

NATSNEWS



CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF COMPETITION

June 24

Steve and Shannon Ort prepare Steve's Extra 300 for flight. Stan Alexander photo.



Wow! This year marks the 90th National Aeromodeling Championships and one of many for the site in Muncie, Indiana. John Boyko is the event director (ED) for this year's contest, and he has a lot of fun stuffed into this one weekend.

RC Scale starts the 90th annual Nats, and in addition to the static and flying competition during the weekend, during the evenings there is a banquet, movies, a raffle, auction, and plenty of other "fun stuff" going on. The wives won't be left out this weekend. We are looking forward to the banquet, in particular.

Many modelers bring several aircraft to fly during the competition, as well as others to fly after the contest is over for the day. It's just a good time for everyone.

If you've never been to a Scale Nats, you probably don't know what to expect. First, you need to register at the main desk at AMA Headquarters. There, you'll receive your name badge and other stuff from AMA about the site and the Nationals.

Next, go to the static or administration tent which should be located somewhere near the site for Scale static judging. Check in here to obtain your static sheets and flight score sheets.

On Friday morning, everyone gets ready for static judging. It's usually pretty laid-back, so unless you have six to eight models, you don't need to be there at the crack of dawn!

Present your documentation if you fly in Sportsman, Expert, Team, Designer, or Open class Scale during static judging. If you are flying in Fun Scale, you usually just need to show the photo to the flight judges shortly before your first flight on Saturday.

If you arrive early, such as on Thursday, you have the entire field open for practice, and it's a good time to orientate yourself to the field and how to set up your maneuvers. The field is also open all day Friday for practice. So, there is plenty of flying time this week!

Everything sort of winds down on Sunday, with the last two rounds typically flown that day and then the awards. Many people start for home later on Sunday, but a few stick around to start home on Monday. That means more flying time and socializing, which is also an important part of any Scale competition.

This is just in from John Boyko, RC Scale ED:

Thursday—Practice flying all day starting at 9 a.m. That evening, the movie, *Flying the Feathered Edge*, was shown in the classroom (at the McCullough Education Facility). There were people available on Thursday to help with flight routines, documentation, and all aspects of Scale competition.

Friday—Registration starts at 8 a.m., then static judging begins at 9 a.m. until it's finished. At noon, there will be an opening ceremony at the field. On Friday night, we'll have the Barbee Concrete Pizza Party. (Location and time to be announced.)

Saturday—8:30 a.m., flight competition starts with two rounds being flown and a lunch break. Saturday there will be a banquet at Vera Mae's Bistro, with chicken or stuffed pork, green beans, red onions and garlic-roasted mashed potatoes, and desert. After dinner, high static awards and best of awards will be handed out.

NASA officers, there will be a NASA Board meeting following the banquet.

Sunday—8:30 a.m., flight competition continues with two more rounds and a lunch break at approximately noon. Awards to follow.

So come to the Nationals, bring your Scale models, your family, and have a great time!

Fair skies and tailwinds. ✈️



Hal Parenti with his son Gary's scratch-built Beta Minor BA-50-4. It was a distance racer in the 1930s.



Mike Barbee helps Bob Patton with Bob's T-34B in Designer Scale during static judging.



At any Nationals, you'll find a few J-3 Cubs or different types of Cubs. Here is Larry Folk's 1/3-scale Top Cub.



A Saab Jet makes a sharp military turn during competition.



A Fiat CR-32 on a flyby. It was one of the few World War II biplanes.



Fun Scale is a great way to start putting in extra flights. A P-47 Thunderbolt is *the* favorite airplane at this point!



Terry Nitsch's MiG-17 on a flyby. Its distinctive red tail really stands out in flight.



Art Shelton's scratch-built Nieuport II, in Belgium national colors, is 1/3-scale and flies great.



Bob Patton's T-34 on a takeoff run. Bob says that the bigger they are, the better they fly.

CL SCALE BEGINS

Text and photos by Fred Cronenwett

Welcome to the 2016 Control Line (CL) Scale Nationals! Today, CL Scale models are judged for static points at Site 4. Static judging is where the pilots show the judges a three-view drawing and photos of the full-scale aircraft that was copied.

The judges look to see how well the modeler matched the outlines, color, and markings of the full-scale aircraft. Is the model the right color? Does it have all of the details that were on the full-size aircraft? Some call this part of the competition beauty or appearance points, but it's officially called static judging. Except for Fun Scale, the points earned during this part of the competition account for half of the total points used to calculate the overall score.

So all of the hard work done in the workshop to make a miniature version of the full-scale aircraft—down the smallest detail—is judged. Because the pilots must wait to get their models judged, we get to see old friends that we haven't seen in a while. If you ask questions about the models, this is your best chance to get pictures.

During the next two days, the pilots will be putting in flights to earn flying points. See you at the flying site on Saturday! 🛩️



This year we have a first-time competitor in our midst, Robert Storier. He took first place at the Brodak Fly-In in Sport Scale flying this Shoestring.





