

Monday
August 6

Nats News

Daily coverage of the 2012 National Aeromodeling Championships



Don DeLoach, 2011 Nats.



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Free Flight Begins!

Today's Events:
RC Electric
Free Flight

IT'S TIME to circle the wagons again, my fellow Free Flight modelers. All roads lead to Muncie, and in the month of August there's simply no better place in the world

to be. All of us are looking forward to five days of competitive flying with hundreds of fliers, experts and novices alike, and boundless camaraderie with old friends and those we haven't met yet.

Free Flight week at the Nats—it doesn't get any better than this. Personally, I'm very pleased to be your *NatsNews* reporter and photographer again this year.

Last year's memories are still fresh; some would say burnt into our memories. Yes, it was hot last year—something the lurid prose in my daily reports made clear. Weather reports varied a little that week as to just how spectacularly hot it was.

My favorite was Free Flight week being deemed the hottest in Muncie history, and they've been keeping those records for a very long time! We on the field needed little convincing. However, we handled these challenges in admirable fashion with only two contestants needing hospitalization. And one of those was on chemo!

Registration last year was around 220, something to be proud of, given the forecasted heat and surge in gas prices. We're not quite sure what this year will bring. Registrations to date are down, but you never know.

Much of the drop-off can be easily traced to the large number of regular attendees who are our representatives and coaches at the Junior Free Flight World Championships being held concurrently overseas, and we wish them the best of luck. We're hoping the conditions last year didn't run anybody off this year. Gas prices are at the new normal, and as dutiful consumers, we

should be used to it by now!

Your intrepid reporter asked some Muncie locals about the "crop report" and can offer the following. Like much of the Heartland, the Muncie area has been plagued by hot and very dry conditions all summer. As a result, the corn and beans aren't doing as well as in years past. Specifically, the corn is only in the range of 5 to 6 feet tall, and the beans are knee-high or less. The farmers' loss is our gain, and retrievals will be on the easier side this year. It's a high price for the nation to pay, but the Free Flight Nats will enjoy the reprieve, nonetheless.

Monday starts things off with a bang with a full offering of spectacular performers. The power fliers get going with the gas-powered classes of C Nostalgia and 1/2A Gas, while the electric fliers go with Electric B. All these power classes offer shock and awe in their explosive climbs, transitioning to angelic glides.

The rubber fliers provide no less drama and enter the fray with Moffett, a very powerful class that requires a ROG start, as well as Small Mulvihill (20 gram), a relatively new but popular event. The SAM contingent offers .020 Replica and OT Hand-Launched Glider—a sight for sore arms.

The FAI program begins with F1A glider, and Payload rounds out the day's dance card. This should keep everybody busy and this reporter occupied.

Once again, let's be careful out there with the heat and humidity! Watch yourselves, and look after your friends. Wear appropriate clothing, seek shade whenever possible, and drink lots of water. Don't be a stupid statistic. Your models should go home in a box, not you!

Stay tuned for Monday's results in Tuesday's report, right here. If you see me out on the field, don't hesitate to speak to me, particularly if you've something interesting to relate. Readers love the human interest stuff. And drink lots of water! **///**



Taron Malkasyan.



Wes Murell.



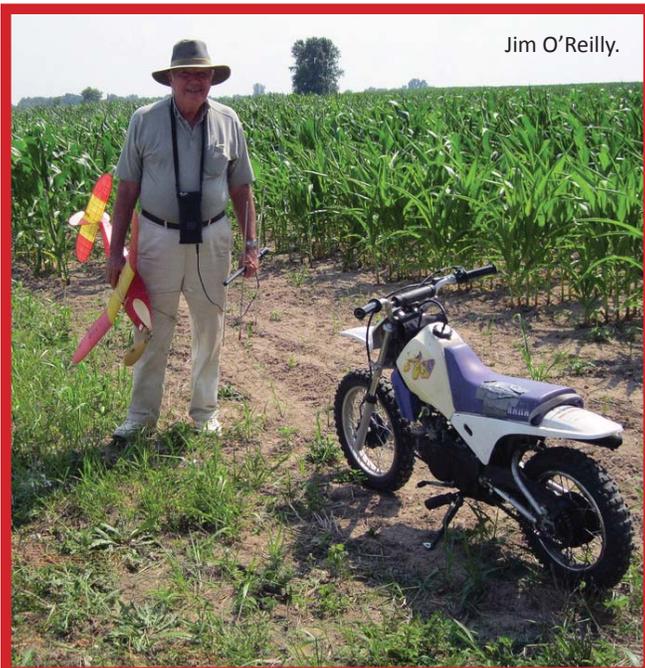
Roy Stewart.



Bill Reuter.



Jim O'Reilly.



Denny Dock.



Paul Andrade goes all in with his Embryo in ROW Rubber. Nats 2011.



2011 NFFS cookout and raffle at the Nats.



Dean McGinnes.



Joe Williams.



RC Electric

THE DAY started out with huge thunderstorms early in the morning, but the weather forecasters promised a better day to come.

Six dedicated pilots showed up in the misting rain for the start of the 1/2A Sailplane Nats event. Our CD, Greg Prater, decided to wait for an hour or so to let conditions improve. The first round started at roughly 11 a.m. in light misting conditions. The heavy cloud cover and absence of lift made for tough conditions to get a 10-minute max.

After another delay of brief rain, group 2 finished round one in the same tough

conditions. This set the tone for the first few rounds.

Finally, after noon, the cloud cover began to break up—showing spots of blue skies and puffy white clouds, along with the dreaded wind. By this time, the day became a typical Muncie summer day with pilots flying to the limits of visibility with their small planes in search of lift.

On several occasions, Art Earl was flying so far away, we thought he was in a different time zone, but he managed to get back safely every time. We had several pilots from F3J come visit Site 4 to help time and watch.

When it was all said and done, we flew six very competitive rounds ending at approximately 3 p.m. The third-place award went to Jack Iafret (aka Papa Smurf), flying an Electron. Second place went to Dan Maxwell, flying a Renny.

The first-place award went to Ed Franz (aka Little Smurf), flying a Maxx. Team Smurf did well—taking a first and third. A big, hearty thank-you goes out to Greg Prater for serving as contest CD in the challenging conditions. (He was *so* prepared!). First day of Electric Soaring Nats 2012 is in the books, now onto ALES! *///*

An early round launch before the weather cleared.



A later round launch when skies were clearer.



L-R: Jack lafret and veteran timer Don Richmond.



L-R: Bob Johnson and Mark Groves.



Jack lafrat's Electron on landing approach.



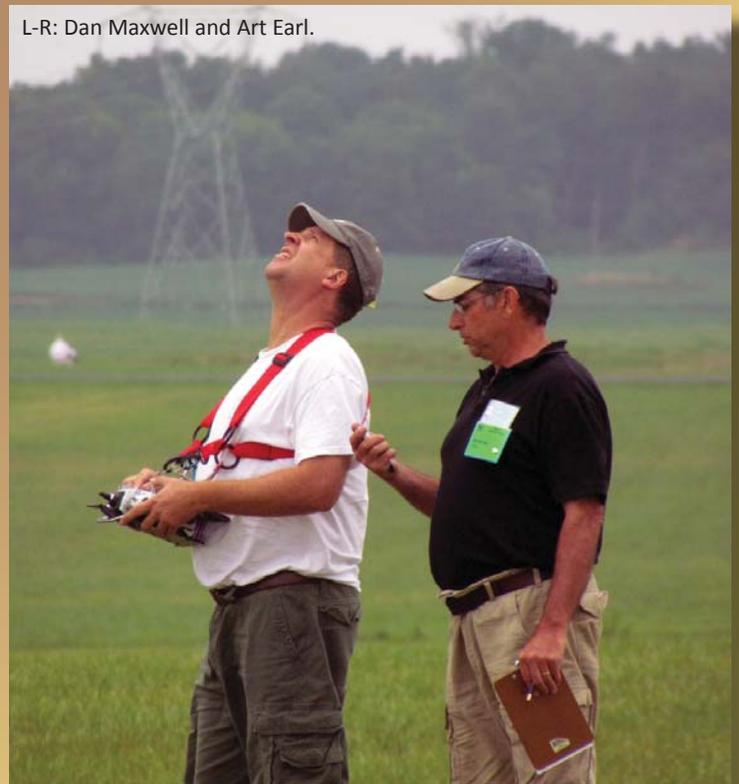
L-R: Jack lafret and Bob Johnson.



Dan Maxwell's Renny in the air.



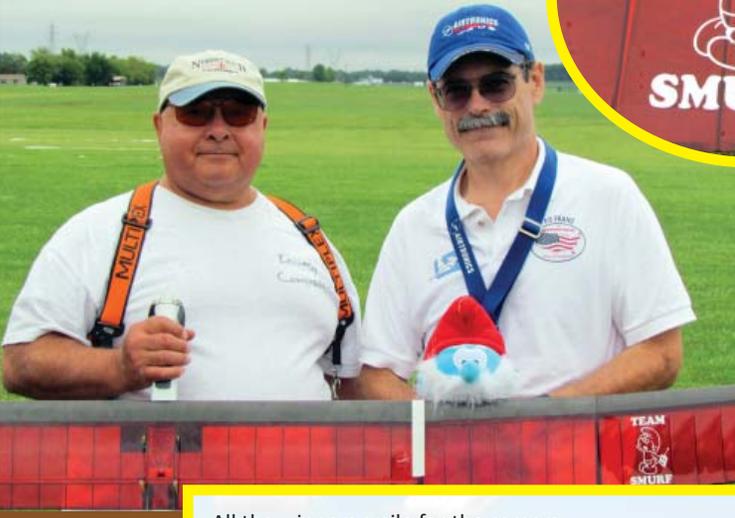
L-R: Dan Maxwell and Art Earl.



L-R: Mark Groves and guest timer, Gavin Trussel.



Jack lafret and Ed Franz, Team Smurf, pose with their mascot, Papa Smurf.



Team Smurf brings home the "wood"!



All the winners smile for the camera.



CD Greg Prater awards Ed Franz the first-place trophy.



CD Greg Prater awards Dan Maxwell the second-place trophy.



CD Greg Prater awards Jack lafret the third-place trophy.

L-R: Dan Maxwell, Mark Groves, Jack lafret, Art Earl, Ed Franz, and Bob Johnson.



This week's events:

Tuesday
RC Electric
Free Flight

Wednesday
RC Electric
Free Flight

Thursday
Free Flight

Friday
Free Flight

Saturday
RC Helicopter

Sunday
RC Helicopter

The 2012 National Aeromodeling Championships is proudly sponsored by:



RC Soaring Ends

THE STORMY weather that shut down the F3J field yesterday continued into this morning, so the group called off the flying today and handed out awards based on yesterday's three rounds. The Glaabs continue to be on scene, with Josh taking top honors in F3J and Josh Jr. flying to 10th place in a field of 34 experienced pilots. Veteran F3J pilot Thomas Cooke was in second by only three points and Arthur Markiewicz was third. Fourth through ninth places were taken by Craig Greening, Chris Lee, Jim Thomas, Jeff Carr, Neal Huffman, and Tom Siler. Josh Glaab Jr. also takes home the trophy for top junior pilot in F3J.

As I sign off my duties as *NatsNews* reporter, I'm thankful for the chance I've had to get an inside look at what goes into making the Soaring events possible. There are many, many selfless people making this all happen. Our family has enjoyed making new friends this week. We certainly plan to continue in the Soaring hobby, where you cannot only learn much and enjoy the elements, but also be with so many good people.

Thanks also to my son, Caleb, for the sketches that helped explain the different events, and for taking the most creative pictures featured in the newsletter this past week. *///*

We're proud of these guys who put in five long days shagging chutes. Sheldon Smith took good care of them. They thank Horizon Hobbies for the prizes, and all the pilots for the tips.



Best Junior flier Josh Glaab Jr. David Beach photo.



Unlimited winner Chris Lee shares his moment with one of the trolls.

Josh Glaab accepts the first-place trophy. Beach photo



F3J

1	3000	JOSH GLAAB	HAMPTON	VA
2	2997	THOMAS W COOKE	HOUSTON	TX
3	2990	ARTHUR MARKIEWICZ	ENCINITAS	CA
4	2956	CRAIG R GREENING	APTOS	CA
5	2856	CHRIS LEE	SAINT LOUIS	MO
6	2794	JAMES A THOMAS	FOLSOM	CA
7	2784	JEFFREY S CARR	FORT MILL	SC
8	2779	NEAL S HUFFMAN	WARRENTON	VA
9	2630	THOMAS W SILER	COLUMBUS	OH
10	2618	LOUIS J GLAAB	HAMPTON	VA
11	2594	DOUG PIKE	BRAMPTON	
12	2428	RAY MUNRO	HAMILTON	
13	2404	MICHAEL LACHOWSKI	PITTSTOWN	NJ
14	2368	JAMES R MCCARTHY	CARY	IL
15	2324	CAROLINE A GOLDSMITH	MONTICELLO	IL
16	2118	ROBERT C GLOVER II	HUNTSVILLE	AL
17	1977	ROBERT A WHITNEY	ROCK HILL	SC
18	1956	GAVIN L TRUSSELL	LEWIS CENTER	OH
19	1956	LUIS J BUSTAMANTE	HACKETTSTOWN	NJ
20	1916	ROBERT F BURSON	BRISTOL	IN
21	1904	DONALD G RICHMOND	VIRGINIA BEACH	VA
22	1765	PETER G GOLDSMITH	MONTICELLO	IL
23	1720	ADAM C QUENNOZ	HALF WAY	MO
24	1682	STEVEN H LUCKE	PARSIPPANY	NJ
25	1663	DAVID S BEACH	AMHERST	NH
26	1592	MARK L TAYLOR	FRESNO	CA
27	1545	CHARLES L PINNELL JR	CROZET	VA
28	1461	THOMAS J BROESKI	AFTON	VA
29	1420	JOHN N DINIZ	MONTICELLO	IL
30	1353	WALTER K ADASCZIK	NASHUA	NH
31	1276	BERNARD STROTHER	GRANGER	IN
32	1000	BARRY M KENNEDY	GRAND PRAIRIE	TX
33	751	L KENT NOGY	PASO ROBLES	CA
34	527	STEVEN E SCHNEIDER	BUFFALO GROVE	IL
35		RICK SHELBY	VISTA	CA

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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.

L-R: Ed Franz and his timer, Art Earl, have differing opinions about where the lift is!

