC Aerobatics Day 4

extraordinaire. Brandon thought certain essentials needed to be incorporated into this new design, such as retracts, for example.

Another consideration that Brandon was looking for was more clean air over the tail. This gave birth to the Astroventilation system. There is a scoop behind the canopy and vents just before the rudder that allows for clean air to flow over the tails, undisturbed by the propeller.

This innovative airplane deserves two pictures: one of the airplanes and designer/pilots, and the other of the Astroventilation system.



Since 2012 is a team selection year, Earl Haurey had his work cut out for him before the Nats began. As chairperson of the Team Selection Committee, Earl was tasked with getting everything in place so we could select three pilots, an alternate, and if possible, a junior pilot. Thanks to Earl and his committee, the team selection



was woven seamlessly into our Nats. The team members will select the team manager.

Most pilots, like AC Glenn, came to the line with a primary and a backup airplane ready to fly at a moment's notice.



A good caller is essential to the success of a great pilot. One of our most successful pilot/caller teams is that of Andrew Jesky and Verne Koester. Each is in his own "zone" preparing what turned out to be a 1,000 round.



Even more judges were added for the semifinals in FAI. We went from three to five judges, and even more judges will be added on finals day.





Site 4 had some first-time pilots and some returning after a time-lapse. Rick Sweeney was back after a 12-year lapse. Rick now flies totally electric and his radio is 2.4, of course. Although he thinks the new schedules are more challenging than what he was flying 12 years ago, his equipment is better and he is certainly up for the challenge.



Qifan Chen is a long way from China and his family back home. Skype keeps them in touch. They can also key in on his flying successes here in the USA. This is Qifan's second year flying Intermediate, but it is just his first Nats. He enjoys seeing all the top pilots. He is inspired to improve on his skills. All in all, Qifan's first Nats is a great event.



Volunteering to be the Event Director for the Nats is challenging and rewarding. This year we were lucky enough to have event directors from two different centuries. Our current ED, Archie Stafford, and the youthfully amazing, Ron VanPutte.



Valentin Krichenko comes to Muncie from Cleveland for his first Nats. In the 1970s, however Valentin was living in the Ukraine and was a member of the Russian gymnastic team. He was also a very successful CL pilot in Combat and racing. He finds the other pilots very friendly and helpful.



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

For his final year as CD for the Nats, Ron Morgan has spent the summer preparing Dave Guerin to replace him in 2013. Luckily for all RCers, Al Williamson will be staying on with Dave in 2013 to watch over all RC events. Thanks goes to these three men who make our flying so easy and so much fun.

An appropriate close to the first three days of competition was a luscious banquet catered by Johnny Carino's. Business was taken care of, like announcing the eight finalists in FAI and Masters, as well as passing out two FAI unknowns and drawing flight orders.

Awards were given for all FAI semifinalists, as well as awards for the five highest-placing Intermediate and Advanced pilots. Listings for all places are found on the NSRCA website. Below are photos of the first-place winners. In Intermediate is Brandon Sobolewski, and Advanced, Steve Insalaco. Both Brandon and Steve also received special awards from the NSRCA as highest-placing members of the NSRCA. *///*



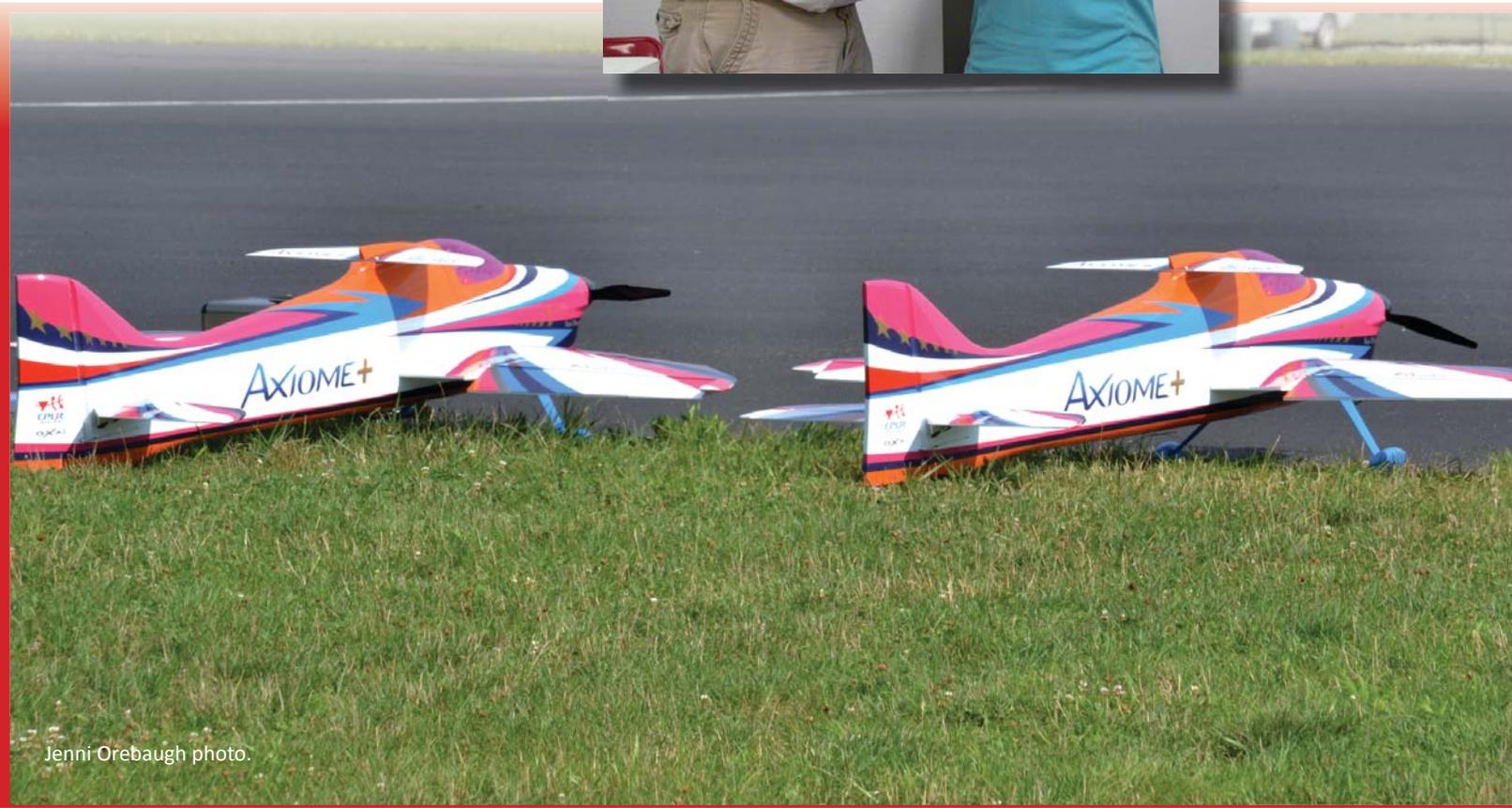
The NSRCA banquet.



Brandon Sobolewski.



Steve Insalaco.



Jenni Orebaugh photo.



This week's events:

Friday
No Events

Saturday
RC Soaring

Sunday
RC Soaring

Monday
RC Soaring

Tuesday
RC Soaring

Wednesday
RC Soaring

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Jenni Orebaugh photo.