

RC Aerobatics

We're All Winners! Congratulations to Jason Shulman, our 2008 National FAI Champion for the second year in a row. Jason is not only our National Champion for RC Precision Aerobatics, he is also a champion of a human being. Jason will lead our 2009 World Aerobatics Team to victory in Portugal.

There are several *big* names to congratulate in today's edition of the *NatsNews*, but more so than the big names, there are countless other winners we need to mention in this last column of the RC Aerobatics news.

Did you hear about the pilot who lost signal with his 2.4 GHz

radio while in a looping maneuver? The plane continued to loop as he looked on helplessly waiting for the inevitable crash. He had enough time to think to turn the transmitter off and on again, which regained the signal and he was able to land safely.

He should have been done flying for the week and sent the equipment back to the manufacturer for a complete check. He did that, but his 2008 Nats flying was not over. One friend gave him the use of an extra transmitter and another gave him an extra receiver. This pilot didn't even miss a flight. He was a big winner here at Muncie in 2008, even though he did not go home



Albert Glenn (R) is a beaming Team Manager with his 2009 US World Championships Team (from left) Brett Wickizer, Jason Shulman, and Andrew Jesky.

with any of the beautiful hardware supplied by NSRCA.

Did you make a new friend while here this past week? You won! Our NSRCA districts are large and even if it was just to see friends from your own district for an entire week, the trip was worth it. If you met a new friend you are even more fortunate.

I saw a lot of hugging, hand shaking, back slapping, and mile-long grins during the week. Were you a first timer at the Nats? If you were you got to see some of

those people who most of us just read about in the RC magazines.

I saw Jason Shulman on the Intermediate line many times during the week helping out people there. One first-timer was very impressed with how friendly everyone was. More than just making friends here, people meet their future husbands and wives while at the Nats.

Do you have two lives? A one-week life that is here at the Nats every year and a 51-week-a-year life which is what we

do until the next Nats? If so give yourself an award. You are a winner.

Did you see some fabulous flying this week? You're a winner. Were you inspired to go home and practice more fervently because of what you saw here? You're a winner.

Back home in our local RC clubs there might not be many aerobatic pilots. A few years ago I joined a new club near where I formerly worked. They had never seen a two-meter airplane or a YS engine. Here we've all see the latest and the greatest

We're All Winners!



Jason Shulman is receiving his first-place award as the grand Champion for FAI in 2008. Jason is also on the 2009 US World Championships Team. This is Jason's sixth time on the team—a record number of appearances for any USA team member.



Brett Wickizer is receiving his award as the third-place winner in FAI and will be a member of the 2009 US World Championships Team.



Andrew Jesky is receiving his second-place award for FAI and he also is a US World Championships Team member for 2009. This is Andrew's second time on the World Championships team.



Ken Veles is receiving his first-place award as the 2008 Masters Champion.



Blake Hilson received the first-place award as the 2008 Intermediate Champion.



Brandon Landry is receiving his first-place award as the 2008 Advanced Champion.



Joseph Szczur is receiving his 2008 award as the youngest pilot at eight years old.



The FAI lineup for the finals.



Each FAI pilot brings his primary and back-up airplanes to the line for each flight. Once "on the clock" the pilot has a total of 8 minutes to complete all of his maneuvers. Above are Andrew Jesky's two Integrals ready for flight.

equipment in the world. We've all won.

Why do you think so many people come who are not pilots? Ivan Kristensen, a multiyear National Champion of Canada, was here. Tony Stillman, our past NSRCA president, was here. Why? This is the Cadillac of candy stores for Precision Aerobatic folk.

You've just been to Carnegie Hall to perform or to hear the best symphony of your life. How often do you get to see the best in the country or the best in the world in anything? You've seen both here this past week.

Did you visit our museum? You're a winner. There is no place in the world where you can see what is right at our fingertips here in Muncie. Did you interact with any of the AMA staff? You're a winner.

In the course of doing the *NatsNews*, checking on some printing for a local club back home, and picking up a hat for a

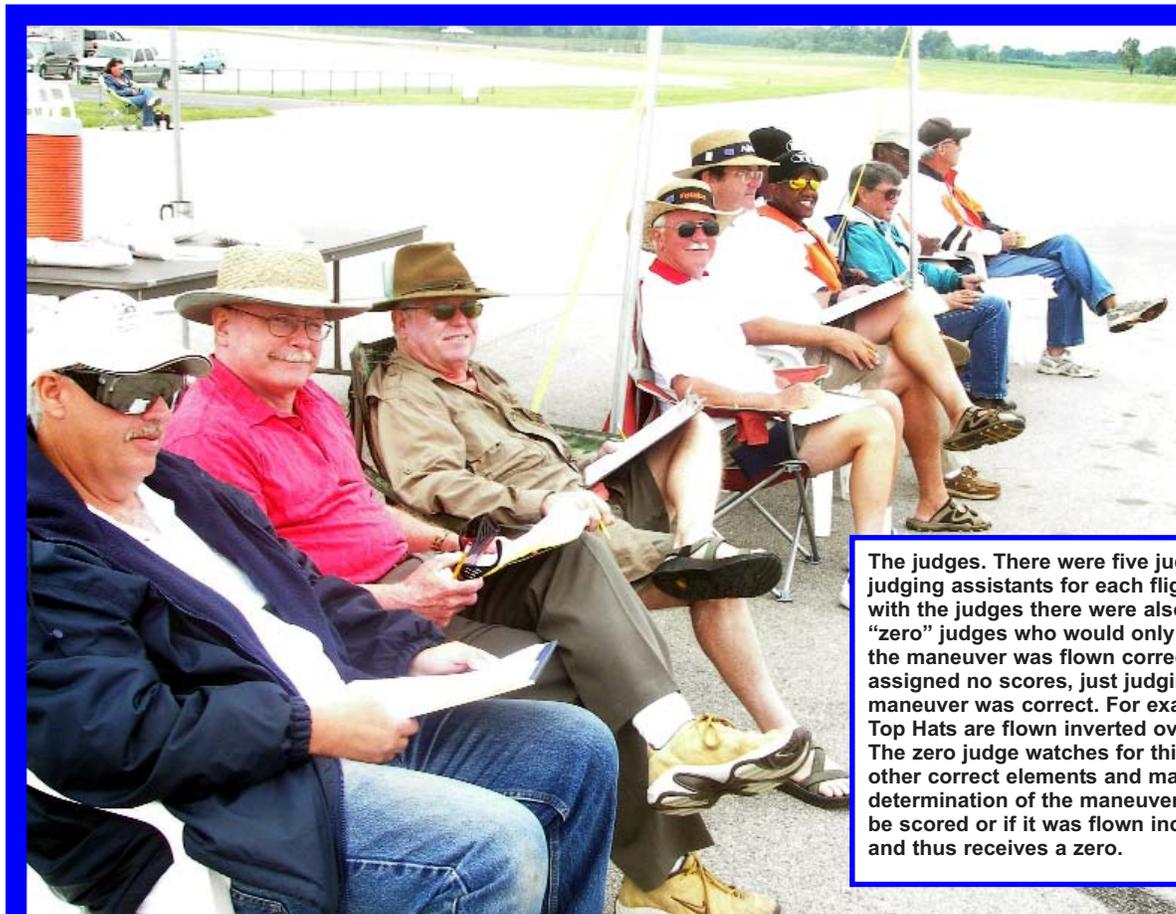
club member, I interacted with eight or nine AMA staff members. Everyone I met couldn't have been better or more skilled in his/her position. Even when I asked to replace my AMA card which I left at a contest some place earlier in the

year, they did it happily and with a smile.

Coming to the 2008 Precision Aerobatics Nats makes us all winners. Lastly, I would like to list myself as a big winner for the 2008 Nats. Thank you for the honor and privilege to write your *NatsNews* for this year. Thanks for reading what I

wrote and for all the support you've given me to write these daily reports. It's been a pleasure. Thank you.

—Jim Quinn



The judges. There were five judges and judging assistants for each flight. Along with the judges there were also two "zero" judges who would only judge if the maneuver was flown correctly. They assigned no scores, just judging if the maneuver was correct. For example, all Top Hats are flown inverted over the top. The zero judge watches for this and other correct elements and makes a determination of the maneuver should be scored or if it was flown incorrectly and thus receives a zero.



All the Intermediate winners.



All the Masters winners.



All the FAI winners.



All the Advanced winners.



Glenn Watson is a colorful pilot so why wouldn't he have a colorful cover to keep the sun off his airplane while he is waiting to fly?



Chris Moon is stretching during one of the breaks from sitting in the judge's chair for several hours at a time.



Our 2009 US World Championships Team and their airplanes.