

RC Soaring Begins



George Joy launches his aircraft for a practice flight.

Soaring began with two events: Hand Launch and Nostalgia (NOS). There is activity all across the field—winches are being set up and participants are getting in practice flights. No matter what brings you to the Soaring Nats—friends, competition, or the chance to work on your next level of the LSF Soaring Accomplishment Program—there is something for everyone.

Hand Launch is almost like watching the discus at the Olympics as the competitors show us how high they can zing their roughly 9-ounce aircraft into the air. Leaving the pilots hand at approximately 100 mph and reaching heights of 200 feet, hand launching is a workout for both the aircraft and the pilot.

If you like to see a little more wood used in the building of an sailplane then Nostalgia (NOS) is for you. These airplanes must be designed and kitted before January 1, 1980, and sport colorful coverings over their balsa framework.

—Jay Smith



The eagle takes flight on a practice run on Saturday. Photos by Jay Smith.

Hand Launch and Nostalgia Soaring Wrap-Up

Hand Launch left competitors with a tired shoulder after a whopping 11 rounds! CD Ed Franz took advantage of the excellent weather to make sure that all of the 22 competitors had plenty of chances to try to score a full 1,000 points.

The extra rounds, three more than last year, made for a great contest. The pilots on top had to fight to keep their spots and the rest of the group had more chances to make their move.

Equally impressive was how quickly fellow pilots stepped up to offer assistance when a fellow flier was in need. Craig Greening was offered another aircraft after he broke his on launch early in the contest and George Joy was able to get CA and a heat gun in time to keep him from missing a round after the wind had its way with his Taboo on landing.

Meet the CDs



CD Mike McGowan (L) ran the Nostalgia event and Ed Franz (R) CDeD the Hand Launch event.

Mike:

Q: Where are you from?

A: Atlanta, Georgia.

Q: How long have you been flying?

A: Since 1973, about 35 years.

Q: What type of aircraft are you competing with?

A: In Two-Meter I fly an Image, in RES I fly an Ed White Rogue, and in Unlimited I fly a Piper.

Q: How many Nats have you been to?

A: Since 1988, I have been to all but one Nats, so 19.

Q: What brings you back to the Nats?

A: I enjoy the competition at the national level. I enjoy the flying site tremendously and the people who run Soaring with their man-on-man format and scoring.

Ed:

Q: Where are you from?

A: Burlington, Kentucky.

Q: How long have you been flying?

A: 30 years

Q: What type of aircraft are you competing with?

A: I will be flying in Electric

Q: How many Nats have you been to?

A: 12.

Q: What brings you back to the Nats?

A: All my friends.



Lee Atchison was the top Junior.

Congratulations to the top six pilots who will be taking home wood for their efforts: Robert Gellart, Doug Pike, Erich Schlitzkus, George Joy, Robert Samuels, and Ben Wilson.

NOS, led by Mike McGowan, had a great day as well. Taking

advantage of the weather, all 25 competitors got in seven, 10-minute rounds. I am not sure which was more impressive, all the beautiful built-up aircraft or the amazing finesse that the pilots have on the winch pedal. Expertly reading their aircraft by looking for any bow in the wings and striving for the delicate balance of the best possible launch without overstressing their balsa beauties is definitely worth watching.

Congratulations to the top six pilots awarded plaques for their abilities: Don Harris, Michael Lachowski, Paul Wiese, Dean Gradwell, Jim Thomas, Tom Scully.

—Jay Smith



Ball Memorial Hospital Auxiliary: The Amazing Journey

Saturday not only saw Soaring competitors here at the International Aeromodeling Center (IAC) but another friendly competition to benefit Ball Memorial Hospital.

The Ball Memorial Hospital Auxiliary hosted a fund-raiser called The Amazing Journey, which pitted 20 two-member teams against each other to find at least seven of 10

locations throughout Muncie.

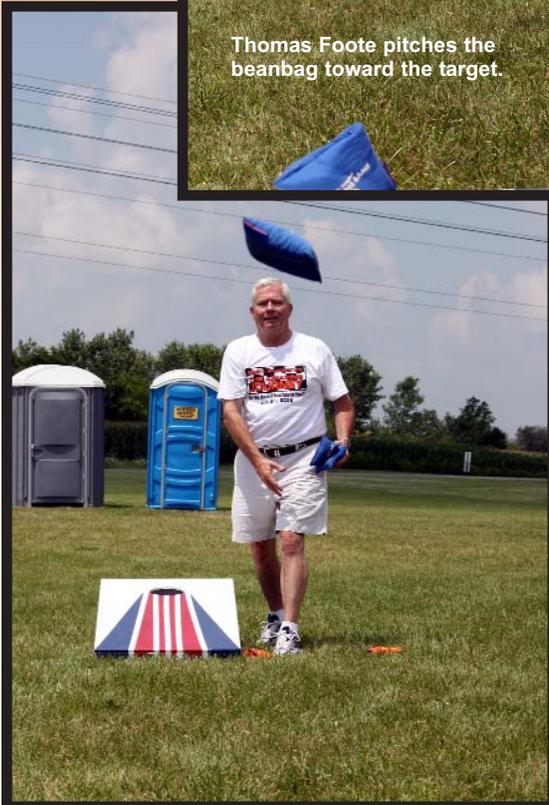
The AMA was one of the locations. The auxiliary staff posted in the National Model Aviation Museum presented the team with two tasks while here on site.

The teams started at the museum and had to try and locate 10 items on display and from there they were sent to the camping area to try and throw bean bags into a small cutout target. It was a great opportunity for the competitors to discover our wonderful site and museum here at the AMA!

—Jay Smith



Thomas Foote pitches the beanbag toward the target.



RC Precision Aerobatics: The Rest of the Story

That famous broadcaster, Paul Harvey, usually ended his broadcasts with the title of this article. I chose to start that way because there is more to tell than already covered in the *NatsNews* for Precision Aerobatics 2008. I need to talk about those who are going to the World Championships in 2009 in Portugal.

Who goes? As I mentioned in my last column each country is allowed three pilots per team. We saw those happy faces coming in first, second, and third in our Nats finals/team trials: Jason, Andrew, and Brett. There is still more to tell and this is the newest chapter in our quest for a World Championships in 2009.

The defending World Champion has a decision to make. He can return to the next championships as the defending champion, or he can return as part of a three-pilot team. Wisely, luckily, and generously, our defending World Champion, Quique Somenzini, graciously opted to return as the defending World Champion. This allows the USA to bring three more pilots to the Worlds in 2009.

Quique's points will not count for our Team Championship even though he is still part of our 2009 team. I am confident we all support Quique in his decision, probably most of all our newest addition to the team: Brett Wickizer.

Quique had some engine problems with his beautiful Euphorias in the finals, as we all saw, but we can also be confident that if he was in competition for a place on the team, things would have looked different for those final few flights. Since his place on the 2009 USA Team was sealed when he took home the gold in his home country of Argentina last fall, he could take a more philosophical view of his engine hiccups at our National Championships/Team Trials.

Someone who is so dedicated to our country to sit out one World Championships so he could fly for us, the USA, in future world championships deserves all out appreciation.

No, you still don't know all the rest of the story yet. The fifth and final chapter of this story is to be written by us.

Chapter one is our first team member, the defending World Champion, Quique Somenzini. Chapter two is our two-time National Champion, Jason Shulman, going to the Worlds for a record sixth time. Chapter three is Andrew Jesky, on our team for the second time. Chapter four is our newest team member: Brett Wickizer.

These are our four team members, but they need us, the fifth team member. Each of us needs to do his/her part to send these four fantastic, world-class pilots to Portugal in 2009. We did a great job fund-raising for the 2007 World Championships and now we can do it again.

We are sending the best of the best, the reigning World Champion, our two time National Champion, and two of the brightest and best of our youngest world-class champions. Bring home the team and the individual gold. We are so proud of all four of you.

See you in Muncie and in Portugal in 2009.

—Jim Quinn



Quique Somenzini.

Soaring: Hand Launch

Hand Launch

Ed Franz - Contest Director

Marc Gellart - Soaring Event Director

RESULTS

Place	Contestant	Rounds											Total	LSF Contest Points
		Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8	Round 9	Round 10	Round 11		
1	Robert Gellart	1,000	897	933	929	706	964	998	940	970	1,000	1,000	10,337	2,200
2	Doug Pike	1,000	906	1,000	995	1,000	976	782	973	1,000	735	695	10,042	2,040
3	Erich Schlitzkus	1,000	988	905	641	780	1,000	1,000	786	931	1,000	1,000	10,031	1,941
4	George Joy	1,000	965	799	927	800	1,000	1,000	1,000	777	799	834	9,901	1,820
5	Robert Samuels	1,000	902	974	653	1,000	955	829	1,000	921	701	888	9,823	1,710
6	Ben Wilson	875	1,000	1,000	1,000	931	670	1,000	1,000	600	759	966	9,801	1,612
7	John Diniz	875	893	980	515	809	811	1,000	625	975	903	987	9,373	1,451
8	Steven Meyer	875	924	981	686	857	986	794	833	669	749	858	9,212	1,337
9	Scott Zastoupil	875	933	849	504	831	799	1,000	1,000	682	671	756	8,900	1,205
10	Alan Schwerin	875	881	836	716	761	900	743	907	831	561	778	8,789	1,105
11	Larry Vincek	750	947	777	1,000	994	843	853	181	1,000	735	642	8,722	1,013
12	Adam Lawicki *	750	884	838	731	554	902	695	1,000	844	678	783	8,659	921
13	Tom Broeski	750	851	841	716	837	940	965	1,000	659	443	597	8,599	832
14	Larry Ruble	875	872	817	683	578	854	843	1,000	433	711	717	8,383	730
15	Peter Schlitzkus	625	833	805	611	478	839	807	1,000	723	391	571	7,683	595
16	Ryan Thompson	625	867	614	809	880	595	762	207	669	846	617	7,491	507
17	Chris Turner *	500	726	402	454	239	759	435	1,000	247	481	377	5,620	326
18	Gavin Trussell	625	861	697	544	444	510	772	181	202	350	418	5,604	271
19	Lee Atchison *	500	246	406	121	837	561	659	283	487	559	374	5,033	195
20	Troy Lawicki	1,000	1,000	410	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,410	70
21	Craig Greening	625	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	625	12
22	Robin Meek	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250	2

Soaring: Nostalgia

Name	Place	Freq	Round 1			Round 2			Round 3			Round 4			Round 5			Round 6			Round 7			Max points	Total Points	% Max	LSF Level V Points
			Time	LP	Score																						
Don Harris	1		10:01	50	649	10:05	50	645	9:57	50	647	10:59	50	591	9:58	50	648	10:01	50	649	10:01	50	599	4428	90%	2800	
Michael Lachowski	2		9:59	50	649	9:57	50	647	8:59	50	539	9:57	50	647	9:59	50	649	8:54	50	649	10:00	50	650	4315	88%	2631	
Paul Wiese	3		5:39	339	9:54		594	9:54	50	644	9:59	50	649	9:56	50	646	10:02	50	648	10:04	50	646	4166	85%	2446		
Dean Gradwell	4		8:31		511	9:56	50	645	10:07	50	643	9:58		598	9:54	50	644	9:55		595	6:58	50	468	4104	84%	2317	
Jim Thomas	5		4:42		282	9:56	50	646	9:59	50	649	9:58	50	648	9:58	50	648	9:58	50	648	8:15	50	545	4066	83%	2204	
Tom Scully	6		5:44	50	394	9:55	50	645	9:58	50	648	10:00	50	650	9:57	50	647	9:55	50	645	6:05		365	3994	82%	2075	
Edwin Wilson	7		8:36		516	10:01		599	9:56		596	9:59		599	8:48	50	578	9:55	50	645	7:31		451	3984	81%	1979	
Johnny Berlin	8		9:56	50	646	9:56	50	646	10:00	50	650	7:52		472	9:57	50	647	9:59	50	649	3:49		229	3939	80%	1868	
Jerry Shape	9		8:10		490	10:00	50	650	10:01	50	649	6:24	50	434	10:02		598	6:13		373	10:01		599	3793	77%	1713	
Greg Smith	10		4:43	50	333	9:50	50	640	10:00	50	650	7:51		471	9:54	50	644	9:51	50	641	5:31		331	3710	76%	1592	
Jack Iafret	11		9:09	50	599	9:59	50	649	3:29	50	259	9:59	50	649	10:05		595	3:24		204	10:02	50	648	3603	74%	1465	
Ray Hayes	12		10:00	50	650	10:02		598	9:35	50	625	5:07		307	9:47		587	2:21		141	10:00	50	650	3558	73%	1366	
David Leach	13		6:17		377	4:18	50	308	9:59	50	649	8:51		531	9:27	50	617	9:59	50	649	4:51		291	3422	70%	1236	
Nelson Whyte	14		5:20	50	370	10:04	50	646	9:59	50	649	3:14		194	10:04	50	646	9:56	50	646	2:52	50	222	3373	69%	1143	
Brian Agnew	15		6:30	50	440	10:00	50	650	4:06		246	10:04	50	646	10:02		598	3:33		213	9:38		578	3371	69%	1066	
Tom Kallevang	16		7:47	50	517	7:20	50	490	9:57	50	647	9:57	50	647	5:03		303	4:31		271	5:28	50	378	3253	66%	955	
David Campbell	17		4:02		242	9:45		585	3:25		205	10:11		589	9:33		573	9:40		580	5:20		320	3094	63%	838	
Steve Siebenaler	18		9:56	50	646	4:13		253	9:24		564	2:57	50	227	4:04		244	9:47	50	637	6:29	50	439	3010	61%	748	
Donald Richmond	19		4:44	50	334	7:07	50	477	4:35	50	325	10:04	50	646	6:37	50	447	8:10	50	540	2:51	50	221	2990	61%	675	
Rob Glover	20		10:01	50	649	5:09	50	359	9:54	50	644	4:16		256	3:01		181	3:34		214	6:00	50	410	2713	55%	551	
Joseph Hayes	21		4:03		243	10:03	50	647	4:36		276	2:52		172	9:59		599	8:42		522	1:46		106	2565	52%	463	
Ronald Mcelliott	22		4:17		257	9:01		541	2:45	50	215	3:16		196	6:48		408	6:50		410	8:18		498	2525	52%	399	
Reginald Sewell	23		5:20	50	370	3:19	50	249	5:00		300	2:10		130	10:15	50	635	2:42		162	10:06	50	644	2490	51%	337	
Roger Hebner	24		9:43	50	633	2:31	50	201	2:12		132	10:00		600	2:29		149	0:45		45	6:06	50	416	2176	44%	246	
Jack Wallner	25		5:13	50	363	9:23		563	9:47	50	637													1563	32%	141	
Mark Miller																											
Brendan Miller																											
Jim Deck																											



RC Aerobatics Masters

1 KENNETH G VELEZ	O	2996.91 NEW CASTLE	DE
2 GLEN H WATSON	O	2981.08 CYPRESS	TX
3 JERRY BUDD	O	2977.78 QUARTZ HILL	CA
4 GEORGE ASTERIS	O	2930.37 WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP	NJ
5 JOSEPH B WALKER	O	2884.83 GAINESVILLE	FL
6 MARK C HUNT	O	2861.09 TOMBALL	TX
7 KRISHLAN J FITZSIMMONS	O	2856.96 TRACY	CA



RC Aerobatics F3A

1 JASON A SHULMAN	O	2000 LAKE MARY	FL
2 ANDREW R JESKY	O	1994.54 MONROE	MI
3 BRETT M WICKIZER	S	1960.09 THE WOODLANDS	TX
4 QUIQUE SOMENZINI	O	1952.67 SPRINGFIELD	OH
5 GORDON D HYDE	O	1941.63 TUCSON	AZ
6 SEAN M MCMURTRY	O	1894.72 MOORE	OK
7 CHAD NORTHEAST	FO	1882.55 CALGARY	CAN
8 TROY A NEWMAN	O	1846.25 GOODYEAR	AZ
9 DAVID K LOCKHART	O	1833.81 MEDFORD	NJ
10 BILLY CUNNINGHAM	O	1785.08 TULSA	OK



