Monday July 30

nats news

Daily coverage of the 2012 National Aeromodeling Championships

Arthur Markiewicz traveled all the way from San Diego for the 2012 RC Soaring Nats. Rachelle Haughn photo.

2012 National Aeromodeling Championships
Johnson City, TN • Muncie, IN

Academy of Model Aeronautics International Aeromodeling Center, Muncie IN
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An RC Soaring Weekend!

Today's Events:
RC Soaring

WE OPEN our RC Soaring reports with a double issue covering two days of weekend flying and three different Soaring contests.

The thrill of Soaring

With 133 RC Soaring competitors signed up, and many of the 172 Free Flight pilots also doing Soaring tasks, this type of flying has very strong appeal. Those of us in the know might describe it as being in tune with the air and constantly testing our abilities to manage natural forces.

It is a highly addictive balancing act involving wind speed and direction, lift, sink, drag, airspeed, and of course, gravity. It's a thrill to see your craft rising on unseen forces. And as the wind carries it higher and farther away, there's always the thought that you might never get it back.

What is a Soaring task?

Over the years, modelers have defined contest categories that let them compete within specific parameters. These usually have to do with wingspan, launch method, control system, or construction materials.

RC Soaring tasks are a combination of launch, navigating in updrafts (hopefully), and returning to a landing spot at an exact time.

The first day of RC Soaring competition dawned with very flyable conditions, a bit breezier than expected. The wind from the north was slightly below 10 mph, increasing slightly in the afternoon.

Most of the pilots were able to winch the planes into this breeze without damaging even the Nostalgia-class wings. However, the wind made the updrafts a bit tricky to find and track. Conditions for lift improved as the clouds cleared, but making it back to the landing zone was not necessarily a given.

The cross-country pilots set up their big planes from a point east of the AMA Headquarters and worked laps around a circuit. The goal was to cover as much distance as possible in a single flight. Early in the afternoon they began to record some good distances. As the Saturday flying wound down, veteran pilot Skip Miller was in command of the event and working on his fourth lap around the course. His final distance was 55.3 miles with a flight time of 3 hours and 40 minutes!

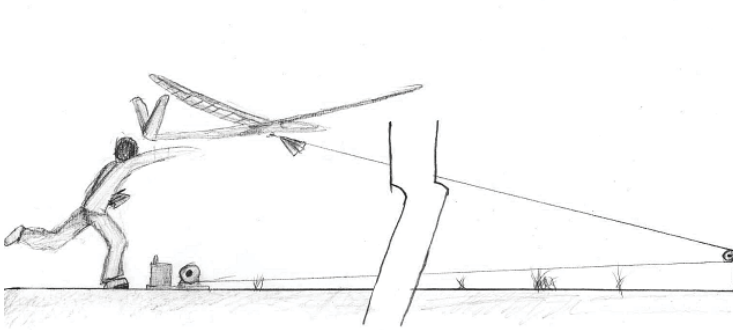
Sunday ended up being a great day for Soaring, with light breezes making it easier to find lift. Skip ended up in first place with a two-day total of 125.4 miles.

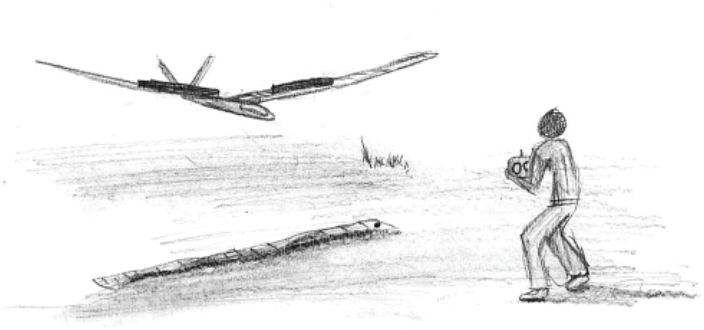
In a separate achievement, Ingo Donasch from Florida finished his LSFV achievements. Congratulations!

Back at the AMA Headquarters, the RES and NOS pilots enjoyed the absolutely gorgeous weather and finished up their competitions. Since most found lift and made the flight times, the pilots focused especially on getting good landings, as the landing points were key in defining results. *MM*

Illustrations by Caleb Gess.

Nostalgia Competition (NOS)



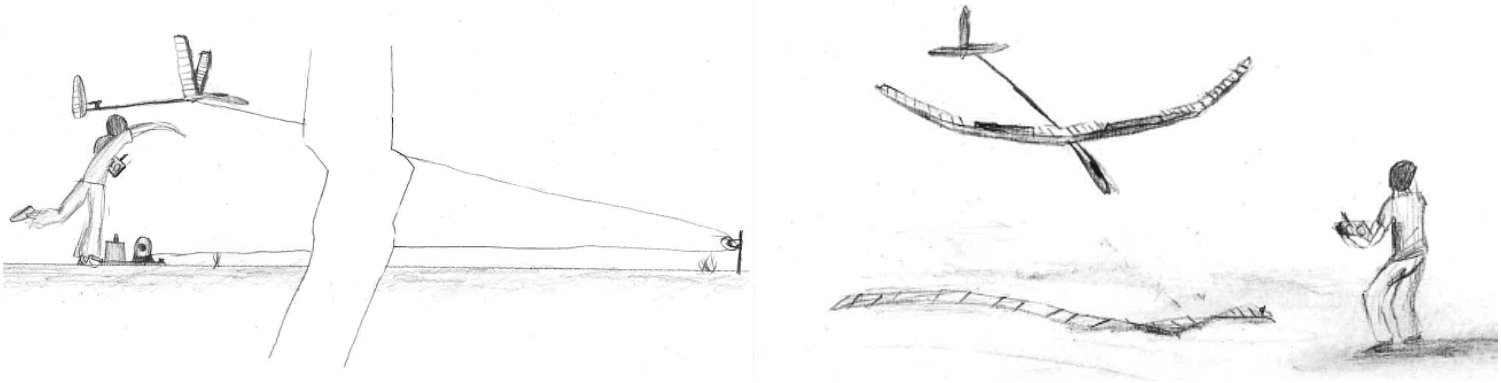


The NOS or Nostalgia competition is similar to other Soaring Duration contests, but is defined by the age of the airplane designs.

- The design must have been published prior to January 1, 1980 to qualify for NOS.
- Original airfoils, dimensions, shapes, and control surfaces must be maintained.
- Modified spars and other strengthening are allowed in order to sustain the stresses of the new equipment.
- Incidence changes and limited dihedral adjustments are permitted for fine tuning of flight characteristics.
- New radio equipment may be used.
- No landing arresters ("skeg" teeth under the nose) may be added.
- Launches are from a winch with a turnaround pulley set a maximum of 300 meters (984 feet) away. Many contests have the turnarounds closer than that.
- The flying portion consists of a timed flight, often 10 minutes or more, which usually requires finding rising air to maintain altitude. Maximum flight points are earned for flying the exact time specified, with points deducted for landing before or after the designated time.
- Landing outside the designated field disqualifies a flight, and extra points to a maximum of 100 are added for landing as close as possible to the end of a graduated tape.

Illustrations by Caleb Gess.

Rudder/Elevator/Spoiler Competition (RES)



The RES, or Rudder/Elevator/Spoiler competition is similar to other soaring duration contests, but defined by the three permitted control surfaces.

- These planes are usually of polyhedral design to optimize rudder-only turns.
- Composite structures allow for very light and strong airframes, making these craft very good "floaters" but also capable of carrying ballast for higher wind conditions.
- With no aileron control it is an extra challenge to get the RES planes down on the landing spot, especially in a crosswind.
- Spoilers fold up from the wing's top surface and "spoil" the lifting effect of the airfoil. They are used to control the landing descent, and to help get down from high altitude.
- You may use landing arresters ("skegs") in RES competition.
- Launches are from a winch with a turnaround pulley at a maximum of 300 meters (984 feet) away. Many contests have the turnarounds closer than that.
- The flying portion consists of a timed flight, often 10 minutes or more, which usually requires finding rising air to maintain altitude. Maximum flight points are earned for flying the exact time specified, with points deducted for landing before or after than the designated time.
- Landing outside the designated field disqualifies a flight, and extra points to a maximum of 100 are given for landing as close as possible to the end of a graduated tape.

Photos by Mark Gellart.

Cross Country

The goal of the cross-country contest is to cover as much distance as possible.

- Planes are bigger than other RC sailplanes, permitting them to be seen at higher altitudes.
- Launches are from a winch.
- Competition courses are generally at least 3 points with a distance around them of at least 15 miles.
- Several helpers assist in a chase vehicle to carry the pilot around the course.

RC Soaring Saturday

Rachelle Haughn photography.

Saturday's weather was almost picture-perfect for Soaring. The strong winds made for some quick launches, and the slight cloud cover kept the temperature down.

Marna "She who must be obeyed" Jeffery poses with her favorite coffee mug inside the "White Whale" trailer Saturday afternoon. She said it matches her personality.

Jim Thomas (L) and Kent Nogy apply some glue to a glider just in time to compete.

Norman Poti (L) of Dayton OH and Jim Martin of Xenia OH watch the contest near the flightline.

James Velleman gets ready to take his glider to the flightline.

Even dogs enjoy a good day of Soaring.

RC Soaring Saturday

Rachelle Haughn photography.

RC Soaring Saturday

Rachelle Haughn photography.

RC Soaring Sunday

Jenni Orebaugh photography.

RC Soaring Sunday

Jenni Orebaugh photography.

RC Soaring Sunday

Jenni Orebaugh photography.

Ryan Woebkenberg photography.

John Marien with his Ascendent XC. He scratch-built this model from his own molds.

Ingo Donasch, from Sarasota FL, did the full 10K and also flew for 2 hours to complete his Level 5!

Launching an XC sailplane.

Tom Broeski, from Virginia, shows the proper equipment for Cross Country Soaring: a truck and bean bags.

From left to right Steve Stohr, Ron Kukral, and Karl Miller after Ron completed his 10K.

RC Soaring Cross Country

Ryan Woebkenberg photography.

John Marien's model in an ROG launch.

This week's events:

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
RC Soaring	RC Soaring	RC Soaring	RC Soaring	RC Soaring	RC Soaring RC Electric

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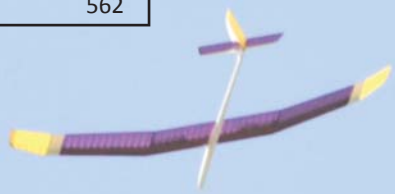
SIG

Applebee's is a proud sponsor of all AMA 2012 summer events.

Applebee's

Nostalgia (NOS)

1	PETER G GOLDSMITH	MONTICELLO	IL	8312
2	DONALD P HARRIS	WESTERVILLE	OH	7985
3	MICHAEL LACHOWSKI	PITTSTOWN	NJ	7888
4	JERRY A GRIFFITH	MOUNTAIN HOME	AR	7715
5	DOUG PIKE	BRAMPTON		7283
6	JAMES L VANDERZYL	ALEXANDRIA	VA	7282
7	ROBERT D ROBINSON	IRONS	MI	7191
8	CHARLES L PINNELL JR	CROZET	VA	6859
9	DONALD G RICHMOND	VIRGINIA BEACH	VA	6720
10	JOHNNY A BERLIN	EFFINGHAM	IL	6557
11	GREGORY P SMITH	SAINT JOSEPH	MI	6370
12	THOMAS M SCULLY	CADIZ	KY	6325
13	ERICH P SCHLITZKUS	STEWARTSTOWN	PA	6195
14	PETER J SCHLITZKUS	OCEAN VIEW	DE	6162
15	STEWART D SWANSON	HARRISBURG	PA	5372
16	JOHN E IAFRET	GRAND BLANC	MI	5240
17	JAMES C VELLEMAN	BRYAN	OH	5228
18	REGINALD D SEWELL	MUNCIE	IN	4767
19	STEPHEN L HALL	CHESTERFIELD	MO	4652
20	RAY HAYES	FORT WAYNE	IN	3768
21	LUKE GLAAB	HAMPTON	VA	3757
22	JACK S WALLNER	RICHLAND	MI	3646
23	RICHARD D CHRISTIAN	WAUKEGAN	IL	3597
24	KENNETH BATES	PORTAGE	MI	3392
25	ARTHUR J EARL	MAHOMET	IL	2766
26	GILBERT W GAUGER	OAKTOWN	IN	2766
27	EDWIN WILSON	LOUISVILLE	KY	1883
28	JOHN N DINIZ	MONTICELLO	IL	1727
29	ROBERT C GLOVER II	HUNTSVILLE	AL	928
30	PAUL H WIESE	WESTERVILLE	OH	562



Cross Country

	Name	Saturday	Sunday	Total
1	Skip Miller	55.3	70.1	125.4 miles
2	Peter Baumeler	11.2	39.1	50.3 miles
3	Team Broeski: Beach, Wally	11.9	25.9	37.8
4	Ron Kukral	10.1	12.4	22.5
5	Igno Danisch	6.8	12.4	19.2
6	John Marien	2.9	6.3	9.2

	RES Function (RES)			
1	MICHAEL LACHOWSKI	PITTSTOWN	NJ	8534
2	L KENT NOGY	PASO ROBLES	CA	8383
3	SCOTT R SHAW	BRENTWOOD	TN	8378
4	PETER G GOLDSMITH	MONTICELLO	IL	8298
5	DONALD G RICHMOND	VIRGINIA BEACH	VA	7861
6	ARTHUR MARKIEWICZ	ENCINITAS	CA	7847
7	DOUG PIKE	BRAMPTON	ONT	7762
8	DON B CLEVELAND	TULLAHOMA	TN	7667
9	JERRY A GROSS	HUTCHINSON	KS	7493
10	CHARLES L PINNELL JR	CROZET	VA	7429
11	PETER J SCHLITZKUS	OCEAN VIEW	DE	7424
12	KENNETH BATES	PORTAGE	MI	7242
13	JACK S WALLNER	RICHLAND	MI	7117
14	ERICH P SCHLITZKUS	STEWARTSTOWN	PA	7038
15	NORM D POTI	NEW CARLISLE	OH	6983
16	SKYE M MALCOLM	UPPER ARLINGTON	OH	6977
17	THOMAS M SCULLY	CADIZ	KY	6886
18	JOHN S LINDSAY	MUSCATINE	IA	6817
19	KERRY N COCHRELL	OWINGS	MD	6779
20	GILBERT W GAUGER	OAKTOWN	IN	6737
21	JOHN KENNEDY	PALATKA	FL	6671
22	JOHN F NELSON	PRINCETON	IA	6594
23	ROBERT F BURSON	BRISTOL	IN	6529
24	KENNETH C SHAW	IRONS	MI	6522
25	JOHN E IAFRET	GRAND BLANC	MI	6212
26	JAMES A THOMAS	FOLSOM	CA	6211
27	ROBERT C GLOVER II	HUNTSVILLE	AL	6163
28	WILLIAM A LATHAM	FAYETTEVILLE	NC	5944
29	JAMES C VELLEMAN	BRYAN	OH	5651
30	DONALD P HARRIS	WESTERVILLE	OH	5585
31	BARBARA L ROBINSON	IRONS	MI	5512
33	STEWART D SWANSON	HARRISBURG	PA	5418
34	JERRY D ROBERTSON	FLAGSTAFF	AZ	5395
35	LUKE GLAAB	HAMPTON	VA	5366
36	RICHARD T RENNECAMP	CHESTERFIELD	MO	5279
37	ROBERT D ROBINSON	IRONS	MI	5277
38	STEPHEN L HALL	CHESTERFIELD	MO	4978
39	RAY HAYES	FORT WAYNE	IN	4902
40	GREGORY P SMITH	SAINT JOSEPH	MI	4769
41	WILLIAM A CHRISTIAN	ARLINGTON HTS	IL	4349
42	HUGH C URMSTON	CARMEL	IN	4342
43	GENE LINDSAY	SAINT PETERS	MO	3935
44	JAMES L VANDERZYL	ALEXANDRIA	VA	2287

Jenni Orebaugh photo.