

NATS NEWS



Photo by Jenni Alderman.

RC PATTERN

Day four of our 2018 Nats had another reduction in the number of pilots, as well as an increase in the number of judges.

More than 60 FAI and Masters pilots began flying on Monday morning. On Thursday, day four, only 17 remained: eight FAI and nine Masters.

Masters pilots had a tie, so a ninth pilot was added. Each group flew four additional rounds. The nine Masters had to fly their original sequence, but the FAI pilots flew two more rounds of their F-19 sequences, as well as two rounds of “unknowns.”

Unknowns is not totally accurate since the pilots were given these two sequences at the Wednesday evening barbecue. They were forbidden from flying either of these sequences in the air or on a simulator before the actual competition flights the next morning.

All week long, we have been seeing “Team Chuck” stickers. On Thursday, the “Team Chuck” mystery was solved when two “Team Chuck” T-shirts were found at Site 3. Proudly wearing their “Team Chuck” shirts were Rebecca and Nancy. Both are related to Chuck, one by marriage, the other by birth. Rebecca is Chuck Edwards’ wife and Nancy is his mom.



Often a picture in the *NatsNews* is credited to Jenni Alderman. Beyond taking excellent photographs at our Nats, Jenni also does a great job as AMA’s assistant editor. Recently, she has branched out even further with her husband in a new business, JAG RC. They specialize in RC jets. So, if you are interested in fast-flying jets, check out JAG RC.



While having lunch at Site 4, a man on a scooter pulled up. It was Bud Romak. Bud is here early for the Free Flight competition. Bud has been flying models for 80 years. He will be 90 in a few months. In 1976, Bud was the World Champion Free Flyer!



Intermediate, Advanced, and Masters pilots had to fly the sequences they normally fly on day four in front of similar judging panels. FAI, however, had warmup flights for the judges to better prepare them since they have not seen the “unknown” sequences in the air before.

Along with two extra flights, there were two extra judges for these “unknown” sequences. They are called zero judges. They only judge to see that all elements are accurate, not necessarily perfectly flown. The Top Hat maneuver, for example, must have the horizontal portion of the maneuver flown inverted. If the Top Hat is a centered maneuver and the pilot flies the maneuver perfectly centered with $\frac{3}{4}$ rolls up and down, also perfectly centered, but does the horizontal leg upright, not inverted, the entire maneuver is scored a zero, no matter how perfectly the other elements are executed. That is the job of the zero judge.



Some pilots “dry fly” a sequence, especially in the unknowns. Dry flying is when a pilot who is not flying watches a plane that is flying the sequence and uses his transmitter as if he was actually flying the plane in the air. It is a great way to practice without actually flying.



Each FAI flight had a random compliance check after each pilot flew. Eight checkers were placed in a bag. The bag was vigorously shaken to mix up the checkers. After his flight, that pilot drew a checker from “Tim’s mystery bag.”



Seven of the checkers were red and one was black. If a pilot drew a red checker, nothing else was necessary. If, on the other hand, he drew the black checker, he had to have his plane weighed, measured, and sound checked once again. Remember, all planes were weighed, measured, and sound checked at processing.



After all flights were completed, a smooth landing was made and our final day of competition flying ended, and thoughts turned to the banquet at the country club.



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

After a pleasant social hour, Albert Glenn called Bob Kane to the microphone to offer a blessing to begin our meal. As well as blessing our food, Bob very prayerfully remembered several important members of our Nats community who have passed away. Not a sound could be heard. It was a very moving experience for all of us.



The banquet began!



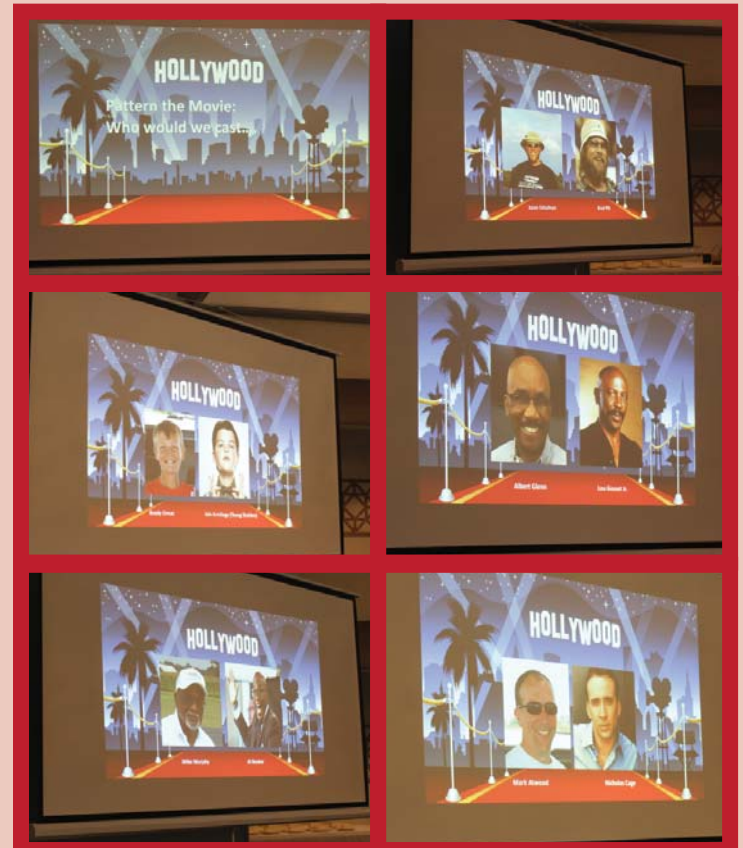


The NorCal pilots are a very welcome part of our Nats. Thanks to Jon Bruml, the District 7 pilots come very well dressed. Jon's business, Tech Styles, produces a variety of items. Shirts are one of them. These NorCal pilots are proud of their district and show it in style!

Jon is also extremely generous to our world competition team. Team apparel and fundraising apparel are all donated by Jon!



After a great meal, Mark Atwood turned our minds westward to Hollywood. District 4 made a slide presentation of aerobatics community members and Hollywood lookalikes. Just a few are shown here.



The evening turned serious once again when John Fuqua gave a very moving and emotional retrospective of Ron VanPutte's life and career—both his professional career and as it related to model airplanes. Ron had a significant impact on so many of us.

A special NSRCA District trophy was given to District 6 after the 2017 Nats. District 4 was the proud winner of this annual trophy for 2018. This award is granted to pilots in each of NSRCA's eight districts, depending on the top seven finalists in each category of competition. Only NSRCA members qualify to accumulate points toward the District trophy.

Regretfully, Tim Pritchett announced that more than 200 points were not awarded because those pilots were not members of the NSRCA. Tim also encouraged all of us to support the NSRCA and become members.



The last part of the evening was announcing the finalists in each class.

In Intermediate the finalists were:

- 1st: Brady Ornat
- 2nd: John Decker
- 3rd: Matt Griffitt

In Advanced the finalists were:

- 1st: Forest Pilkenton
- 2nd: Tim Pritchett
- 3rd: Mark Barnett

In Masters the finalists were:

- 1st: Joe Walker
- 2nd: Jeff Carder
- 3rd: Chuck Edwards

In FAI, making the 2019 World Championship team were:

- 1st: Andrew Jesky
- 2nd: Jason Shulman
- 3rd: Brett Wickizer

Along with announcing the adult members of the 2019 World Championship team, a fourth member was also announced. Kal Reifsnnyder will represent the USA as our Junior team member.

The team was delighted to have Mark Atwood return to be the 2019 World Championship team manager.





Kal Reifsnyder.

To prepare for the long ride home, a few minutes of sleep can go a long way.



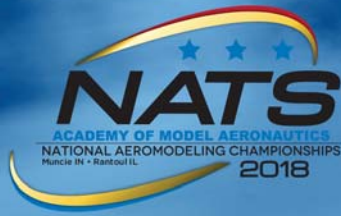
And so, our 2018 RC Aerobatics Nats draws to a close. Everyone is grateful to Albert Glenn and his team for doing such a fabulous job this year. So, we load up and head for home. Frank Capone is driving home with a trailer full of seven airplanes! Safe travels to all. 🛩️

—Jim Quinn



The 2019 World Championship USA Team.

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Check in on Facebook using the hashtag **#AMANats** for a chance to win a Nats jacket!

One winner will be randomly selected at the conclusion of this year's Nats events.

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Photo by Jenni Alderman.

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