



14TH ANNUAL NEAT FAIR

Story and photos by Walter A. Sidas

2013

Aero technology unleashed

Flying pool toys, strange lights in the night sky and a ready-for-combat 1/96-scale P-51 Mustang were the ingredients for this year's 14th annual NEAT Fair at Peaceful Valley Campground. Aeromodelers from across the United States and Canada descended into the grassy plains of the Catskills Mountains to fly their electric-powered aircraft.

Held every second weekend of September, this fair allows flyers and spectators a glimpse into the world of electric-powered model airplanes. The campgrounds provided a great space for flying a large variety of aircraft and electric helicopters as well as planes on floats. The NEAT Fair also held a "micro" plane exposition at the Downsville, NY, high school.

The early mornings brought on the Bergen County Silent Fliers with their Dawn Patrol session sponsored by Hobbico, along with a raffle of Flyzone and ElectriFly products. Float flying was also on the schedule from the glassy waters with the slight mist in the sky. The mid-morning also showcased open flying for attendees to enjoy the wide open spaces for aeronautical adventures.

The noontime demos offered spectators a show of precision flying and a large variety of unique types of airplanes. A



Lee Woodworth and Adam Woodworth co-won "Best Sport Model" with Lee's "Pool Toy" model and Adam's "X-periment." Adam also won "Best Military Scale" with his Eurofighter.



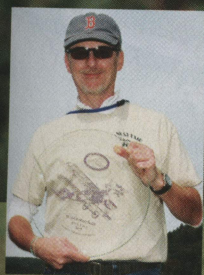
Lee Woodworth shows the "lighter" side of aeromodeling with his flying Pool Toy.



Planes built from plans and kits (not ARFs), these Golden Age racers make a great presentation.



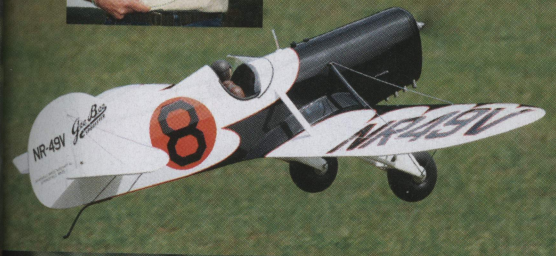
The "Flutter-By" is flown by Jack Frost and has a wingspan of 39 inches and weighs 18 ounces.



Chris Parent won "Best Civilian Scale" with his Gee Bee X.

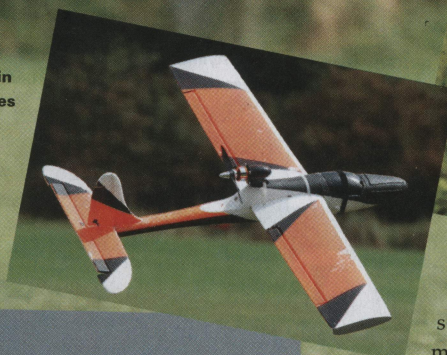


This Stearman PT-17 from Easy Tiger models is flown by Glenn Mitchell from Ottawa, Canada.



Adam Woodworth's demonstration flight showed off the slow and low flight capabilities of his Eurofighter. With a length of 106 inches and a 2:1 thrust-to-weight ratio, performing these maneuvers was no trouble at all.

Stephen Laughlin from Killer Planes flying the HawkFighter.

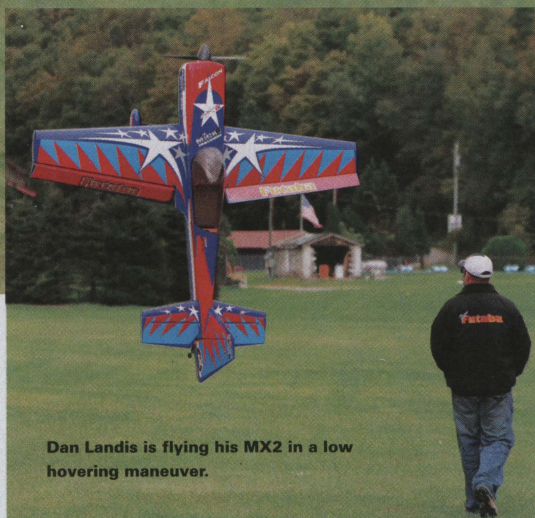
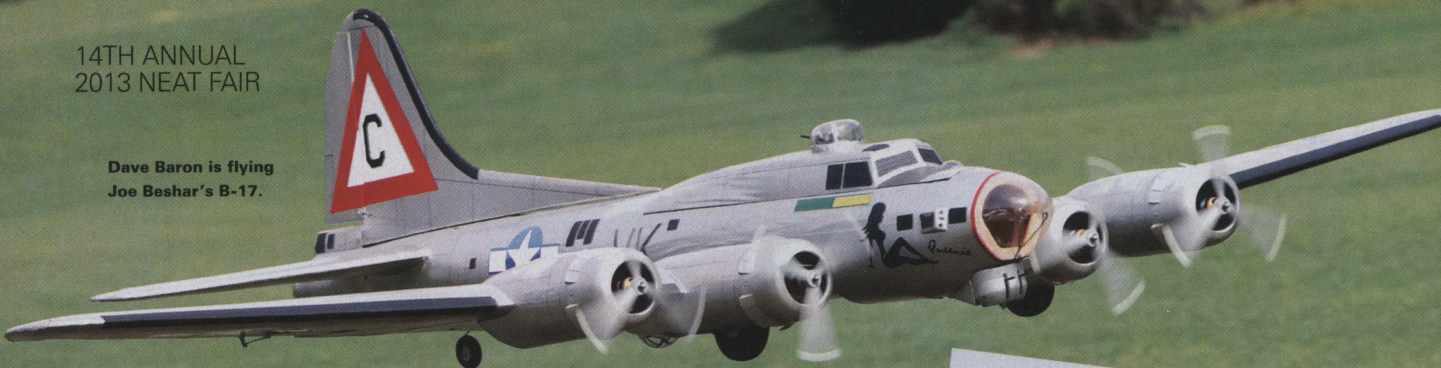


This years new offering from Top-Flite is a Spitfire with an 86.5 inch wing span.



squadron of military aircraft took to the air with models from WWI and WWII. David Perone flew his Glenn Torrance Models Fokker D.VIII, which he converted to electric using an AXI 5360-20 motor and 30X20 prop. Adding wing stains from the original 1918 manufacturer, lozenge-printed fabric, full cockpit detail and more gave this WWI a classic presence in the skies. The dramatic duel of WWII fighter aircraft returned with Hobbico pilots Dan Landis and Chris Sydor in the Focke Wulf 190 and the newest release from Top-Flite, a Spitfire. Both planes used the RimFire 65 motors, Falcon 23x10 props and Gens Ace 12S 5300mAh LiPo battery packs. Demos of

Dave Baron is flying
Joe Beshar's B-17.



Dan Landis is flying his MX2 in a low
hovering maneuver.

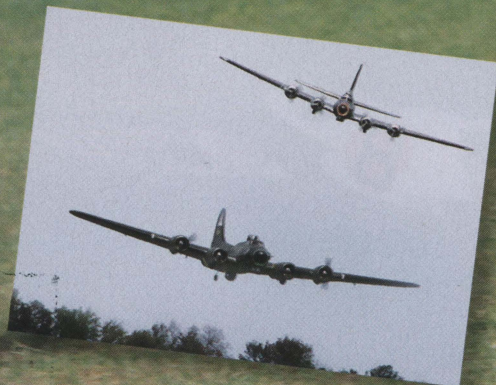
flying bombers were given, with David Baron piloting Joe Beshar's 120-inch B-17 and Jason McQuistion flying his 138-inch B-17 from Precision Cuts Kits using Don Smith plans. They showed off the grace and power of these WWII legends. Adam Lilley not only showed off the WildHare Hellcat, but also gave a realistic carbureted-engine acoustic performance with the Benidini-RC digital sound system. From the past to the present, Adam Woodworth demonstrated the lines and designs of today's modern jet fighter with the use of the latest technology of foam and thrust vectoring in his Eurofighter model.

The sport and aerobatic planes were, of course, given a chance to show their fun factor. Mike Mayberry from Hitec guided his demo pilots as they showed the crowd what their Weekender Extra, Multiplex's Solius, Razzor and Tucan models could do. Dan Landis performed great hovering maneuvers with EG Aircraft MX2, as well as Devin McGrath with the Extreme Flight Extra 300, and



Tony Steiner from Courtland, NY with his Balsa USA 1/4-scale Fokker DR-1 with an E-Flite 160 motor.

Here David Baron
and Jason
McQuistion line
up their B-17's for
formation flying.



Dave Baron is showing off some drama
with his Bucker Jungmann.



The night flying on Saturday night had many
challenges. Most of all not to hit the other plane.

Mica McCarthy and Joshua Fisher with the 3D Hobby Shop Extra 330SC.

A grand exposition of Golden Age racers took to the air in their sleek designs. These planes are no ARF's; to be part of this crew you must build from scratch and put on your own covering. To throw in some light-hearted fun, Jack Frost challenged the wind with his 18 oz. Flutter-By stick plane and Lee Woodworth was still enjoying the summer fun with his pool toy flyer. With unique construction and pusher-prop set up, Steve Laughlin from Killer Planes zipped the Hawk Fighter here and there and

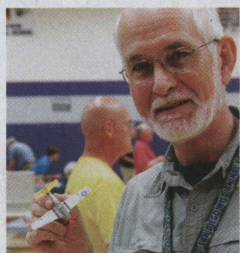
once in a while did a "crash and go" to the crowd's amazement.

The afternoon returned with open flying and to round out the day, there were pilot's raffles with prizes donated from Hobbico, HobbyKing, Hitec and other vendors. The finale was a mass melee of foamy-constructed warbirds. Pilots needed to be prepared that their model might not return back to home base.

The evening brought even more uniqueness with the indoor micro flying at the Downsview High School, which showcased the wonders of micro flying systems, as well as the streamer-cutting flying combat of Mini vapors. Obstacle courses at the **Bergen County Silent Fliers** and Jersey Shore Sport Fliers tents gave a great challenge to those who wanted to try and fly through hoops, ladders and fog. As darkness fell, the night finished with the contest of Night Slow Flying. Here pilots, with the help of spotters, used models with on-board illumination systems that were 24 ounces or less to pop as many balloons in various challenging rounds to achieve a high score. This made



Robert Caso designed this Fieseler Storch with the desert color scheme used by the Italian Air Force. He's installed lights, a full cockpit, and spring landing gear.



Martin Newell from Thousand Oaks, CA showed off his 1:96 scale P-51 Mustang. This micro fighter flyer has lights, flaps and retracts, and if you listen closely you might hear the sounds of machine guns.



Hitec's Mike Mayberry (center) gets David Windestål (left) and Josh Bixler (far right) from FliteTest.com to experience some fun during the demo flying Hitec's new Weekender Extra 300S.



Above: Formation flying with "Cartoon Scale" planes. Right: The launch of the Micro Pylon racing.



Inducted into the AMA Hall of Fame was Ted Strader from Albany, NY, a noted model aircraft designer for over fifty years. One of Ted's most popular designs was the "NOMAD," which is still being produced by House of Balsa.



Multiplex Razzor performance plane.



Chris Sydor of Hobbico flies the new Great Planes Escapade MX with the Rimfire 46 and Flightpower 4 cell 3800mAh batteries.

quite a "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" kind of scene, with lighted shapes whizzing around in the night sky.

To wrap up the NEAT fair on Sunday, honors and awards were given to modelers in appreciation for their participation in the fair, as well as aeromodeling in general. Members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics inducted Ted Stader to the Model Aviation Hall of Fame for his contributions for being a noted model aircraft designer. Baron Technologies and Fly RC magazine donated awards to "Best" in Sport, Civilian and Military categories. 🌟

NEAT VENDORS

3Dx Hobbies
Aero Craft
Air Hobby
Airlandseahobbies.com
Easy Tiger
FMA Inc.
Hitec
Hobbico
HobbyKing
IM Screen Printing Co.
Just Go Fly
Killer Planes
Lazertoyz
Luke's RC
Micro Fasteners
Mountain Models
Park Scale Models
R/C Toy/Tanicpacks.com
RC Cores
Radical RC
SKS Video
SLK Electronics
Tech-Bond Solutions
Time Flies Hobbies
TP Power USA
Urban R/C
West Michigan Park Flyers LLC