District III

Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia

If you have been following AMA social media and *Model Aviation* magazine, you no doubt noticed that 2023 is the 100th anniversary of the AMA Nats. The first Nats was in 1923, as a part of the St. Louis International Air Races and the vice president of the NAA, Bernard Mulvihill, wanted to include model aviation in this full-scale event.

The model event was rubber-powered Free Flight, and the winner of the first Nats won a trophy, which would be presented yearly to the winner of the Nats. It was called the Mulvihill Trophy. This event and trophy continue today.

I had flown in 11 previous Nats, and the 100th anniversary is a big deal. I wanted to be a part of it, so I entered Fun Scale Expert with my 1/4-scale Piper Cherokee. Fun Scale allows any Scale aircraft (e.g., kit-built models and ARFs), and requires you to provide a picture of the full-scale aircraft. The Fun Scale class is popular, highly competitive, and lives up to its name!





Adam Grubb, of Lancaster OH, with his huge Wilga model.

After the dust settled, I placed second in Fun Scale Division 1. Considering my goal was to compete and enjoy the 100th anniversary of the Nats, I would say that I accomplished my mission. Thank you to all the competitors,



Keith Numbers, of Dayton OH, won first place in Designer Scale with his magnificent Royal Air Force FF8

judges, volunteers, and AMA staff for making the Scale Nats a success.

If you want a more detailed report of all of the Nats events, visit https://nats.modelaircraft.org.



Laser designer Wayne Ulrey (R) attended my TOC Laser induction into the National Model Aviation Museum.

I was saddened to learn of the passing of District III model aviation innovator and good friend, Wayne Ulrey of Springfield, Ohio. Wayne was a pioneer in aircraft design and innovative building technics. He designed and built a Pattern airplane called the EU-1 that was larger and lighter than Pattern aircraft of the day.

Wayne designed a series of RC aerobatic Scale aircraft of the Laser 200 and in 1982 at the Tournament of Champions (TOC), Wayne's Laser design was flow by 10 of the 20 contestants. Wayne continued to innovate with many more TOC designs and Pattern aircraft. Wayne's model designs were flown in many prestigious world competitions. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Wayne's wife and family.

Until next month, stay safe and fly safely.



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