

SAM Champs 2008 Muncie - Report
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The Eastern Region of SAM with Larry Davidson, Eastern Vice President, sponsored the event. I (Jim Coffin) had the pleasure of attending to the social or off flying site events and Tom McCoy oversaw the flying events at the AMA flying site.

Flying at the AMA Muncie Flying site is always a treat for me, even though I haven't been competitive there lately. The weather for the first four days was good but breezy for some. Friday brought rain, a soaked field and though they tried, Free Flight was eventually canceled. RC fliers had the option of flying Friday's events on Thursday, but a number flew on Friday anyway.

Attendance was less than hoped for, but 150 competitors were entered with a few no-shows. Fuel prices and the impending invasion of two hurricanes affected attendance. Sunday's Registration at the Signature was followed by a Hail and Farewell Reception that honored the outgoing President, Mike Myers and his successor, Jim O'Reilly. We wish Jim well in his tenure as the new SAM President and thank Mike for his four years of leadership and guidance.

There are a number of people that we need to thank for their volunteer work in making this version of the SAM Champs come to be and to run as smooth as it appeared to me. First, is Tom McCoy, who took on the task of working with the AMA staff to obtain the competition awards, shirts and hats. We chose AMA to supply these items primarily because it relieved us of a lot of transportation and shipping of these items.

Next of course are the Contest Directors, Abram Van Dover for Free Flight and Mark Patroliia for RC. Both of these gentlemen have previous and invaluable experience as CDs and collected support staffs that kept the competition events under control. Carl Bakay was the registrar, recipient of the entry applications and sorting the data into usable form for a variety of necessary purposes.

Others that need to be thanked are Bob Laybourne who is always there to help in the Free Flight area, and Bucky Walters who ran the balloting on the Concours. On the distaff side are Janet Roselle, Joan Walters and Marty O'Reilly that helped at registration as well as kept the SAM Ladies busy.

A special thank-you is due Ron Boots, SAM Treasurer for running both the SAM engine raffle and the SAM "Door Prize Raffle" that have become important parts of the enjoyable activities associated with the SAM Champs.

There were several added events flown at this year's SAM Champs. The first was the Wedgy event flown in RC over four days. Time for score started after the engine or motor was stopped. This method of scoring was used in the Fokker D 8 event held at the 2006 SAM Champs. The Tomboy special event was flown to a target time of 60 seconds and the Father-Son duo from Canada, Anthony and Alexander Close were first and second. Lastly, a Speed 400 electric RC event was held using rules adapted from European SAM events. Fifteen fliers contested this relatively new event.

Unfortunately the designer of the special event models, the Banshee and Wedgy, Leon Schulman, planned to attend but he had to cancel due to problems with his vision.

Jim Coffin, Contest Manager