

NATSNEWS



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June 25



Brady Omat and his dad, Glenn, prepping his Top Flite Spitfire for flight.

It's amazing what a little time can do for a field. The field that was unusable on Friday for most of the day due to heavy rain, was once again ready for action for the Scale RC Nationals on Saturday.

The event had a record number of competitors and the campground on site 4 was packed and then some. Some campers were parked two deep!

The campground on site 3 also started to fill up. I can't wait for all of the campsites at site 4 to get sewer and water hookups.

As in years past, Fun Scale Open had the most contestants this year. At the pilots' meeting, Mike Barbee, National Association of Scale Aeromodelers (NASA) president, stated that this is an "Open" event for the NASA Scale Classic, which will be held October 6-8, 2017. This Scale Classic is for both RC and CL Scale models that have finished in the top 1/3 of the events held all year. If you want to fly in Fun Scale Novice or Open at the NASA Scale Classic, you don't have to finish in the top 1/3.

The wind started picking up and that continued during the day to the point that small planes and those lightly loaded had some problems finishing some maneuvers. But the sun was out, the wind was pretty much straight down the runway for most of the day, and everyone was having a great time.

We had three youngsters flying in the event for the first time that I can ever remember. Evan Gaston flew his Extra 300 built from an Aeroworks kit and it's powered by a DLE .55 engine. Evan uses a Spektrum radio with Savox servos. He has been a competitor for a few years now. His pit crew is his dad, Dan. He and Evan make a great team and work together in the shop as well.

We have two young men who are new to competition and RC Scale. Brady Omat from Indiana came to compete with his Top Flite Spitfire in Fun Scale Novice. The big Spitfire is powered by a DLE-55RA and is flown with a Futaba radio. Brady's dad, Glenn, came with him to help in the pits. Brady flies the 86-inch wingspan Spitfire very well.

We also have Joe Graber from Grafton, Ohio, flying a model he built from a Balsa USA kit. The 1/4-scale Sopwith Camel is Joe's first RC model—the first one he's built as well as the first time he's flown in competition. His Camel is powered by a Zenoah G38 and is controlled by a Futaba radio system. Joe covered his Camel with Solartex covering. Welcome to the fun world of RC Scale models.

After the second round was flown, everyone took a break and started preparing for the NASA dinner Saturday night, held again in downtown Muncie.

The static awards and "best of" awards were handed out. With this being NASA's 40th anniversary, John Boyko talked about NASA, where it started, and where it's headed. Now with more than 500 members according to secretary/treasurer Jeff Pike, NASA is the nation's largest Scale organization. We hope to continue to see this grow for modelers everywhere.

Mike Barbee, NASA president, talked about how NASA is helping local clubs hold Scale contests across the country. There is even a Scale contest scheduled to be held in Alaska this year. NASA is donating what we call "seed money" to local clubs that hold Scale contests. There are some requirements that must be met to receive the money. This is a novel concept—a national organization giving back to promote competition and Scale modeling across the country.

Mike also talked about the NASA Scale Classic and how the organization has grown during the last few years. NASA plans to attend all of the major trade shows next year, including the one in California held by AMA (AMA Expo West).

We saw some great flights today despite the wind and a few mishaps, but all in all everyone had a good day. I'm looking forward to less wind and better flights on Sunday. Hope to see you there! 🚁



Top left: Cindy and Mike Wartman concentrate on their model in flight.

Bottom left: Jeremy and Dale Arvin, one of several father and son teams in competition.

Top: Getting Greg Hahn to call for you can't hurt a thing. Greg has been helping some of the youngsters.



New competitor Joe Graber with his Balsa USA Sopwith Camel.



Larry Botsford's scratch-built Me 109E, entered in Designer class.



Larry Botsford's Fiat CR.32 making a pass. It's a pre-World War II biplane from Italy.



Greg Hahn's 120-inch Skyraider built from enlarged Nick Zirolis Plans.



Johnny Hunt's Super Decathlon built from an RC Guys kit, which he entered in Fun Scale.



Al Kretz's Britten-Norman Islander, which won top static in Designer and later crashed.



The Nieuport 11 by Art Shelton flown in Expert class.



Steve Eagle's Nieuport 17, which took the Best World War I award on Saturday night.



Engine details on Mike Barbee's Stearman PT-17.



A Spartan Executive by Raymond Schmidt, winner of the Best Sportsman award, was built from plans.



Dale Arvin's Balsa USA J-3 Cub powered by a O.S. 1.2 four-stroke engine.



A D.H. Hornet by Keith Numbers that is electric powered and built from an American Eagle kit.



Evan Gaston's Extra 300 touching down after another successful flight.



Lawrence Harville, AMA District VIII Vice President, flying his Skyraider built from Nick Zioli Plans. Lawrence says this model flies like a trainer.



Will Berninger's Beechcraft T-34C on landing. It was entered in Fun Scale Open this year.



A P-51D by Dan Landis, entered in Fun Scale, has an 89-inch wingspan and is shown landing.



Charles Gray flying his Rearwin Junior built from plans.



Mike Wartman's P-47 built from a Top Flite kit features a sliding canopy, navigation lights, and more than 30,000 applied rivets.



Mike Barbee's Stearman just after making a flyby.



Mike Barbee's 155-inch Beechcraft King Air shown in flight is controlled by a Futaba radio and features electric-powered air retracts.



A MiG-15 by Terry Nitsch, built from a Bob Violett Models kit, had one flight score of 99!

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Greg Hahn's Skyraider making a bomb drop on a target.