



# NatsNews

Daily Coverage of the 2011 National Aeromodeling Championships

August 10, 2011

Thursday  
RC Helicopter

Friday  
Scale Helicopter



**Inside:**



Academy of Model Aeronautics International Aeromodeling Center, Muncie IN  
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# RC Helicopter

David Ford, left, and his father, George S. Ford, are competing in their first Nats together this year at the International Aeromodeling Center in Muncie, Indiana. George competed in the Nats for the first time last year, but David is a Nats rookie.



**T**hey spent two days driving home from Florida to Illinois and never popped in the books on tape or turned on the radio. After all, George S. Ford and his son, David, had better things to do. Such as talk about life, religion, family, and, of course, helicopters.

George and David are competing in their first Nats together this year at the International Aeromodeling Center in Muncie, Indiana. George also competed in the Nats last year, but this is his 29-year-old son's first National Aeromodeling Championship. Both are competing in the Sportsman Class. As of late Tuesday afternoon, David was in first place in the class, and his father couldn't be prouder.

For much of David's life, it has been just him and his father. His mother passed away when he was eight. He is an only child. George said his wife's death really put his life in perspective.

David may be a grown man now, and soon to be a husband, but he still finds time for his father. The two travel to helicopter

competitions throughout the country during the warmer months, and fly indoors at a hockey arena near their home in Bloomington, Illinois, in the winter. The arena is rented by their model aircraft club. Both fly smaller helicopters and model airplanes indoors. David prefers large 3-D Pattern electric model airplanes, while his father is happy with electric Scale, Sport, and midsized models.

They competed in the same event for the first time in March at Cocoa Beach, Florida. They later competed in Huntsville, Alabama, in April, Dayton, Ohio, in June, and Nashville, Tennessee, in July.

George and David had dabbled in model helicopters on and off throughout the years, but didn't become serious about the sport until roughly four years ago.

"I bought him his first MCX and that lit a fire in him," George said about his son.

George was wearing shorts at the Nats on Tuesday, so the

scab on his right knee was exposed. Shortly before driving to the Nats, he fell down in a cornfield “somewhere in Illinois,” while hunting for his beloved Vibe 12E.

“The day before the Nats started, it got caught in the sun and is still in a cornfield.” George and his son searched for three days for the heli he planned to fly in the Nats. George said the helicopter came out of a loop, he was blinded by the sun, and he lost track of his helicopter when it crashed into the field. With no other options, George had to bring his “backup, backup” helicopter to the Nats. He said the Gauji Hurricane 550 is flying fine, but he misses his Vibe.

“It’s like flying a trainer in a major competition,” George said of the Gauji. He said other pilots at the Nats have offered to let him fly their models, but the thought of flying someone else’s heli makes him nervous.

George plans to stick around for the International Radio Control Helicopter Association (IRCHA) Jamboree, which starts today at the International Aeromodeling Center. However, his son is leaving Muncie after the Nats concludes so he can go on a cruise with his fiancée.

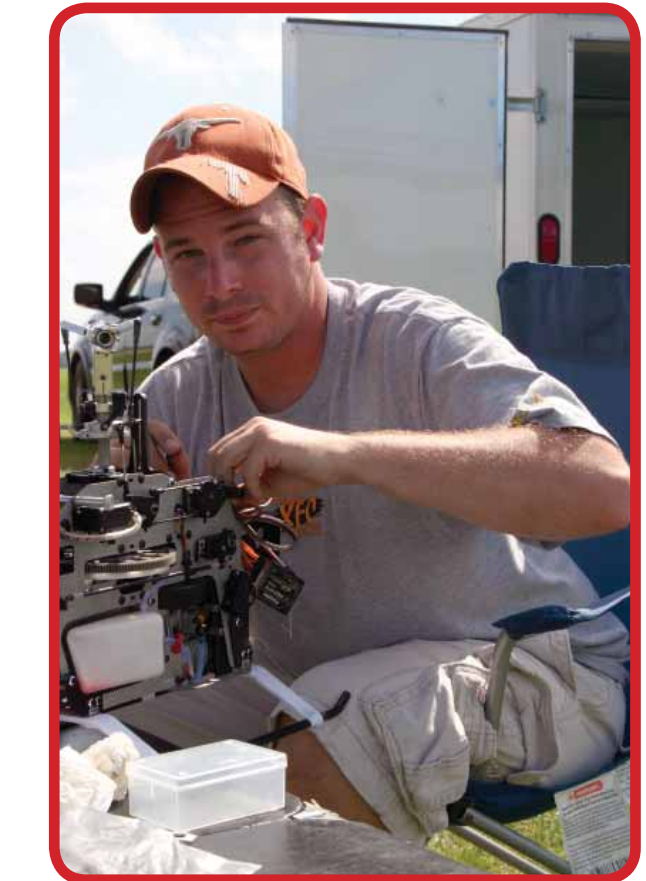
George has set up a tent to display his Vintage Scale Heim Star Ranger helicopter at the event. →

—*Rachelle Haughn*  
NatsNews staff

A competitor looks at the order in which the pilots will compete.



George S. Ford is pictured here with what he calls his “backup, backup” helicopter. The heli he planned to fly in the Nats crashed somewhere in a cornfield just before he left home for the event.



Jason Russell working on his helicopter Tuesday during the Nats.

Left: Ben Minor works on his helicopter Tuesday at the Nats.







Karen Bradley takes a well-deserved break from scoring.



# Unofficial Scores

Please note that all scores are unofficial until tabulated by Nats staff.

## Expert

1 Erich Freymann	3960.894
2 John Adams II	3886.372
3 Eyal Stein	3681.728
4 Doug Trent	3527.169
5 Dennis Purduski	3264.665
6 Timothy Tripoli	2714.125
7 John Adams	0
8 Ben Minor	0
9 Santiago Panzardi	0

## Advanced

1 Tracey Dickinson	4000
2 Robert Mairs	3818.428

## F3C

1 Curtis Youngblood	2000
2 Nicholas Maxwell	1861.531
3 Dwight Shilling	1741.471
4 Wayne Mann	1727.308
5 Nob Muraki	1579.001
6 James Haley	1571.564
7 Rolando Perez	1444.991
8 Mike Goza	1408.955
9 Dave Miles	1241.346

## Sportsman

1 David Ford	4000
2 Dennis Groves	3603.378
3 Roberto Munoz	3097.381
4 William Ramsey	2814.416
5 George Ford Sr.	2554.033
6 David Ford II	872.3958
7 Paul Strobel	0



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