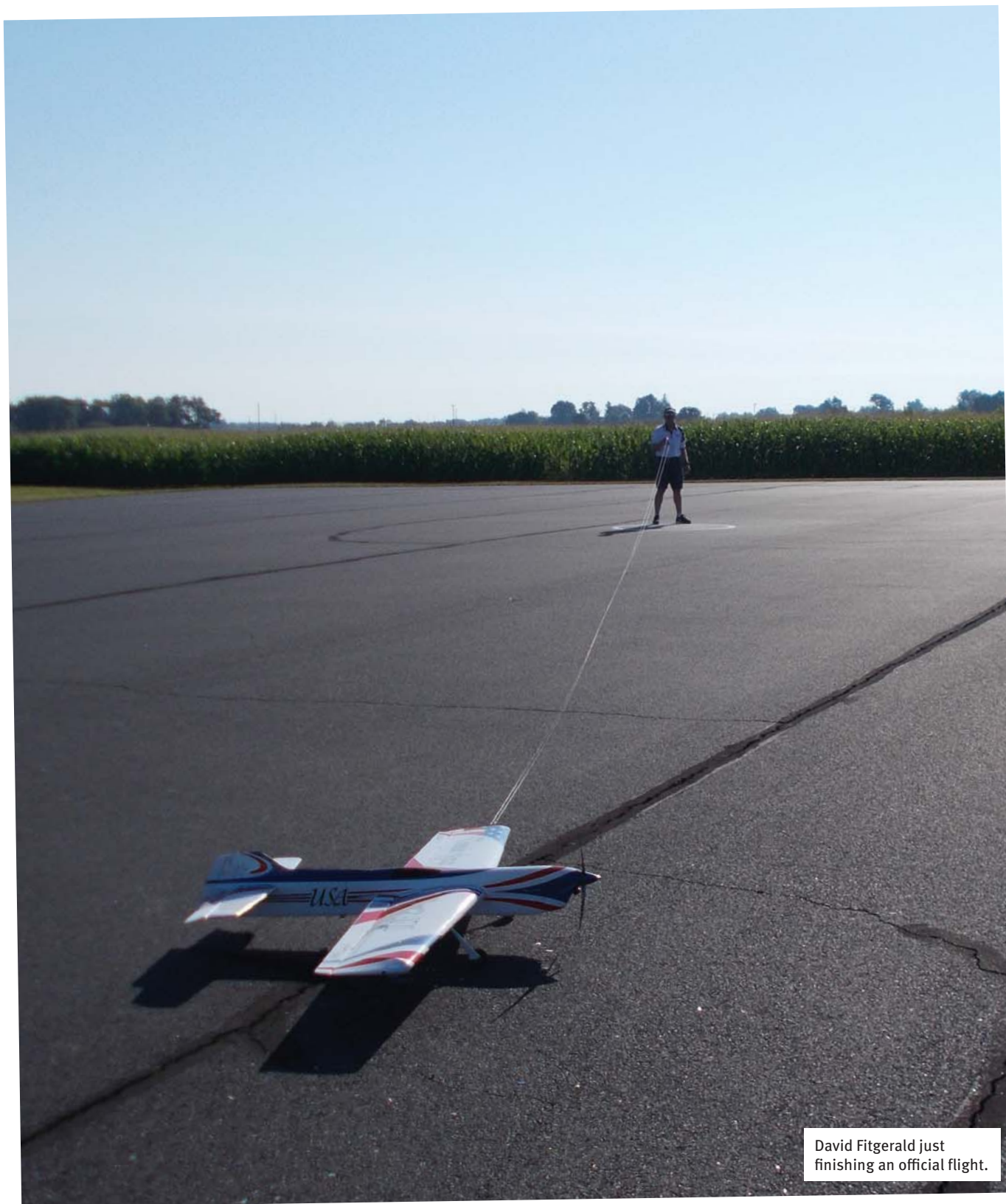


NATSNEWS



David Fitzgerald just finishing an official flight.

CL AEROBATICS

Friday on the L pad was a very busy day. We had the top 20 in the Open class and the top 12 in the Advanced class.

In Thursday's issue, I stated top nine and I should have said top 12. My mistake.

On this day, the rubber really hits the road. After Friday morning, we will have crowned our new 2018 Advanced champion and will find out who the coveted top five in the Open class are.

With Friday's format of splitting the Open and Advanced classes into two groups each, we moved along a little faster. The most flights any of the judges had to judge was 20, which means we were done flying around 11 in the morning. Each group flew one flight in front of one set of judges and another in front of another set. Both groups eventually flew two flights in front of the same two sets of judges. Both flights were added together with no throwaway flights like in the previous days.

If you had a problem, you were out and had no chance of a second chance flight. This actually happened to Steve Moon, unfortunately. During his outside square maneuvers, his engine suddenly went lean. This made the plane go considerably faster than what he wanted. He wisely leveled out and flew level until the engine finally ran out of fuel.

When an engine does this, it tends to get extremely hot. If you are not careful, or

unlucky, you can cook your engine if this happens. It was an unfortunate circumstance for him since he was flying well and would most likely have placed well up in the top 20 had this not happened.

Advanced got through things a little quicker because they had 12 fliers instead of 20, so their groups had six each instead of 10. They have the same format as the Open class of the two groups flying in front of two sets of judges.

When the dust finally settled, Don Cranfill took it all to win the 2018 Advanced class championship. William DeMauro took second, with James Mills taking third. Way to go guys. As a "bonus," Don is no longer eligible to fly in Advanced. He now gets "booted" out to join the ranks of the Open class. I am sure he will do well in the more experienced class in years to come, so I would not worry too much.

Back in Open class, things were still hot because flying continued. Many of us were watching the wind—or in some cases lack of wind. The wind Friday was light and shifty. It would not be uncommon for someone to set the judges, and then have it move on them. I should know. That happened to me on my second flight. During the first flight, I was wishing someone would huff and puff just a little bit more.

In the end, however, it was a rather enjoyable day of flying. Even the humidity

was not that high. So even standing in the sun, it did not feel too oppressive. Shade, of course, was still preferred.

In the end, we found out who our top five would be. And they are Paul Walker, David Fitzgerald, Derek Barry (with an "A". I have been misspelling his last name all week. Sorry Derek), Chris Cox, and Howard Rush.

Chris got a complementary dunking with the water bucket from Derek. Derek was trying to sneak up on him when Chris saw him and started to run. He ran into a blockade (table) and gave up and just decided to take it. His wife, Joan, loved it. She got a picture of it, I think. Way to go, Chris.

One other award that was given out today was to Joe Daly. He won Rookie of the Year award. The award itself is a very nicely painted propeller. It's not something you would find in your normal trophy store.

Saturday will be the top five Open finals. We will finally find out who will be the 2018 Open champion. We will also have the Junior and Senior flyoffs to see who will be the Junior (13 years and younger) and the Senior (14-18 years) champions. So tomorrow will also be a busy day, along with a lot of nail biting because things are usually very close in the scores. We, many times, do not know who the champion will be until the final score is posted. 🚁

—Matt Neumann



John Hill launches for Frank McMillan during an official flight.



Fourth place goes to Mike Schmidt.



And the winner of Advanced class is Don Cranfill.



Joe Daly receives the Rookie of the Year award from Darrel Harvin.



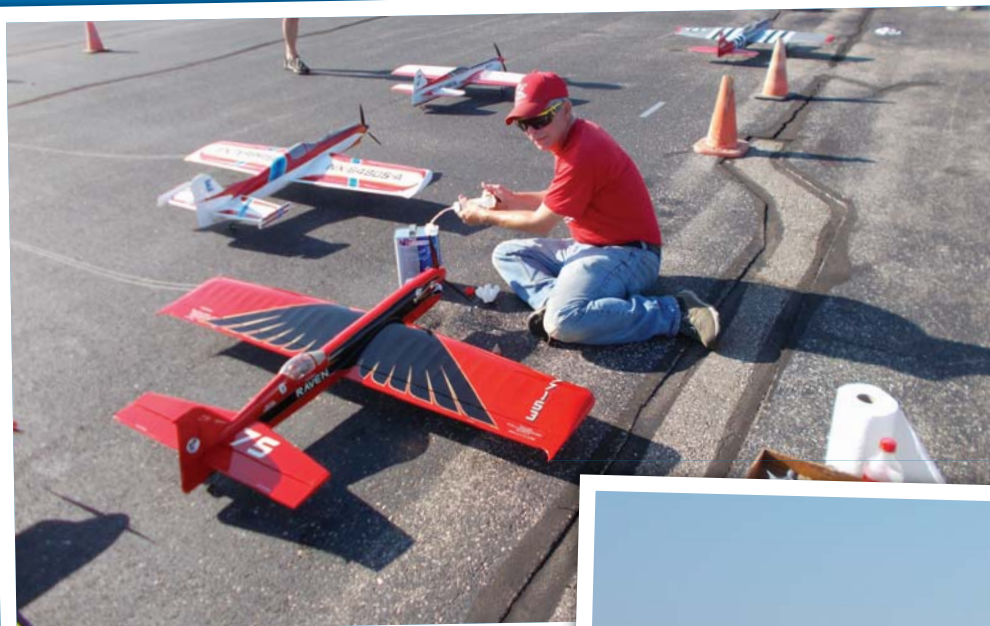
Second place goes to William DeMauro.



Third place goes to James Mills.



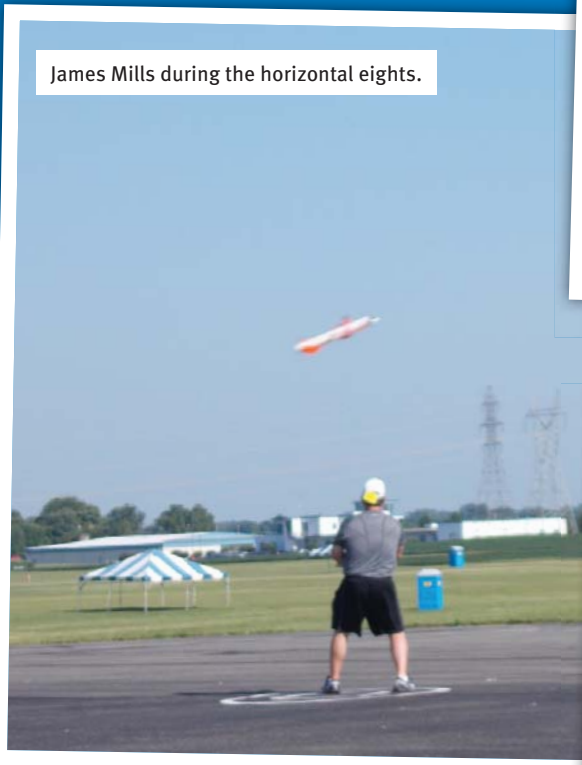
Tom Dixon during an official flight.



Dan Banjock preparing his plane for an official flight.



Dan Banjock with some serious concentration going on. He came in sixth



James Mills during the horizontal eights.



Paul Walker with his game face on during an official flight.

See more Nats event photos on AMA's Flickr page: www.flickr.com/modelaircraft



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William DeMauro puts his plane through its paces in Open class. He would eventually come in second place.

