



OLD RULER TO BE FLOWN AT 97 CHAMPS

SAM Champs 1997 Contest Manager Larry Jenno has informed us that Old Ruler free flight will be a special event at the Las Vegas Champs.

The event will be sponsored by Bob Oslan, of Huntington Beach, California, who will serve as event director and personally will provide all the trophies.

Bob has long been a supporter of this free flight rule book event. The rules allow us to design a model to the 1941 AMA rules and fly it using a SAM eligible engine. The event has been popular at SCAMPS meets in Southern California, and was flown at the Champs at Taft in 1993.

The 1941 rules are quite simple, having only three elements. The fuselage must have a cross sectional area at least equal to the fuselage length squared and divided by 100 (The L²/100 rule). The wing loading must be at least 8 ounces per square foot, and the airplane must weigh at least 80 ounces per cubic inch of engine displacement.

The tentative schedule calls for all special events to be flown on the last day of competition. There also will be two Earl Stahl special scale free flight events (low and high wing), and Earl will be the guest of honor. The Champs has been named the Earl Stahl Commemorative.



Larry Jenno, 1997 Contest Manager



SAM 35 YEAR BOOK AVAILABLE

SAM 35 year book number 9 is now available from Jim Adams, 2538 N. Spurgeon St., Santa Ana, CA. 92706. This is the fourteenth year of this very enjoyable book published by the first English SAM Chapter. The editor is again Peter Michel, very capable English modeler and professional editor. The magazine contains 50 pages of plans chosen by Andrew Longhurst, one of the column editors from SAM 35's monthly newsletter. The book also lists sources of many of the old plans.

The books are being made available through SAM at near cost, using US currency to simplify obtaining the book. The price is \$11.00 each plus \$1.50 postage in the US, \$2.00 to Canada.

Sorry, but SAM is sold out on previous years.

1996 SAM CHAMPS IMAGES



Shirley Hinson

Eut Tileston, Carmichael California, with French Caudron for Spirit of SAM Electric. Red fuselage, yellow wing & tail.



Reich

Herb Kothe, Lafayette Colorado, was a triple winner in rubber. 1st in Scale, Jimmy Allen, and Commercial. Here with Korda Wake.



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CONTEST MANAGERS REPORT

By Jack Bolton

Sam Champs "96" is history. We were blessed with five days of fine balmy weather, an excellent flying site, comfortable headquarters hotel with fine cooperative staff, enthusiastic contestants and an outstanding banquet site at the Naval Aviation Museum. Topping everything off was the banquet half-time entertainment by the Presidents own US Marine Band in concert.

We tallied 223 contestants with 135 competing in free flight and 106 in radio control. Obviously, there were a number of crossovers that competed in both. The Gathering of the Turkeys NosGas events were well attended with 58 contestants compiling 190 event entries.



Contest Manager Jack Bolton and his Bantam powered Ranger. Jack did a superior job as Champs Manager, and has suggested he might do it again in 2000.

Our luck held and each day was sunny and clear with drift from the East. Winds averaged light and variable up to 4-8 mph in the afternoon. The free flight line moved only twice during the five flying days. The moves were basically adjustments, not major. Contestants were happy to discover that arrangements were made to have a tree climber (Petty Officer Robbie Blank, USCG) on site Saturday, Sunday and Monday 8 am to 5 pm and Tuesday and Wednesday available after 2 pm. Robbie did not get a lot of business, but when required, the rubber folks were the prime users of his services. I don't believe Robbie recovered more than 12 models (if that many) over the five days.

On to the most important part of this report—the acknowledgment of the wonderful capable people who made the Champs possible. First, I thank our event CDs for a great job. Ron Sharpton FF power, Tom McCoy rubber, Fred Mulholland RC and his great crew from central and south Florida. Last, but certainly not least, John Simms our Champs Administrator. We have to thank Millie McCoy for five days on the rubber desk and Dale Mulholland at the RC desk. Of course there were many others working at the recording sites to whom we also owe a "thank you all."

I am also grateful to Darrell and Laura Peugh who managed the engine raffle effort, and my wife Lil and daughter Amy who operated and managed the Sam Champs merchandise sales.

All of the contestants, observers, visitors and friends who attended deserve a special thank you for their participation. Your graciousness was most appreciated as was the wonderful feedback at the conclusion of the week, "Best ever", "Great field", "Best awards ever", "Hard to top", "Class act".

You can imagine how these generous comments brought a smile to my heart.

We all owe a special debt of gratitude to the United States Navy for permitting us to use NOLF Spencer (and we have use of it every weekend). Thanks to the Commanding Officer of NAS Whiting Field Operations Department and operates NAS Public Works who mowed for us the previous week provided bus tours to Whiting Field. Thanks to the Navy Exchange at Whiting, Beth Hardin, for providing and operating the food and beverage concessions, and the NAS Public Affairs Office, Senior Chief Journalist Dave Youngquist, USN, for his assistance.



I am certain everyone would like to join me in expressing our appreciation to the following Sam Champs contributors and supporters: Campbell's Custom Kits, Klarich Custom Kits, Golden Age Reproductions, Midwest Products Co., B-Y&O props, Model Aircraft Labs (MAL), Skyshine, Mr. Frank Ryan, and The Pensacola Free Flight Team (Sam 17). Special thanks to the Northwest Florida RC Club for providing three large tents and the PA system at the RC site. Tony Stillman (Radio South) and friend brought out, set them up and at the end, returned to the field and reversed the process. Outstanding!



Reich

Ed Konefes tied with Geroge Perryman for Rubber High Point Champ.

Ya'll come back now, you hear? How about for the Gathering of the Turkeys Free Flight Contest mid October 1997, Columbus Day weekend, 3 days. SAM, NosGas and AMA, Spencer Field, Ramada Bayview. Sound familiar?

It was a privilege and pleasure to have been the Contest Manager for the 1996 SAM Champs. Thanks to everyone for making it such a great time.



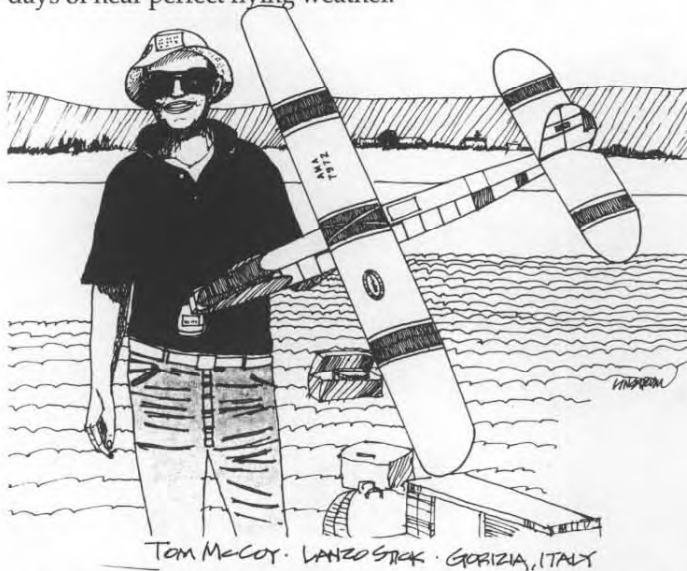
Reich

Bill Vanderbeek of Los Altos Hills California with Bantam powered Tom Suter Bullet. Red & white silk. Bill won the Sal Taibi Brooklyn Dodger special event. He won C Pylon flying a seldom seen Dick Schumacher Gulliver, and placed second in O&R Sideport, He also took two thirds and a fourth. Darn good flying.

RUBBER EVENTS REPORT

By Tom McCoy, Free Flight CD

I think this years Rubber flying at the 1996 SAM Champs can be best described as a great time. We had nearly 80 contestants flying in 11 events. For the most part the weather was good, temperature in the mid 80's with light winds, 5 days of near perfect flying weather.



I think I only heard of a half dozen models off the field with 2 or 3 fly-aways, most were recovered. Old friend George Armstead lost a commercial rubber. It was found 4 miles away. The people who found it thought the model flew in from Massachusetts and were really impressed, until they found out about the contest and came to the field.

I said we had fun, there were 28 contestants who flew Jimmy Allen. Karl Spielmaker really supplied the energy and the laughs. There were big banners and lots of group pictures, It is really great to see some of our best known rubber flyers out flying this event just for fun. This is what SAM is about.

The highlight of the 5 days of flying came on Sunday when we held the Gollywock event, 63 contestants signed up to fly and I think most of them flew at least one flight.



Karl Spielmaker won Twin Pusher with this Burnham design.

Wally Simmers was on hand and flew with us. I think Wally could still have won the event but he spent most of the day meeting the guys and posing for photos. Wally pitched in and helped get some models adjusted.

The flying went on all day with really tough competition. That evening all of the Gollywock flyers and their wives plus SAM officials were invited to a cocktail party hosted by Bill Vanderbeek, Phil Clintworth, Frank Garcher and myself. The winners received their plaques from Wally and it was a great memory for him and all of us.

There were many great performances and real tough competition in all 11 rubber events. I guess this part will never change, but I see a softening and feeling that this is really a celebration of life. Most of us came a long way and there were lots of places we can fly our models, we went to Pensacola to see our friends.

We ended up with a tie for rubber High Point Champion, so this year George Perryman and Ed Konefes are our co-Rubber Champions. If you flew this year at Pensacola I think you will agree we all were winners.



Harold Johnson

Vincent Burton, New Orleans, and his magnificent Scientific Firefly in yellow & brown with black pin stripes.

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THE CHAMPS OF 1996

By Old Charlie



I was somewhat apprehensive as I approached the Ramada Inn Bayview. After all, the prior week had offered high winds and a torrential rain verging on hurricane status. The forecasters were now predicting more doom and gloom weather over the forthcoming weekend—I was concerned.

Checking in was a breeze and my room turned out to be excellent. Venturing downstairs to the Bean Feed calmed my concern as the spirit of SAM overflowed in a room of joyful contestants meeting and greeting each other in their

annual family reunion. Things were definitely looking up. Rain or shine these folks were here to have a good time, enjoy their hobby and the wonderful camaraderie that only SAM can offer.

The short drive to Spencer field early the next morning was uneventful, other than having to pull down the visor to shade the rising sun (hurrah!) from my squinty morning eyes. Driving onto the field offered a view of a mile square of mowed lawn. Beautiful. To the right was the free flight area and across the field was the RC group gathered around a paved runway laid out as a mock carrier deck complete with control tower.

I parked my car by the free flight area, gathered up about thirty pounds of camera gear, smiled, took a deep breath and headed for the front lines.

Sal Taibi had just finished removing his famous Brooklyn Dodger from the 1956 Chevy, which he had driven from California, and was carrying the model out to the flight line. He set down the flight box, gassed up the Ohlsson,



Dick Huang of Dallas, TX is the newly elected SAM Rocky Mountain VP. He flew this pretty 1413 square inch Shereshaw Cumulus in RC Antique. Yellow fuselage, red wing & tail. OS 60 power.

gave it two flips and the motor roared. Sal nonchalantly tossed it in the air and the airplane climbed like a rocket. The engine quit and the transition was perfect, evolving into a beautiful flat glide. The Dodger achieved a max on its initial test flight and the SAM Champs of 1996 was officially underway.

The Champs carried on from there for five grand and

glorious days. The weather was picture perfect, albeit Florida's normal hot and humid. Thermals were booming and models filled the air.

The following notes are a few of my personal observations made during the Champs.



Above, Don Bekins, former SAM President won Large Nostalgia RC with this red and yellow Ramrod. Johnson 35 power. Don also won Pure Texaco, C Ign. LER and O&R 23. Below, Jim Lobb of Waxahachie, TX was 1st in RC Ignition Texaco with this transparent red and white Dallaire. Shilen Torp power.



12 year old Andy Frost from Covington, LA, with his Purple & white .020 Strato Streak.



Once Sal Taibi launched his first Dodger flight, he reached into his toolbox and pulled out an empty cardboard tube from a roll of toilet paper and put it to his eye like a telescope.

I asked Sal, "What is that?" and Sal replied, "Floyd Reck told me about this. You take an empty toilet paper tube and paint it flat black on the

inside. Use it like a telescope to follow your models. Try it, it works!"

I put it to my eye and sure enough it blocked out all the peripheral light and made the formerly hard to see model stand out in the hazy sky like it was in a spotlight. Try this one guys, it works.

I became rather confused regarding RC Texaco events as they added a new RC Pure Texaco event. That gave them RC Texaco, Pure Texaco, Ignition, A, 1/2 A, and Electric Texaco. The rule book does not specify any but the Texaco, 1/2 A and Electric events. When I inquired as to what these others were

I was quickly advised to read the recent rules proposals in SAM Speaks. "Oh, said I..." "Excuuuuse Me!" The jabs around the pits were inquiries such as "What are you flying, Dirty Texaco or Pure Texaco?" Fred Mulholland stated there were 27 entries in Pure Texaco and requested that I stress in my article that the contestants "loved, absolutely loved, the Pure Texaco event." Now all I have to do is figure out what it is. I loved the new event too Fred, whatever it is.

Thirty four entries in the Jimmy Allen event. Jimmy is alive and well. Some beautiful models emerged in this rather complex and difficult to build series. The Bluebird is beautiful but it's a bear to build (been there...done that).

Klarich, Aerodyne, Hobby Supply South and Campbell were the field vendors. Lots of goodies available. Thanks to each of them for providing needed materials.

Charlie Bruce had a tough time setting up the MECA Grando Collecto as the facilities were very cramped. A mob of people and little room to browse. Prices seemed high but most vendors were willing to bargain as sales were not brisk. Is this special-



Shirley Hinson



RC CONTEST DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Fred Mulholland

Being a Floridian, I'm probably biased, but this was the best SAM Champs ever. Imagine a flying site of mowed grass, one mile square, laced with paved runways under a blue sky with light winds and puffy clouds, and you've got it. Add to this a spirited but cooperative bunch of competitors, supported by the most capable team of volunteer

contest officials, and it's a "cloud-9" experience.

One hundred and four RC contestants made 1,202 flights in 23 events, without a single propeller-induced injury. Spectators and flyers were treated to spectacular eight-man fly-offs and to Don Bekins' all-time longest official Texaco flight of one hour, 46 minutes and 39 seconds. It doesn't get any better than this.

Left, Mike Salvador from Milltown, NJ with his Hal DeBolt designed 1944 Airfoiler. Mike won RC Small Nostalgia with this pretty blue and yellow, Super Tigre 29 powered airplane. He was 3rd in Large Nostalgia using a Super Tigre 35 in the same airplane. Mike also placed 2nd in RC 1/2 A Texaco, 2nd in B Glow LER, 3rd in C Glow LER, and more. He was tied for first place Glow High

Point Champ, and even placed in the Concours. Mike had a very good week.

The other man tied for Glow High Point Champ was Tom Williams, Midwest City, OK, pictured to the left with his Nelson powered Playboy. Red and blue. Tom also won the RC Antique event, flying a Cumulus with a Webra 60.

Below is Joe Carter, of Vienna, VA, with his 1894 Fred Lanchester designed twin pusher. It took some time, and Joe had plenty of help, but he did get it to fly. Not high or far, but on that little wing, it flew.



ized market becoming saturated and the pipeline filled? The quest continues for the elusive Brown Jr. but the \$350+ McCoy 60s were being passed over.

Miss Americas swept the field in the RC antique and Brown Jr. events. I'm sure this will start a sudden demand from the plan and kit suppliers for next years events. (Is this Pure Texaco?...it used to be).

Beautifully skilled craftsmanship on all the models at the Champs. My last note reads, "Go home and burn the models before any of the SAM Champs contestants see them."

Jack Bolton and his crew are to be commended for making the 1996 SAM Champs one of the best ever. And as always the SAM Champs are the SAM members that make it what it is. They are the true Champs.

I'm going to my workshop now as the Pope is coming over to give it his blessing. Then I can get started building my very own Pure Texaco.

Old Charlie looks forward to seeing you at the SAM Champs next year in Las Vegas.

All photos by the author.