

NATSNEWS

NATS
2018



Photo by Jenni Alderman.

RC HELICOPTER

Photos by Jenni Alderman and Mike Unger.

Day 2 of the 2018 Helicopter Nats continued Tuesday. Unfortunately, more rain made things difficult.

We took advantage of every chance to get flights in when it wasn't raining. A few pilots were forced to abort their flights halfway through to dodge a popup rainstorm. Despite all the rain, we still got four classes in.

In F3N, set maneuvers were flown, with everyone staying with the same maneuvers they used in round one. This time, Jamie Robertson won the round, Ben Storick finished second, and Nick Maxwell was third due to a mistake on the Deathspinner (yes that is the official FAI name), costing him a zero. After three rounds, there is quite a tight battle for the top three, with less than 75 normalized points separating the top three. Nick Maxwell is in first, Ben Storick is in second, and Jamie Robertson is in third. Wednesday we will see the first round of the crowd favorite, Music Freestyle.

In F3C, we managed another round of the preliminary schedule. Unlike the AMA classes, the F3C classes do four rounds of preliminary maneuvers and then for the last three rounds, all of the maneuvers change. This means F3C competitors have to learn and perfect 18 distinct maneuvers to prepare for the Nats. After three rounds, Nick Maxwell leads, Dwight Shilling is second, and

Nob Muraki is in third.

AMA Classes 2 and 3 finally got some rounds in. These classes are a step up from the Class 1 maneuvers—challenging the pilots with more difficult orientations and compound maneuvers. These classes have been growing in the last couple of years, with pilots progressing from Class 1.

After two rounds, there is a tight battle at the top. David Snow leads Wesley Minear by a slim margin and Peter Bisbal rounds out the top 3. In Class 3, after two rounds Robert Montee is in first, followed by Eaton Bryce.

The Scale pilots also managed to get in their first round of flying. In the 518 class, Rene Gottlier won the round, followed by Michael Zaborowski, Bernard Shaw, and Darrell Sprayberry. In the Sport class, Michael Zaborowski leads, Eaton Bryce is in second, and Steve Smith is in third. In Team Scale, Paul Holland/Darrell Sprayberry lead and Luther Farmer/Eaton Bryce are in second.

With, hopefully, better weather, we can do a lot of flying today and get more rounds in. All of the support staff will be working hard to make that happen. Cross your fingers and hope for dry weather for us. 🍀

—Mike Unger







See more Nats event
photos on AMA's Flickr page:
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CL RACING

Okay, okay, okay, you can blame me for Tuesday’s rain. I should have never mentioned my hopes for a day free of rain. When I walked out of the motel in the morning, I was surprised to find the pavement dry, but by the time I reached the field, that had all changed.

There was one good thing about the extended rain delay, it gave a number of the contestants an excuse to visit the National Model Aviation Museum.

The problem with flying CL Racing in the rain, especially Class I Mouse, is that the planes are flown with two solid lines, and the moisture tends to cause the lines to stick together and the pilot to lose control of the plane.

Around 1 p.m., the weather radar showed that we should have a break in the rain long enough to fly Class I Mouse. Mouse is flown with three people in the center of the circle at the same time. Having nine contestants made setting up the heat races easy. Each contest is given two back-to-back 50-lap heat races, with his or her best time used toward determining who would compete in the final race. The rain held off long enough to finish the first set of heat races, but it started to sprinkle during the second set of heat races. By the start of the third set of heat races, the rain was steady but light.

The only mishap of the day was when during a hard landing, the motor mount on Charles Barnes Jr.’s plane broke loose. This would not totally end his day because Charles Barnes Jr. was the pilot for Charles Barnes Sr.

Both Class I and II Mouse have very few restrictions on what the airplane must look like, but Bill Bischoff was flying an aircraft built by John McCollum that closely resembles a Hawker Hurricane. The plane not only looks good, it flies just as well. Bill finished in third place, 1.74 seconds out of first place.

The results for Class I Mouse are:

Contestant	1 st heat	2 nd heat	Place
Melvin Schuette	2:32.00	2:51.13	1 st
Patrick Hempel	2:33.21	2:33.33	2 nd
Bill Bischoff	2:49.78	2:33.74	3 rd
Charles Barnes Sr.	3:00.97	2:53.34	4 th
Bill Lee	3:08.94	31 laps	5 th
Dave Betz	5:34.44	47 laps	6 th
Bob Oge	35 laps	DNF	7 th
Mike Greb	33 laps	DNF	8 th
Charles Barnes Jr.	32 laps	DNF	9 th

—Melvin Schuette



Christopher DeGroff enjoying the rain.



The rain didn't stop the races.



Picture of a rain delay.



Mouse Race winners.



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CL SPEED

Day two of the CL Speed AMA National Championships is the very popular .21 Speed Sport and F2A speed events

When we woke up Tuesday morning, it had been raining for quite some time. After the pilots' meeting, we hurriedly prepared for a long day. Since it was evident that we would be having rain delays, the Event Director planned to keep flying probably until 6 p.m. to get all of the flights in.

First on the circle was Jerry Rocha and he quickly posted a very fast run with his .21 SS. His posted time was 156.34 mph. This would hold all day and Jerry would again be the National Champion in 21 Speed Sport. Second place would go to Chris Montagino with a fine run of 151.48 mph. Bill Hughes placed third at 144.64 mph.

There was a lengthy rain delay of nearly 2.5 hours, with some flights between intermittent rain showers. Bill Hughes used three attempts to put up the quickest F2A run of 292.2 kph (181.57 mph) and be this year's National Champion. Chris Montagino placed second with a flight of 285.9 kph, followed closely by Glen VanSant's 283.2 kph. We ended the day close to 7 p.m., followed by the awards of the day.

Wednesday is the standing start events. 🏁

—Warren Gregory





Howard's .21 aircraft.



James and his dad's F2A.



James lands in water?

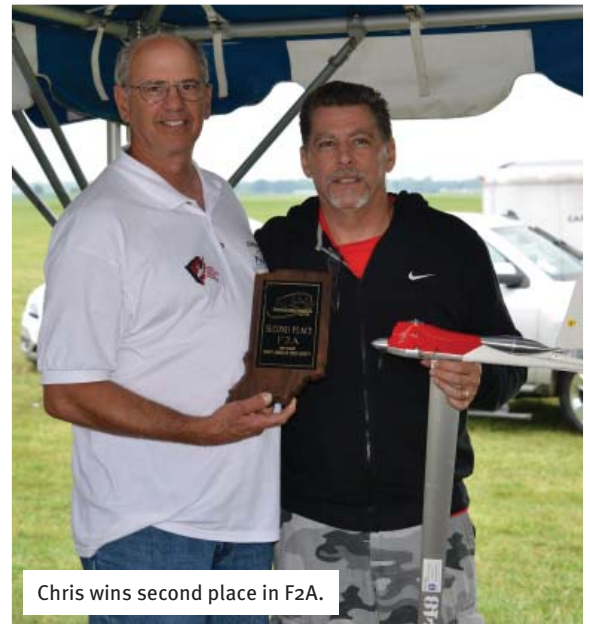


Bill Lee launches as the sky darkens.



EVENT 310 F2A						
CONTESTANT	1	2	3	4	BEST	
Smith Paul						
Hughes Bill	289.1 K 179.64 M	288.2 K 179.08 M	292.2 K 181.57 M	—	292.2 K 181.57 M	1
Van Sant Glen	283.2 K 175.18 M				283.2 K 175.98 M	3
Van Sant James	ATT	236.7 K 147.08 M			236.7 K 147.08 M	5
Doering Howard						
Montagino Chris	ATT	285.9 K 173.65 M	ATT	ATT	285.9 K 173.65 M	2
Hempel Patrick	ATT	278.8 K 173.29 M	ATT		278.8 K 173.29 M	4

EVENT 307 21 Sport Speed						
CONTESTANT	1	2	3	4	BEST	
Montagino Chris	151.48	148.05			151.48	2
New Math + Hines	ATT	137.46	ATT	111.40	137.46	6
Van Sant James	141.45	143.5	143.43	—	143.5	4
Doering Howard	137.93	135.57	136.09	—	137.93	5
Andrews Butch	ATT				—	
Hughes Bill	144.64				144.64	3
Recha Jerry	156.34				156.34	1
Dodge Carl	130.47	131.96	133.23	—	133.23	7



Chris wins second place in F2A.



Bill is the National Champion in F2A.



Kevin Hines' new .21.



Second and third in .21 SS.





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