



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

NatsNews

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website: www.modelaircraft.org; email: natsnews@modelaircraft.org
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Chuck Markos and
his very clean P-51A.
The model was based
on Comet plans.



Saturday, August 10

Indoor Free Flight Day 3 Recap

Welcome to day three of the Indoor Nationals. Friday got off to a fun start with an assortment of Flying Aces Scale events. Tim Lavender and his group from Smyrna, Tennessee, had their air force ready to fly and showed it in Coconut Mass launch. It is impressive to see how the group improves its fleet each year. The Coconut Scale flights for models more than 36 inches in span topped two minutes this year. Coconut Mass Launch is by far the most entertaining mass launch as the large models take to the air amidst cheers from the crowd and participants.

Another high point was the presentation to the group by Abram VanDover. A donation was made thanks to the kindness of several modelers to help defray the cost of getting the kids here to fly with us. One of the concerns with moving the location from Tennessee to Illinois was the potential that they would not be able to travel to participate. It is great to see that they followed the Nationals to Illinois.

In the afternoon the lightweights again took to the air. The most popular three events were F1L (1.2 gram EZB), A-6, and Ministick. The action at the scoring and processing table was steady all day, with a constant stream of flights.

One guy who did not need many flights was Ministick master Walt VanGorder. He put up a stellar 11:40 flight early

in the morning (his actual term for the flight was a "cutie") and proceeded to watch everyone chase it all day. It took 10 hours for anyone to challenge, but in the end Tom Sova still could not match the time. Walt said the motor stick on the model dates back to 1993, and although it shows signs of wear it still gets the job done quite nicely.

In F1L Leo Pilachowski also had a nice flight early in the day. The only problem was that it was only a test flight. He was able to follow it up though with a flight nearly as good to take the early lead and a new National record. Leo watched as many competitors tried to match his flights. Many had issues with a boundary layer near the ceiling.

The air was very nice today, with many long flights not needing any steering at all. However, models that went above about 70 feet seemed to be destined for the girders and chains in a rapid ascent through the warm buoyant air at the top. These conditions took their toll on many potentially good flights, and at the end of the day, Leo's times held up for the win.

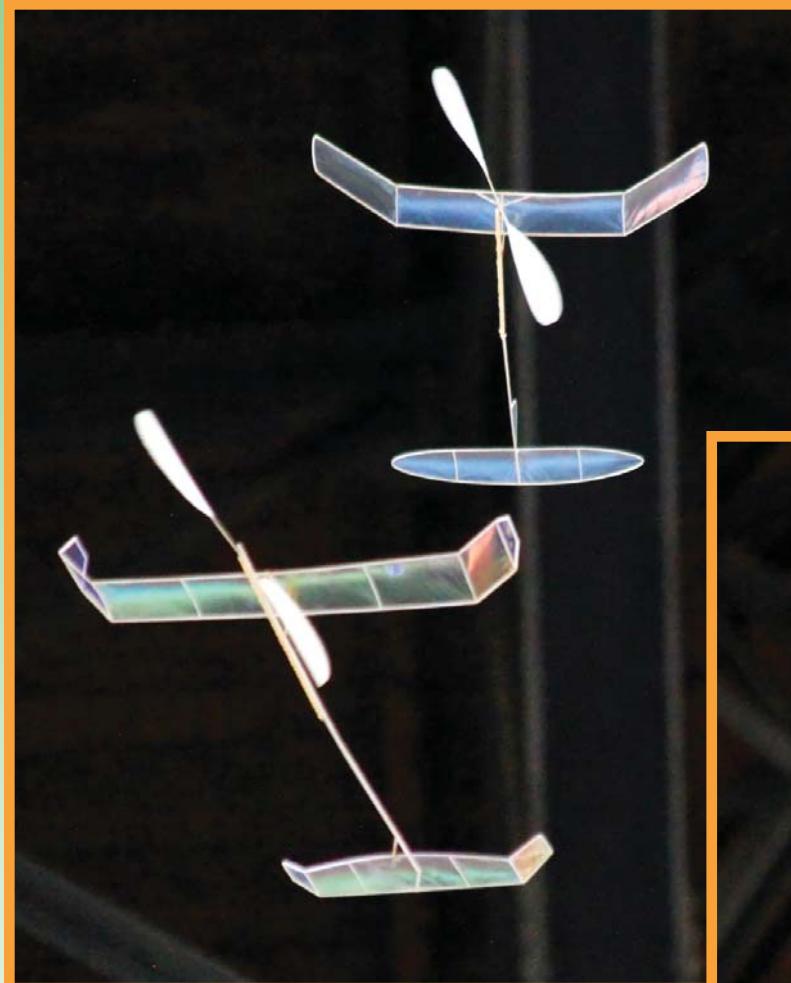
In A-6 Bill Gowen continued his winning ways. Bill has developed into quite the force in A-6 and proved it with a flight of 9:55 to top the pack. Larry Coslick was the lone flier to attempt Ornithopter, and put in some impressive flying for the win.

Helicopter saw some close battles until Jim Richmond flew, which is not really news that will surprise anyone. Jim tripled the other times in his dominating win.

Tomorrow is already here as this is being typed, so it is time to rest up and prepare for the fun to begin again. Tomorrow starts with Scale, and then the glider guys will invade the airspace. The semi-light weights of F1M, Penny Plane, and Manhattan Cabin will close out the day. See you then.

--Jim Buxton
reporter/photographer

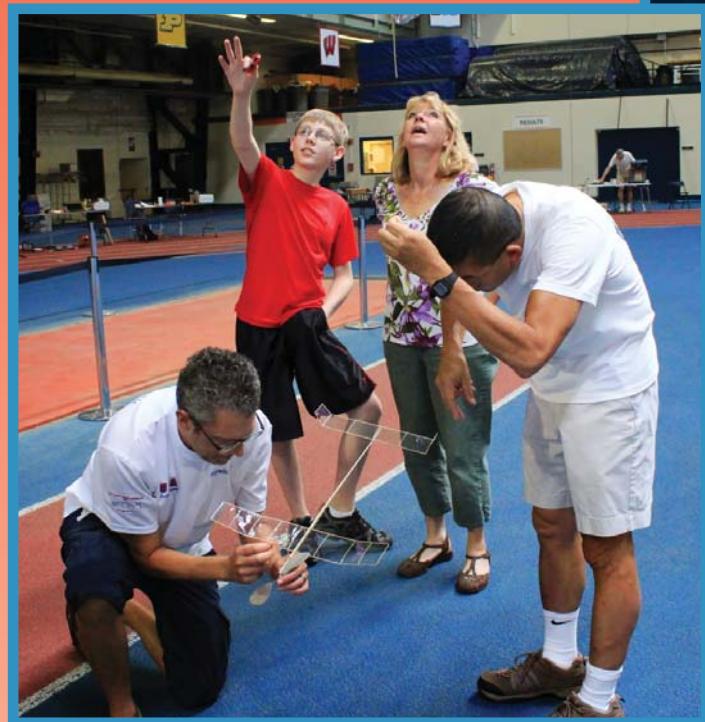
The flapping wing Ornithopter of Larry Coslick.



John Kagan and Jim Richmond's F1L navigate the airspace together in close proximity.



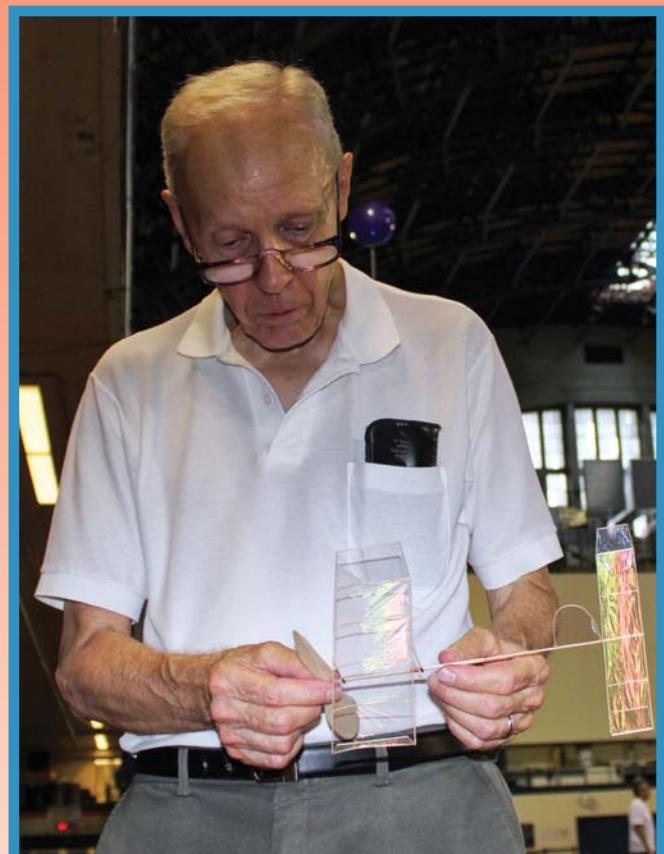
John Kagan and Steve Fujikawa untangle a freshly retrieved model as Evan Guyette points out the location of his model to his mother, Lisa.



Brett Sanborn pointing something out to Leo Pilachowski.



Larry Loucka and Chuck Slusarczyk work together on a towline glider.



Walt VanGorder and his dominant Ministick. The model topped the field again this year with an impressive flight of 11:40.

Indoor Free Flight

Tim Lavender and the Smyrna gang once again dominated Coconut Scale mass launch. Is there any doubt that these guys are having fun?

Joe Traughber's Coconut takes flight. Joe has been doing a fantastic job of running the FAC events this week. Thanks Joe!

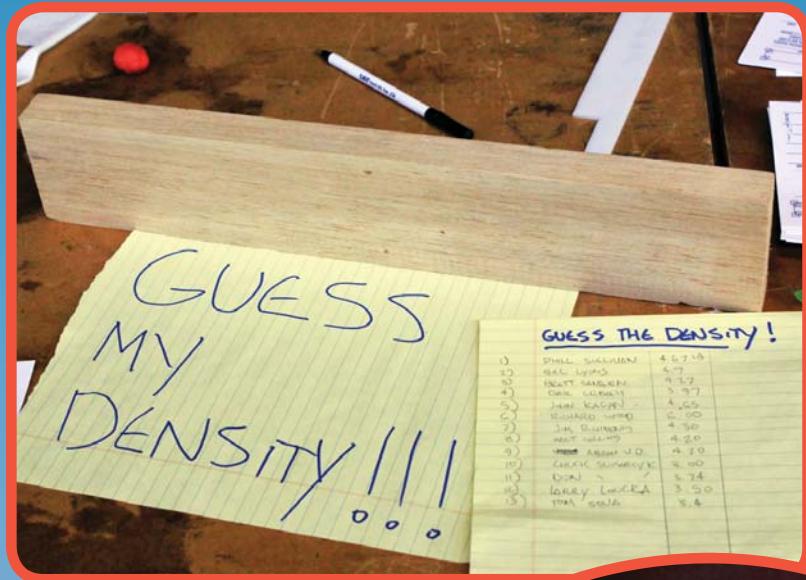


Todd Couch and his nicely detailed Coconut model.

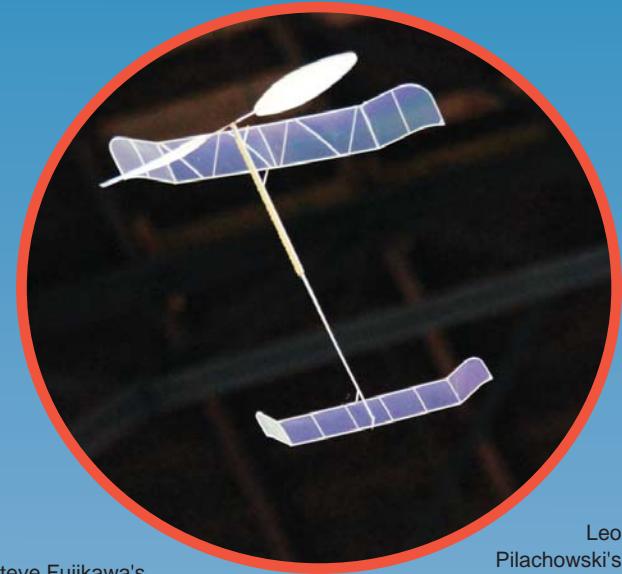


Abram VanDover presents the donation check to Tim Lavender and the Smyrna group.

Indoor Free Flight

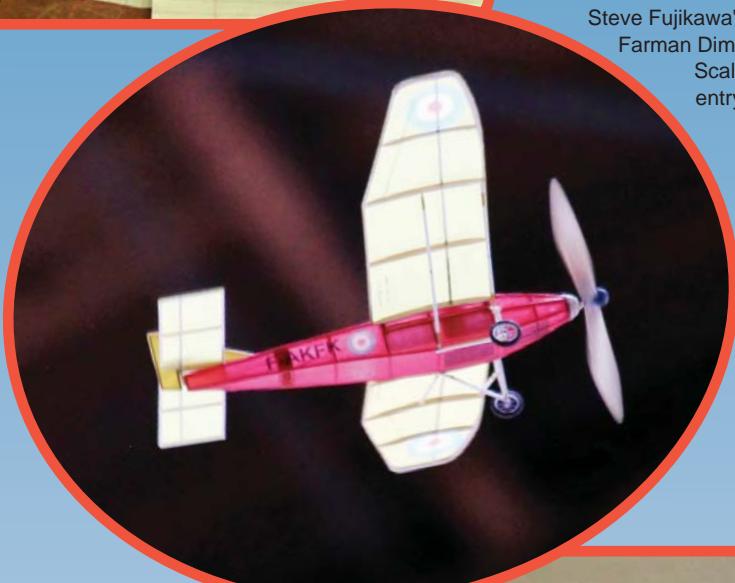


A new feature this year, we played "guess my density" with a block of balsa. This block was 3.94 pounds per cubic foot.



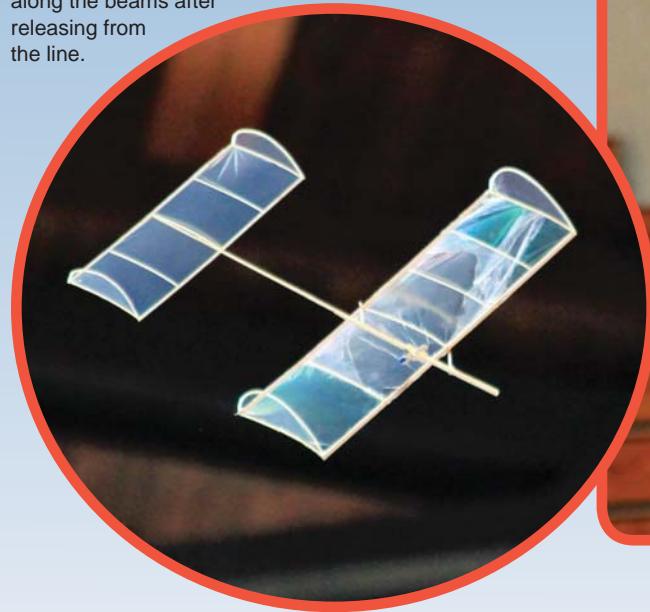
Steve Fujikawa's Farman Dime Scale entry.

Leo Pilachowski's F1L set a new record with a flight of 19:16.



Mike Kirda sets his F1L free.

A towline glider cruising along the beams after releasing from the line.



Indoor Free Flight

Evan Guyette and his F1L.
Evan put up some great flights with this model to
land in fourth place.

