

2013 NATS

NATIONAL AEROMODELING CHAMPIONSHIPS
ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS · CHAMPAIGN IL · MUNCIE IN

NatsNews

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2013 FAI National
Champion Chip Hyde.
Jim Quinn photo.



Friday, July 26

RC Aerobatics Wrap-Up

Jim Quinn, reporter/photographer

Chip Hyde woke up on our fourth and final day for the 2013 RC Aerobatic Nats, and as he brushed his teeth he looked in the mirror and wondered how this day might end. As he awoke he was a three-time World Champion! He was also a 13-time National Champion and his victories spanned three decades—the 1980s, the 1990s, and the 2000s.

As our fourth and final day ended, Chip Hyde was crowned as our 2013 FAI National Champion—his 14th *National Championship!* Now he has been our USA National Champion 14 times, now in a period spanning *four decades!* As I write this it is very early Friday morning and I am still trying to comprehend the magnitude of his accomplishment!

Driving home Thursday evening, I had more than a dozen calls from aerobatic friends across the country wanting to know the results of this year's competition. None of them could come up with an appropriate comparison. One friend compared him to Cal Ripken of the Baltimore Orioles. Another called him the Babe Ruth of RC Aerobatics. Another friend called him an RC Leonardo da Vinci, using the sky as his canvas and his airplane, or even a helicopter (One World Championship was with helicopters) as his paint brush. No one could really quantify such an amazing accomplishment.

Not only did Chip accomplish such an amazing feat, it was clearly obvious to anyone watching that you were watching a master in full control of his craft! Now all we can do is wait seven more years and watch this happen in the span of five decades. I guess all any of us can say is just simply, "Chip!"

And now for the rest of the story. As the rest of us woke up on our final day the weather was finally picture perfect, with modest winds, clear skies, and moderate temperatures. A very odd thing happens on our final day of competition. Site 4 is no longer active with Intermediate and Advanced pilots flying, while Sites 1 and 3 became very quiet. There is almost a reverence about our final day.

Earlier in the week, a friend was at a restaurant where there were two clowns making balloon figures for the children. He invited them out to AMA's International Aeromodeling Center (IAC) to watch the flying. They thought there would be more pilots. He reminded them that they were seeing the best of the best!

There were additional judges on our final day. The other days had three judges per panel. Now there were five judges and it would ultimately expand to seven judges, the five normal judges and two "zero" judges. All the "zero" judges would watch for would be if the maneuver had all the correct elements, not the precision, etc., which every judge is looking for.

One of the constants for all four days was Jim Quinn's selling of World Team merchandise. Mark Atwood and the entire World Team is most grateful to everyone at this year's Nats who added almost an additional \$2,000 to the fund, sending our team to South Africa. You all were very generous!



Our final-day judges.

Along with things being more quiet on day four, other interesting things also happened. With the two Unknowns in FAI, the pilots have never flown these sequences so they do an "Aresti dance" with stick planes to "dry fly" the maneuvers. We are always pleased to see Peter Collinson flying in the finals. This year we had a special treat when Pete brought his dad, Frank, with him (below).



Correction to yesterday's NatsNews (7/25) page 4:

Brian Strachan won the Throttle-Tech system, which was donated by Tech-Aero Designs, not Dave Lockhart. This first-of-its-kind system connects between the throttle channel and ESC of electric powered models and monitors the ESC's battery to make the throttle behave the same at the end of the flight as at its beginning.



There was also a sound check before every flight (left) and a weight taken after each flight (below).



We did have a few winners in the “guess whose sneaker” contest. But they were on Facebook so they could not collect the prize. (The answer was Archie Stafford.) So today the challenge is to guess which pilot was brave enough to fly in the finals wearing *this!*?

When all was said and done, National Champions were crowned and everyone who flew now knew where he/she stood while flying against the best of the best.



Seventh place in Masters went to Chris Fitsimmons. Chris wanted everyone to know he is from NSRCA's District VII.

Sixth place in Masters went to Dale Arnold, who did a masterful job constructing the Unknown for the FAI finals. Normally Dale is an FAI pilot himself, but he flew Masters this year to allow him to do our Unknowns for us. Thanks for this sacrifice, Dale.



Fifth place in Masters went to Brenner Sharp, who has been so very generous supporting our World Team with his masterful contra drive system.



Fourth place in Masters went to Humberto Pomaes.



Second place in Masters went to Marcio "Braza" Jorge.



Third place in Masters went to Mark Hunt.



First place in Masters went to Matt Stringer. This was Matt's first time at our Nats and we hope to see much more of him in the future. He was a dominant force in Masers this year and we presume to see him in FAI in 2014. Matt also won as best-placing Junior and the highest-placing NSRCA member.



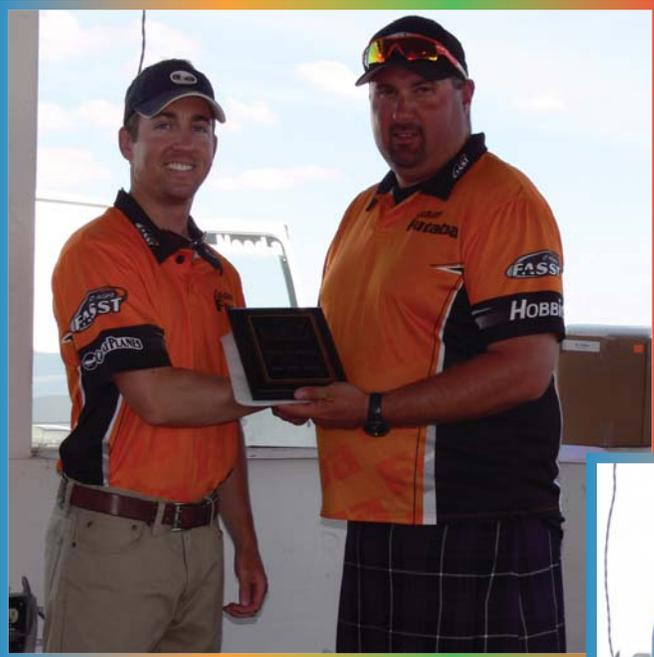
John Fuqua was given an award for the highest-placing Senior in Masters.

Six awards were handed out for FAI.



Flying for the first time in FAI was our ED Archie Stafford, who received his award for a sixth-place finish from his wife, Tara.

Fourth place in FAI went to Peter Collinson.



Fifth place in FAI went to Matt Kimbro, flying a beautiful new design, the Asylum.



Third place in FAI went to AC Glenn.



RC Aerobatics



Second place in FAI went to Dave Lockhart, our 2011 National Champion.



First place, as stated at the beginning of today's newsletter, went to Chip Hyde.

As we prepared to leave AMA's IAC one final act needed to be accomplished. Archie Stafford passed the Event Director's "baton" to Bob Kane, who will take over for 2014 and beyond.

Thank you to all who were so generous of giving their time for interviews and photos for this year's NatsNews.





Jenni Orebaugh photos.



This week's events:

Sunday
RC Helicopter

Monday
RC Helicopter

Tuesday
RC Helicopter

Jenni Orebaugh photo.



The 2013 National Aeromodeling Championships are sponsored by:



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**Thank you for joining
us this year!**

Jenni Orebaugh photo.

