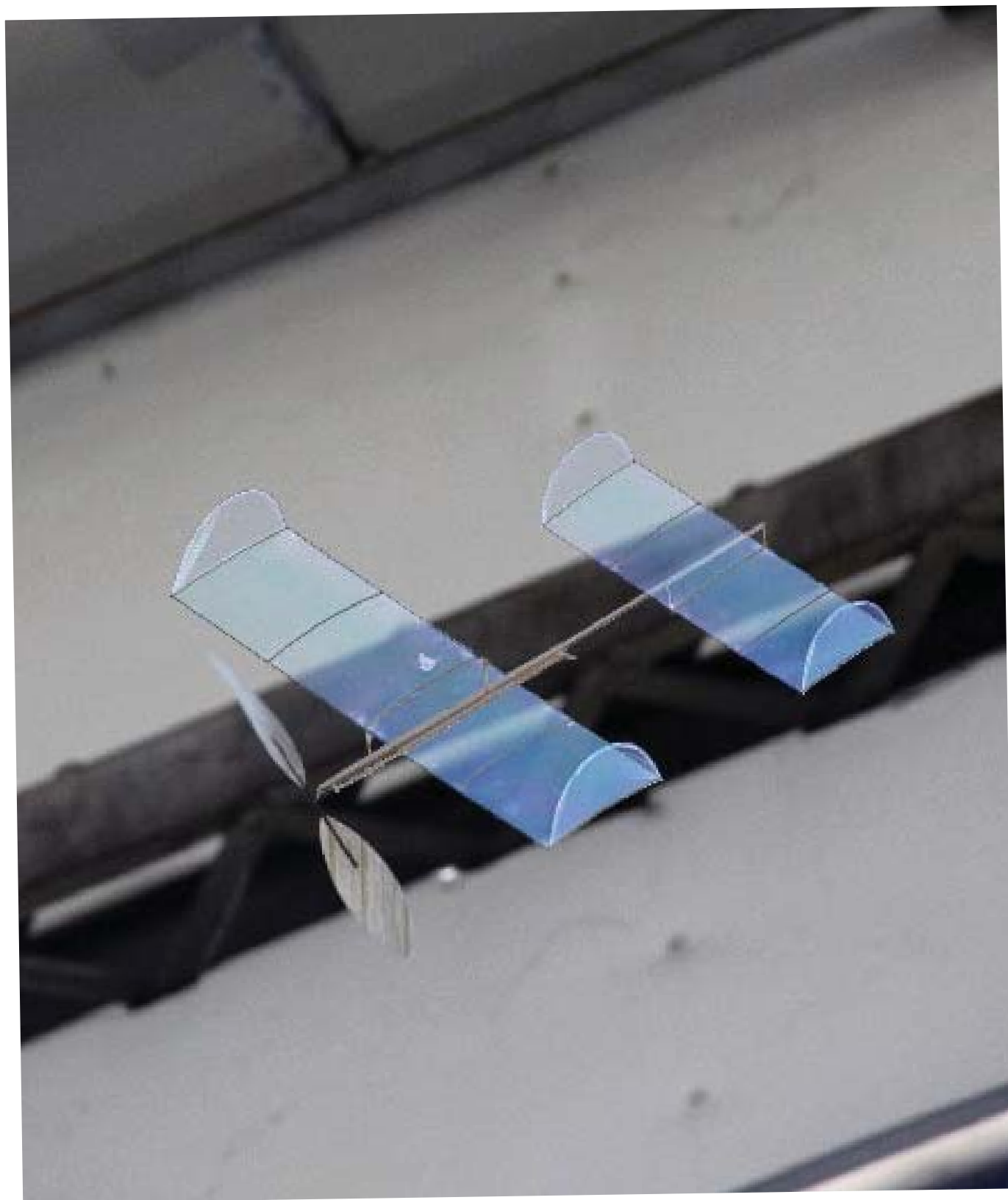


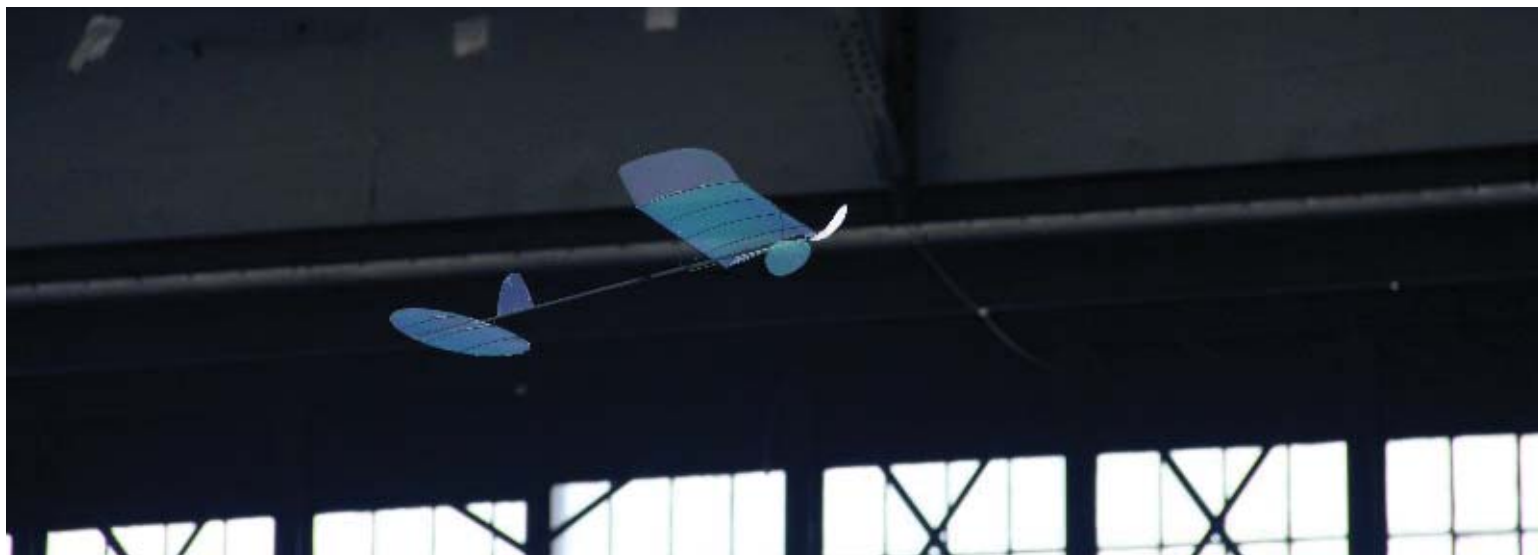
NATSNEWS



INDOOR FREE FLIGHT

MAY 24

INDOOR FREE FLIGHT



Karén Khanagov's F1D in flight.

Welcome to the *NatsNews*!

The unofficial kickoff at the Nats is really the day beforehand. This is the day the most competitors don't see. The important day. The day the volunteers show up to make the Nats happen.

This is when the lift gets delivered and the AMA Nats sign gets put up welcoming the fliers. Tables and chairs are delivered, then distributed, and set up.

Box after box of trophies and supplies are unloaded, brought in, opened, and organized—then reorganized to get ready for the people coming in. And they come in, some with more boxes than you can believe!

Old friends, new friends, mixed with handshakes and more than a few hugs. Exclamations of delight on seeing faces. Introductions to newcomers, and sometimes oldcomers—folks who have come back to the hobby.

And Flo. Can't forget Flo. She's our unofficial mascot!
This is Rantoul 2018.

We have had roughly 10 people come early to set up their tables and models and take advantage of the practice day. Most of them

are old hands—the usual suspects. But not all.

One newcomer, Karén Khanagov, spent much of the afternoon working on his first F1D model. I love that we have a new F1D flier. And John Koptonak, who apparently attended the Nats last in 1999, came with a bunch of models, including a beautiful scale 1911 Cessna.

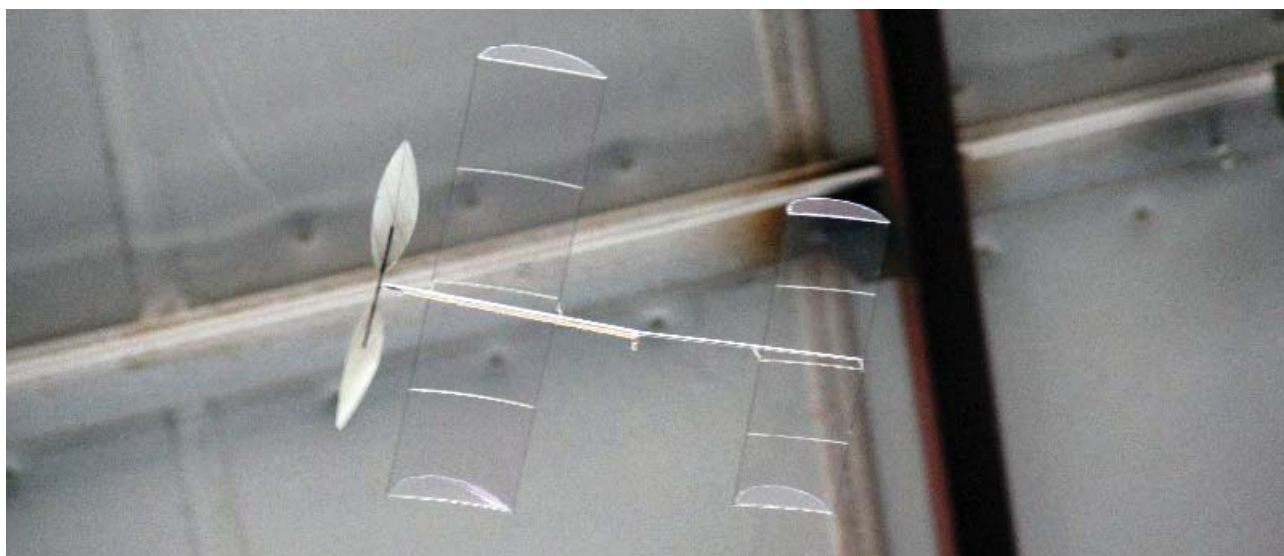
Some were apparently feeling frisky too. We had our first model hang-up before lunch time! Whoa fellas!

Temperatures look great for the week's Nats, with no rain in the forecast, reasonable humidity, and light wind. The air is beautiful inside and out. We couldn't ask for it to be better weather.

We are holding our competition over Memorial Day weekend this year. As we've traveled here for our event, many others are also traveling for plans with friends, families, and vacation. As our event unfolds over the next couple of days, we will capture each day of competition and compile all the excitement, the grace, and the results in one Indoor Free Flight recap issue on Tuesday, May 29.

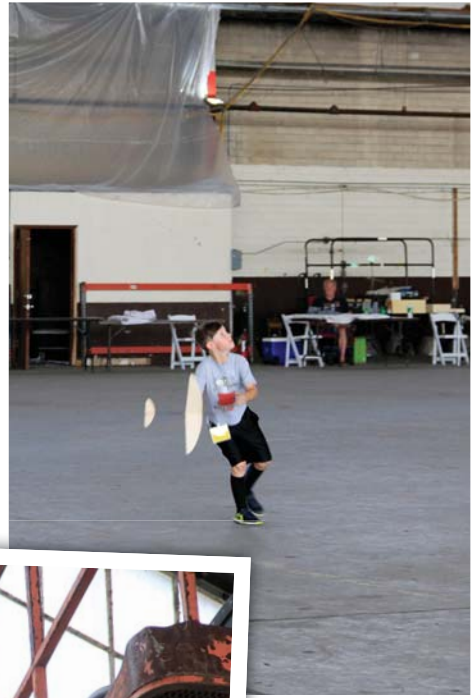
Good luck to all competitors! This is sure to be a great couple of days! 🚀

—Mike Kirda



John Koptonak's
Limited Penny
Plane entry.

Here are some photos from the
2017 Indoor Free Flight Nats.



Is Karén Khanagov the
Race to the Roof winner?



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