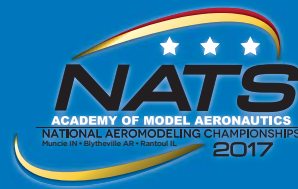


NATSNEWS



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June 24



Mike Barbee's Beechcraft King Air waiting for final assembly under the tent.

Friday is the day that static judging is held at the site for RC Scale competition. We've seen an increase in competition this year and contestant numbers.

John Boyko has been working hard to put together this year's Nats. Acquiring the judges you want for a Scale contest is hard to do. Getting sponsors, the judges, and thousands of other things is always time-consuming, but the efforts pay off by the time the Nationals start.

Mother Nature wasn't kind to us on Friday. With Muncie receiving 2.27 inches of rain, it made for a wet, muddy day. But it could have been much worse! We didn't have straight line winds, and the rain wasn't on a flying day.

The big tent served as the static site as well as the place to assemble models in a dry area. Some of the rain was heavy but that didn't last all day. Static was about finished at roughly 4 p.m. With more than 60 entries this year, we were happy to see everyone ready to fly.

If you've never been in competition but want to try it, as an AMA member you can register and fly a model that you've built or an ARF in Fun Scale. Fun Scale Novice is a beginner class and we have a few new modelers this year who have never competed before. One is Joe Garber from Grafton, Ohio. This is Joe's first contest and first Scale contest as well. Joe built a Balsa USA Sopwith Camel from a kit. It's also his first RC model. We want to help Joe any way we can and welcome him to our group of modelers. Good luck to you Joe!

NASA President Mike Barbee brought his Beechcraft King Air to compete in Team again Scale this year, with Frank Noll as the pilot. This team is fresh from a win in the same class at the Top Gun Invitational this

year. The model is a Bob Patton design, and Mike built the 155-inch wingspan model with electric Kontronik motors and speed controllers. The aircraft is finished with PPG automotive paint and custom-made retracts to replicate the scale landing gear and landing lights.

One of the other models I saw was a Pietenpol Air Camper. I didn't get the owner's name, but he built the model from his own plans and powered it with a 1.20 electric motor. The details and flying wires on the aircraft are very good and I look to have more about it in the next issue.

Jeff Pike brought a new model of a Stinson SR-10 built from a Top Flite kit. He finished the 109-inch wingspan Stinson with Coverite 21st Century Fabric and paint. With a Saito 3-cylinder engine pulling the model around, it should look and sound great.

The full-scale version was the personal airplane of Jimmy Doolittle in the 1930s when he worked for Shell Oil Company. He used this and several other airplanes when Shell was developing high-octane gasoline. The high-octane fuel used in World War II helped give our aircraft and pilots an edge in speed at the time.

Jason Bauer brought one of the scale jet models to the competition this year and he has done a lot of work in detailing the model, both inside and out. The F-15 Eagle is finished in a striking multitone blue color scheme. Jason stated that it's not the easiest model to see in the air because the camouflage does a great job.

Going to the National Model Aviation Museum—especially when it's raining, and you are at the AMA International Aeromodeling Center—is a great opportunity. If you are there during the

week, check out the research center/library as well as the AMA Plans Service. When you go to the plans service, please realize that there are thousands of plans available and almost all of these can either be blown up or reduced in size to accommodate your needs.

AMA Plans Service Coordinator Greg Prater is always adding new plans to the AMA collection. One of the newest additions to the plans service is the collection from Gene Falada. Many of these designs are very large and most are obscure subjects, which to a scale builder is like gravy. There are also many seaplanes, floatplanes, and just planes that you have probably never seen! Cool!

Here are a few examples of some of the aircraft: Albatros W.4 93-inch wingspan; Blohm und Voss BV 138 flying boat with 11-foot wingspan, commonly called the Flying Shoe; Sikorsky S-42B 118-inch; Curtiss-Reid Courier 120-inch; Kinner XRK-1 Envoy 95.5-inch wingspan; and the Northrop N-23 Pioneer (one example is at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, Ohio). There are 90 sets of plans in this collection and they are definitely worth your time. You just might find a diamond waiting for you at plans service.

Friday evening, everyone was invited to a pizza party sponsored by Mike Barbee and Barbee Concrete at the Claude McCullough Education Facility, located adjacent to the museum. Nearly everyone showed up for free pizza and brought his or her own drinks. John Boyko announced that a pilots' meeting would begin at 8 a.m. sharp Saturday, and flying might be rescheduled for a bit later in the day due to the soaked field. But it is drying out and we hope to start on time.

Fair skies and tail winds. 🍷



Jeff Pike positioning his Stinson SR-10 for static judging. The full-scale version was the personal aircraft of Jimmy Doolittle in the 1930s.



Static judges compare the documentation presented to them by the contestants to arrive at a static score, which is half of the total score for the competition.



Engine details on Steve Eagle's Fun Scale entry, a Balsa USA Fokker D.VII.



A scratch-built Pietenpol Air Camper built at 1/4 scale and very well detailed.



The engine details on Al Kretz's Fokker D.VII entered in Expert class. Note all of the added details.



Keith Numbers holds his de Havilland Sea Hornet so the judges can see the top view of the model.

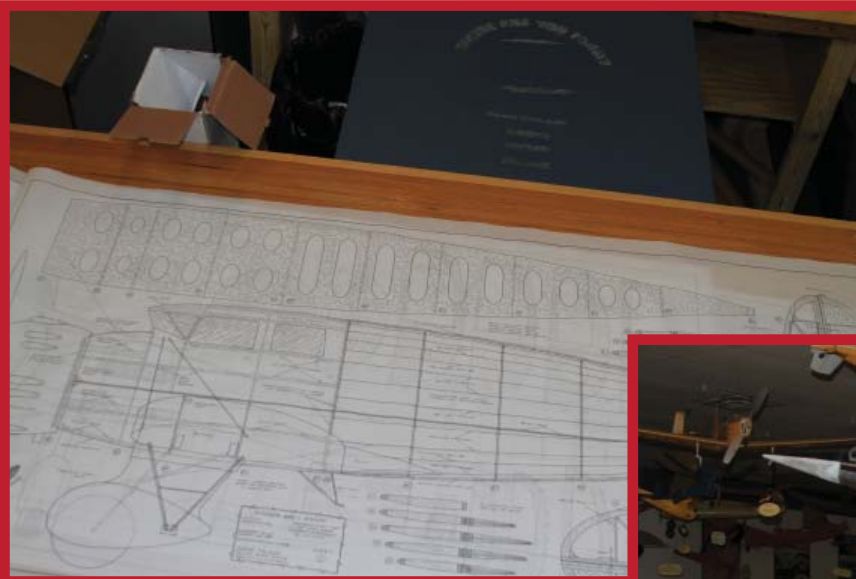


Right: Jason Bauer prepping his F-15 Eagle for static judging. Left: Details on Jason Bauer's F-15.



Carl Handley with his P-47 Hot Body in static judging.

Al Kretz assembling his Balsa USA Fokker D.VII. Al modified the biplane in many ways to make it a very correct model.



Plans for a Kinner XRK-1 Envoy from AMA Plans Service.

This is a view of the Scale display in the National Model Aviation Museum; check it out!



This was the Friday afternoon obstacle course on the field.



I still think the dogs had the most fun on Friday just playing in the water.

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Jack Buckley assembling his 1/3-scale
D.H. Tiger Moth for static judging.

