

RC Aerobatics

Monday's practice was in full swing early in the morning. There were some concerns for the weather, however, but members of the AMA staff were helpful in preparing us for the storms to come.

Ron Morgan at Nats Headquarters told me I needed to get some work in before noon because that is when the storm was going to hit. While I was in the beautiful AMA museum, Wendy Wischart pulled up the weather on her computer and showed me this major cell that was approaching. Sure enough, as Ron said, it was just about noon when the winds started to blow, the rain started to fall, and practice came to an immediate stop. Airplanes were heading to the runways to get on the ground safely. Jon Lowe was on Site 4 and according to Bob Noll, he made a great landing, but as he was rolling to a stop a gust of wind turned the airplane over on its back quicker than you could blink.

Not to worry, however, because a few hours later Jon and his airplane were back on the practice line carving some more

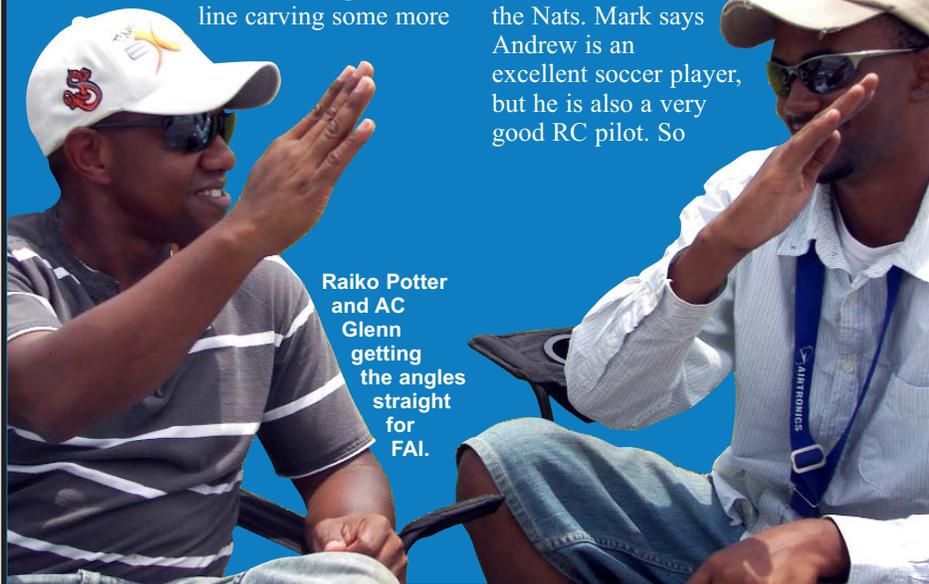
beautiful maneuvers with his dad, the legendary Don Lowe, calling for him.

While on Site 4 I came across two new faces—or so I thought. Mark Carey and Charles Simmons had pulled in from Charlotte, North Carolina, and it was their first time at the Nats.

Mark had his Focus and Charles was flying a beautiful Sequel. These are two lucky aerobatic pilots because back in North Carolina at their home club, the Flying Aces, our Judging Coordinator, Dale Arnold, is also a member. What a great coach to have our resident expert on judging maneuvers in your very own club!

Mark remembers flying a Falcon 56 more than 30 years ago with a Heath Kit radio that he made himself. He was dreaming about flying Precision Aerobatics way back then. It took all those years for him to fulfill his dream, to fly Precision Aerobatics at the Nats.

Mark hopes that his son Andrew, who is home playing soccer, will not take as long to fly here in Muncie at the Nats. Mark says Andrew is an excellent soccer player, but he is also a very good RC pilot. So



Raiko Potter and AC Glenn getting the angles straight for FAI.



John Pavlich with what is left of his Easy-Up after the storm.



Happily no one was paying a "visit" to this facility during the storm.



Tim Landry cooking up a story, a food storm, I mean.

let's get him to work those fingers and thumbs next year and keep both feet firmly planted on the ground.

I had to cut my conversation short with these two funny and happy pilots because there was an amazing smell tickling my nostrils and it wasn't even the smell of glow fuel. I found Tim Landry at the stove right on the flightline, cooking up a most tasty dish of jambalaya. Tim was so gracious to invite me back to join the other Site 4 pilots for a 4 p.m. dinner. He had to make some homemade ice cream first.

Tim came with his son Brandon who is flying Advanced this year. Brandon's grandfather, Don Habetz, was a great model builder and actually got Brandon into RC. Unfortunately his grandfather is not with us to enjoy the fruits of his labor to see how well Brandon is flying. Tim says that anytime any of us are in Crowley, Louisiana, we should look him up for some great flying with the RAMS and some tasty food as well—southern style, of course.

Monday is not only for processing, registration, and practice. There is also that mandatory pilots' meeting. I love coming to the meeting because it is like old-home week or your college reunion 20 years later. Derek Koopowitz, our NSRCA president, opened the meeting by inviting Mickey Losardo to sing our National Anthem. You were proud to be an American after listening to Mickey sing. Sorry, you can't hear his flowing tones on these pages.

Dave Guerin put us all on the same page for safety and a variety of other housekeeping details so we can have a pleasurable and positive experience for the 2008 Nats. Dale Arnold explained a few of the finer points for appropriate judging. When a discussion started about spins, one of the Masters pilots told the FAI guys to come to their site to see how to do it correctly.

There were a host of positive comments from the crowd which just clarified Dave Guerin's observation that this is a great group of pilots, helpers, and other family members. He said we make his job easy.

I happened to observe a lot of pilots having serious discussions on a whole host of topics. Raiko Potter and AC Glenn were checking out some of the finer points of the F sequence to be sure they were getting the right angle at the right place in the complex maneuvers that the F sequence demands.

Our reigning World Champion, Quique Somenzini, was so deep in a discussion with Terry "T-Bone" Brown that I

hesitated to break in and hear what they were discussing. Mike Mueller was showing off some of his favorite specialty items to Bob Noll. He had a great tail wheel assembly and an even more interesting foam strap to hold the wiring in his fuselage.

Mark Atwood and Ron Lockhart were trying to figure out an interesting situation with their Airtronics radios while some other pilots were trying to figure out new needle settings for the warm Muncie weather.

After the pilots' meeting, many went back to practicing or



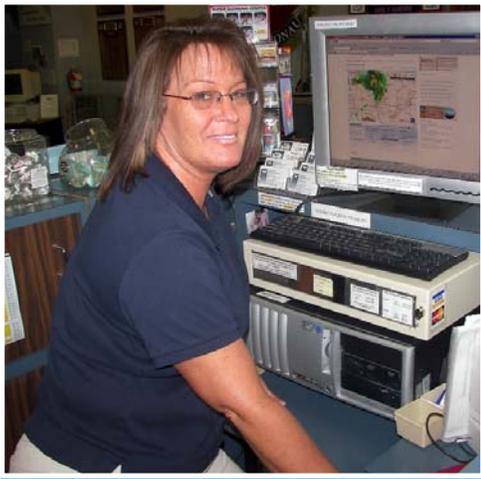
2008 World Team member, Andrew Jesky (R) working with Mickey Losardo.



Ed Alt "contemplating" a perfect 10 on his M with 3/4 rolls.



Mark Carey and Charles Simmons proudly displaying their airplanes.



Wendy Wisehart checking the storm track on the computer as a courtesy for some pilots.

were off to dinner. The 8 a.m. starting time was going to come early so the evening needed to end for most. For approximately 16 others, a significant part of the day and even the week was about to take place. The NSRCA board had a 6:30 p.m. meeting. Luckily it started with a tasty pasta dinner or some of us might not have made it to the 9:27 end of the meeting.

Among the hottest topics discussed was the 2011 World Championships, of course. Ron Davies, our treasurer, gave us some confidence that we are solidly in the black for 2008. Rusty Fried from D 7 did a lot of work to get our brains working to move the NSRCA into the electronic age of communication.

The atmosphere of the meeting was one of serious levity. That seems to be a contradiction, but these board members really like each other. Things are light and pleasant, but they are also serious and hard working.

Derek Koopowitz pointed out that Chris Fitzsimmons does more than produce our outstanding newsletter; he is also "Mr. Everything" at a contest. Chris is ready to do anything and everything to help make a contest run more smoothly and he carries this over to the *K-Factor* and everything NSRCA related.

Dave Johnstone the DVP from D 4 needed to get back to his motel and put his equipment on charge so he could be back at 8 in the morning to judge FAI and still be ready for his own flying in the early afternoon.

—Jim Quinn



Left: Quique Somenzini's thumbs on the transmitter.

Right: Mike Mueller and Bob Noll checking out Mike's tail wheel installation.



The flightline.



Joseph Szczur practices his sequence.



Troy Newman's aircraft.

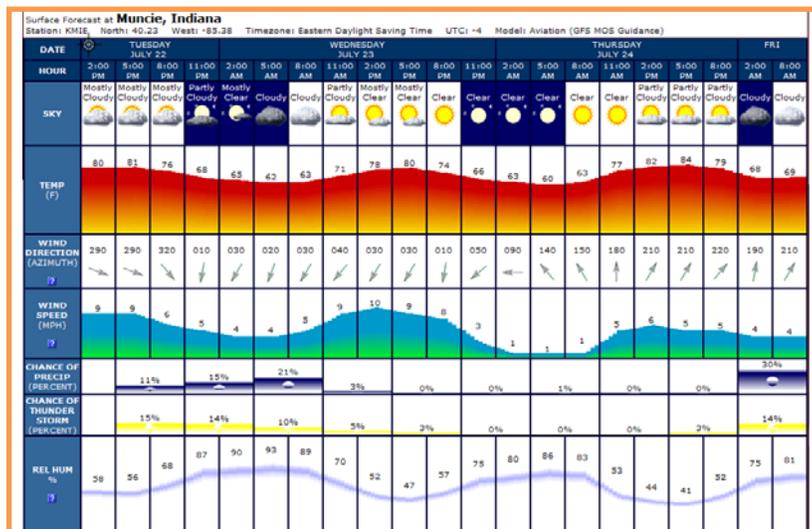


Brandon Landry looking to cook up some aerobatic delights with his Shinden.

YS Performance

Hacker
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Are you flying electric or glow this year?



Surface Condition Weather Forecasting for Air Sports Aviators - general Muncie area - from www.usairnet.com.

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AMA
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Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 Friday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Sunday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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Quique and T-Bone sharing some aerobatic wisdom.



The legendary Don Lowe calling for his son, Jon.



From the left: Dave Guerin getting us current for the 2008 Nats, Derek Koopowitz opening the 2008 RC Aerobatic Nats, and Mickey Losardo singing his beautiful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.





Above: Pilots' meeting.

Right: Nats RC Manager Al Williamson is replacing windows at Nats Headquarters.

