

NATS NEWS

2008

May 28

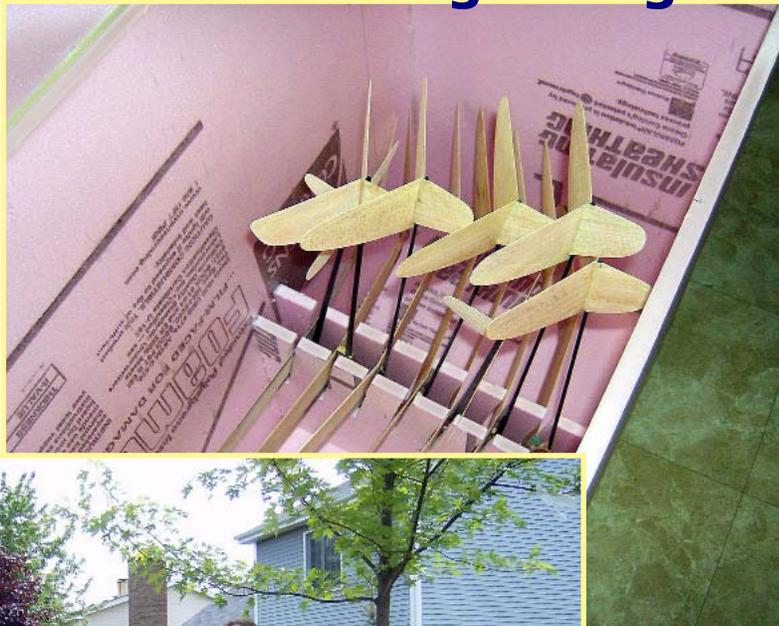


Inside today's issue ...

The Indoor FF Nationals are upon us again!

A bunch of us are doing our last-minute building and it looks like there will be some interesting new things to see. I'm working on a pair of new variable-diameter F1D propellers—a change of pace from my normal variable-pitch routine.

Indoor Free Flight Begins!



Above: Kurt Krempetz's tip-launched gliders are ready for the Nats. Krempetz photo.

Left: Kurt demonstrating proper launch form (watch out for that tree!). Krempetz photo.

They are based on Jim Richmond's successful design with a few tweaks. We'll see how they stack up against my other props, and maybe even against Jim's originals. Keep an eye out for the Thursday and Friday NatsNews installments.

The F1D days should be intense in general, since many of us are preparing for the World Champs in August and this site is fairly similar. A good showing here will bode well for the WC. Plus, it's a chance for the F1D team candidates and up-and-comers to see how they stack up against the 2008 team. The

next team selection is only a year away, and it is never too early to start fine-tuning your program.

Kurt Krempetz is putting the finishing touches on six new tip-launched gliders. Discus launching has taken the outdoor FF glider world by storm, but it hasn't quite broken through the top ranks for indoor yet, despite a lot of enthusiasm and effort by the top guys, and the promise that these new models hold.

Last year almost everyone started out with a DLG, but many reverted back to the javelin-



Today's Events

Intermediate Stick
F1D Rubber
HL Glider
Standard Cat. Glider
Unlimited Cat. Glider
*35 CM
*P-24 Mass Launch
*RTP & SLS & RTR
*Unlimited Speed

Tomorrow's Events

HL Stick
Bostonian
*FAC Peanut
*Mod Civ Prod
*A-Rog (ROG Stick)
*High Wing Mono

*Unofficial Events

Weather

Wednesday
We're flying indoors, who cares?

Thursday
Calm, somewhat dimly lit

Friday
Not a cloud in site!

Saturday
Today's ESTU Mini-Dome forecast is no precipitation i

Sunday
Warm, dimly lit, and and no air movement.

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launched models in the waning hours. Expect to see even more DLG models this year, as people work hard to lock in the rollout that is so critical for these indoor gliders. This might be the year.

Glider legend Stan Buddenbohm is making the trek to Johnson City from sunny California with pal Ralph Ray. It will be exciting to see these big names square off with the cream-of-the-crop regulars.

Expect more opening-day fireworks! Check in tomorrow to see how the battle turns out.

P-24 is a fun one-design mass launch that has become the traditional kickoff to the duration events. Every year a few more people get drawn in. These easy-to-fly models are perfect for beginners, but they've been drawing in the experts from all categories.

Unfortunately, one of the main components is no longer available: the stock propeller specified in the rules is out of production. People have scrounged up a few for this year's event, but it looks like we are going to have to modify things for the future.

I'm sure the issue will be floated among the United States Indoor Championships (USIC) contestants, and I'll report the results.

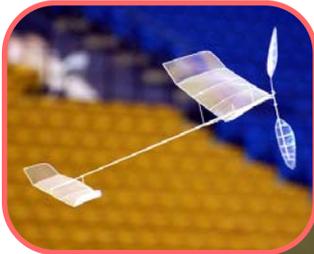
It looks as though gas prices may take a bite out of USIC participation this year. Several fliers have talked about having to miss this one, but hopefully it won't be too bad. If you are on the fence about attending, I hope you'll come join us. If you have to stay home, I'll try to bring you enough action to feel like you attended.

Stay tuned to *NatsNews*!

—John Kagan



John Kagan, shown at last year's Nats, is The NatsNews reporter for Indoor Free Flight for the third year. John is doing double duty this year as he and Tony Pavel are co-Event Directors. John, from Strongsville, Ohio, has been flying Indoor Free Flight for 14 years and has long covered Indoor Free Flight in *Model Aviation*.



East Tennessee State University's Memorial Center—Better Known as the Mini-Dome

With the exception of the beautiful Appalachian Mountains surrounding the city, perhaps the most dominant landmark in Johnson City, Tennessee, and certainly the ETSU campus, is Memorial Center, better known as the Mini-Dome.

The Dome has been the home of Buccaneer basketball for the past 22 years. The Dome will play host to the 2006 Atlantic Sun Conference Men's Basketball Tournament.

The Mini-Dome is unique in that the facility undergoes a major metamorphosis each year between the passing sports seasons. A couple of times each year, the facility is transformed into a first-class indoor track facility. The Mini-Dome served as the site of the Southern Conference Championships in 2003, as it has been numerous times in the past. It will also serve as host of the Atlantic Sun Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships during the winter of 2006.

Finally, the Dome serves as the home of the Buccaneer tennis teams in various tournaments and dual matches during the season.

The Dome offers players and spectators the comforts of 78 degree temperatures in the winter and cool 68 degree marks in the warmer months. The climate is maintained by 1,140 tons of air conditioning, provided by the university's chiller plant and by steam heat from the campus power plant.

In 1994, more than 14,000 people packed the Dome to see the former Charlotte Hornets take on the Atlanta Hawks in an NBA exhibition game.

The facilities housed within the Mini-Dome include the main basketball floor, Gentry Field, two auxiliary basketball courts, a six-lane, 280-meter track, six racquetball/handball courts, six tennis courts, a rifle range, two gymnasiums, a strength training facility, several locker rooms, and a physical education research laboratory. The offices for most of ETSU's varsity sports are also housed in the Dome, as well as the athletics administration and athletic media relations offices.

In addition, the facility houses the Pirate Club Lounge, where contributors to ETSU athletics are entertained before and at halftime of athletic contests. The Ward Room, where other Pirate Club functions, press conferences, and athletics staff meetings are held, is another of the Dome's many offerings.

Memorial Center has undergone several renovations and improvements in recent years. In 1996, the strength training facility was enlarged to 7,200 square feet, making it one of the largest in the southeast. The facility received a \$200,000 facelift, as it was redesigned and reequipped. The track received a new tartan surface five summers ago, including a polyurethane base with three different levels: smooth for basketball, slight granulation for tennis and heavier granulation for track.

- The height above the arena floor is 121 feet.
- The covered areas of the Mini-Dome cover approximately 184,000 square feet, or about 4.5 acres. The main arena covers 87,300 square feet, while the exterior of the building measures 435 feet x 424 feet.
- It took more than four years to complete the Mini-Dome and cost \$8.3 million to build.
- Construction began in March of 1973 and the building was used for the first time on September 10, 1977.
- The largest crowd ever to watch a basketball game at Memorial Center was 14,051 on October 14, 1994, when the Charlotte Hornets played the Atlanta Hawks in an NBA exhibition game.

—from the East Tennessee State University's Athletics Department Web site

