

NATS NEWS

2008

July 7



The 2008 AMA Nats is Underway! RC Scale Aerobatics Begins

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 2008 AMA International Miniature Airplane Club (IMAC) Nats! Hard to believe it's been more than a year since a lot of us have seen each other. Some of us have been lucky enough to get to some local contests this year already, but some of us are renewing some

the week. The camaraderie is unique—the claws are out on the flightline in the air, but back behind the fence, everyone gathers to have some fun.

Sounds like we have a fantastic turnout. The Unlimited class is huge with more than 20 pilots, I believe. Advanced, Intermediate, and



Sunday evening's pilots' meeting at the pavilion on the International Aeromodeling Center in Muncie, Indiana, was well attended.

much missed friendships and acquaintances.

Word has it that there have been pilots and crews here for at least a week practicing for the big contest. Pulling into the AMA grounds this morning, I saw lots of familiar faces and lots of new faces. Everyone was out tweaking, flying, setting up campsites, and readying their campers and motor homes for

Sportsman are fairly full, so let's hope we can get a lot of flying in.

We had a small pilot's meeting at 6 p.m. Sunday evening and went over pilot order selections and first- and second-round judging assignments. Everything looks like it's going to run smoothly. Phil Vance, Don Hamilton, and all the rest of the staff are doing a



The Carden aircraft were popular at last year's Nats.

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E-mail: nats@modelaircraft.org;
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Model Aeronautics 2008
Edited by: Liz Helms

fantastic job so far and we thank them for all the hard work they've put forth to date and in the week to come.

It's going to be a great contest and I look forward to seeing all the pilots let it all out and knock out some killer sequences. No sequence is ever perfect, but these guys sure know how to make them look great.

Good luck to all pilots. Have some fun and go get 'em!

Friendly Camaraderie

If there is one thing that I've learned since I started flying IMAC three years ago, it's that the word "competition" is a pretty loaded word. When you think about the fact that each class has 10 or more people competing to win, there is always that friendly spirit lurking behind every transmitter.

I witnessed a perfect example of this on Saturday before heading to Muncie, Indiana, for the Nats. I know he hopes I don't mention his name, but I'm going to anyway. Saturday afternoon I went out with Larry Arseneau, Wayne Geffon, and Andy Thomas for some practice before the Nats. We had a pretty good day of practice. Weather was great, winds were calm, sky was blue ... you know: perfect! As we were packing, Larry received a phone call from someone telling him the news that our good friend, Ken McGuire, had a mishap with his airplane and would not be able to fly at the Nats.

I've known Larry for a couple of years and if there is one word to describe him, it's selfless. Without even batting an eye, Larry said that all Ken would have to do is show up at the Nats and he would have an airplane for Ken to fly. No questions asked; just show up. Larry has demonstrated this in the past and has always been a great friend, but to lend an airplane to a fellow pilot flying *against* him, really shows the world what a class act he is.

Larry and the rest of the IMAC pilots whom I know possess that same quality and it's no wonder we all have such a good time. We might be flying against each other, but we're all in it together and we love having that friendly rivalry.

—Mike Bargman

Young Guns at the Nats

It's amazing how many young faces are gracing us with their presence at the Nats this year. Those kids are coming for us, guys!

Just to name a few, we have Brendan Jones who is the defending 2007 Sportsman Nats and Tucson Aerobatic Shootout Champion. Seth Arnold took second place in Intermediate here and at the Tucson Shootout in 2007. Cody McClean took second place at the Tucson Aerobatic Shootout in Sportsman and from what I hear, there are many more whom I simply have not met ... yet.

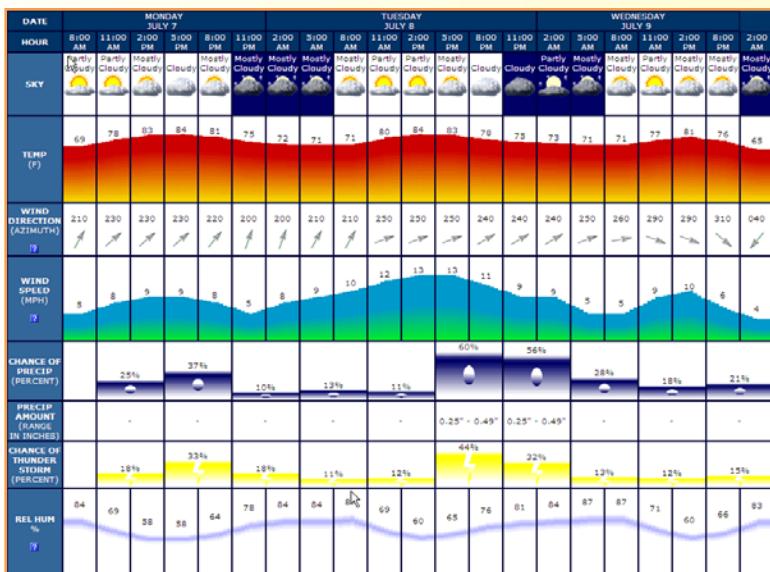
There's a lot of talk about all these "Young Guns" coming up and surprising everyone.

Good luck to them all and later in the week, I'll get some more info on them.

—Mike Bargman



Above: Cody McLean (R) and his caller wait to fly. 2007 photo.



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While you're in Muncie ...

A visit to Muncie, Indiana, can offer the non-fliers in the family a number of options. Following are a few nearby attractions courtesy of new resident Sandy Frank, former AMA District VIII vice president!

1. Museums in Muncie include the Minnetrista Center, Ball State Museum of Art, Moore-Youse Historical Museum, and the Muncie Children's Museum.
2. Visit the F.B. Fogg gift gallery Muncie. It's a great shopping experience.
3. The Wheeler Orchid Collection and Species Bank, set in Christy Woods at Ball State, features an amazing collection of rare orchids.
4. Hoosier Park in nearby Anderson features horse racing and a newly opened casino that operates 24 hours a day.
5. The State Museum in Indianapolis offers a tremendously popular exhibit in its fully functioning recreation of the L.S. Ayres Tea Room that operated from 1905 to 1990. This Indianapolis treasure has delighted generations of Hoosiers with a unique menu and old-fashioned ambiance. Hours: 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. seven days a week.