



**2009 F3C WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**Sunday 2. to Wednesday 12. August**  
**FAI JURY REPORT**

**ORGANIZATION:** The 13th FAI F3C R/C Helicopter World Championship was organized by the ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS (AMA) with support from the special interest group for model helicopters the International Radio Control Helicopter Association (IRCHA). Competition information was provided in Bulletins 0, 1, 2 and 3 with final information provided on the AMA web site. The competition took place from 2. to 12. August, 2009 with 56 competitors from 21 countries registered.

**ACCOMMODATION:** The competition officials, FAI Judges, FAI Jury stayed at the "Comfort Inn" in Muncie. Most of the competitors stayed at several hotels located in Muncie. Continental breakfasts were available at the hotels each day. Lunch was served at the flying site and dinners were a free choice at many restaurants within the city of Muncie.

**FLYING SITE:** The competition took place on the very large AMA flying site. The field easily accommodated two necessary flight lines. Both flight lines were oriented facing north and were separated by over 1km. Flight line 1 was located at AMA site 5 and flight line 2 was located at AMA site 4. Each flight line had its own shelters for the competitors. A large mobile trailer at site 4 housed the computer scoring system. Another trailer at site 5 housed a secondary computer system with printer that was networked with the main computer at site 4. Canopies were used to shelter the ready boxes. Lawn chairs with umbrella canopies were supplied to the judges.

**MODEL PROCESSING:** Competitor registration took place in the AMA headquarters building on Sunday 2. August. Model processing took place at site 4 on Monday 3. August. Each model was checked for FAI sticker, proper markings and compliance with F3C rules. Prior to the event the organizer tried to get every competitor to use 2.4 GHz radios but was not successful. However, only two competitors actually used 72MHz transmitters and they were checked. The two different frequencies were monitored with a spectrum analyzer during the competition. An FAI Jury and Judges' meeting was held at 15:00 hours on Tuesday 4. August. This meeting was followed by a team manager's meeting later in the evening.

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING:** An F3C subcommittee meeting took place between 10:00 and 12:00 hours on Monday 3. August. Subjects discussed were: 1) Separate electric tail rotor motors, 2) 2010 VOLUME F3 R/C Helicopters, 3) Removing IC engine displacement limit, 4) Flybarless rotor systems, 5) F3N World Championship status, 6) 2010 F3C European Championship in Romania, 7) 2011 World Championship in Italy. It was a very successful meeting.

**OPENING CEREMONY:** The opening ceremony took place at 18:00 hours on Monday 3. August at stage center of the AMA flying site. Each participating nation carried its flag while their national anthem was played. AMA Executive Director Jim Cherry welcomed everyone to Muncie for the 13<sup>th</sup> F3C World Championship. The mayor of Muncie also said a few welcoming words. The competition was officially opened by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of CIAM Dave Brown.

**COMPETITION:** Official practice took place on Tuesday 4. Aug. The noise level was measured for each model in the start box. Several models measured 88dBa. However, the grass surface was closer to a hard surface with its 89dBa limit; thus, no models were disqualified. Three schedule "A" judges' calibrating flights were flown prior to the first preliminary round on Wednesday 5. Aug. The first preliminary rounds started at 09:00 and ended at approximately 16:30 hours each day from 5. to 8. August. Three schedule "C" warm-up flights were flown for the judges before the two fly-off rounds on Monday 10. Aug. The third fly-off round was flown on Tuesday 11. August.

**AWARD CEREMONY:** The official award ceremony took place at the flying site. FAI medals and certificates were presented to the team and individual winners by members of the FAI Jury.

**BANQUET:** The banquet took place in the ballroom of the "HORIZON" convention center in Muncie. Trophies sponsored by the host were presented to the team and individual winners. The president of the FAI Jury presented the perpetual F3C Team and World Champion trophies. Members of the FAI Jury, FAI judges' panels, competition staff and participating teams received a WCh souvenir champagne glass.

**COMMENTS:** The infrastructure of the flying site was second to none and the envy of many participants. The organizer did an excellent job of providing food and shelter to the competition officials at the flying site. Thanks to the almost exclusive use of 2.4GHz radios the need for a transmitter impound was waived. The two 72MHZ frequencies in use were monitored with a spectrum analyzer. However, the competition was longer than normal and the organizers should not have used two separate days for registration and model processing. There was no separate competition web site. Instead, the World Championship was only listed on the AMA web site. There was no sign for the World Championships at the entrance to the AMA flying site. There appeared to be few local spectators and no local press in evidence. A public address system would have been helpful to the supporters and spectators. The pilots did not wear traditional "bibs" with competitor numbers so it was very difficult to know who was actually flying at any given time. The interim listings and all the results also lacked the competitors' numbers.

**SUMMARY:** We thank the Academy of Model Aeronautics and its R/C helicopter special interest group IRCHA and the entire competition staff coming from different parts of the USA for running the 13<sup>th</sup> F3C World Championship in a fair and friendly atmosphere. Last but not least, we thank the FAI Judges for their hard work.

The FAI Jury: Horace Hagen - USA (President)  
Jo Halman - GBR  
Dag Eckhoff - NOR