



AIR SHOW

Email digital pictures of you and your aircraft to editors@flyrc.com, and send a note describing your plane. If you have any flight shots, please include them!

by Sam Jay & Beverly Hudson ■ Gibsons, British Columbia

Frank Jaerschky won in the Best Warbird category with his Albatross C.III. He brought along a stunning collection of planes.

Chilliwack Fly-In

Set in Chilliwack, British Columbia, in the beautiful Fraser Valley, Canada's largest annual electric RC airplane event draws pilots from all over Southwest Canada. With a gesture of international hospitality, the event is scheduled to coincide with the U.S.'s Memorial Day weekend, so it's a very practical trip for U.S. pilots throughout the Pacific Northwest.

This event is special because without an industry sponsor in sight, it is driven by those who love modeling and flying and the friendships that such events naturally lead to. Pilots, friends and families gather at two flying sites—a conventional grass field and a nearby lake for float flying—and this also makes the weekend unique.



Pilots and planes take a break from the blustery breezes at the Saturday-morning float-fly.

BUILDERS' SHOWCASE

Chilliwack becomes a show-and-tell for dedicated modelers and their efforts, which have been created during the long win-



Frank Jaerschky scratch-built his Twin Otter from plans designed by Anton Elsele.

PHOTOS BY BEVERLY HUDSON



Luke Middleton's expression tells us that his Solent has lifted off the water for its first flight.



Ivan Pettigrew's Angel on approach with the beautiful Fraser Valley Mountains in the background.



Sam Jay preflights his Wattage J3 Cub with GWS floats.



We missed Colin's last name, but love his scratch-built Grumman Goose.

ter building season. Many pilots prepare far in advance by designing and building numerous special projects that they unveil at this annual four-day event.

A few of the regular master builders, Ivan Pettigrew, Hal Norrish, Martin Hunter and others, always present truly amazing works of art. You never know what to expect. Accenting the excitement this year, some new attendees presented projects that ranked right up there with those of more experienced modelers.

Perhaps this year's emotional high



Sam added details to make his Wattage J3 Cub and pilot, Barney, look like the real thing.



Left: Ivan Pettigrew's all-time favorite flying boat—his scratch-built 100-inch Short Solent—makes a pass along the beach and shows Ivan's piloting skills. This graceful flyer is powered by four Permox 480 motors and has MP-Jet Speed 400 gearboxes. Right: Beverly "Mrs. Tracon" Hudson gives us a sense of scale next to the big boat.



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Built by Martin Hunter, Rick Bell's Waco YMF-5 gently lifts off the runway on its first flight.



Kody Knutson displays his 3D talent with his "Freedom" in patriotic livery.



Greeted with cheers as he carries his Solent, Luke won the Best Seaplane award for his efforts.



Greg Heath's sporty-looking Baby Bullet was among the unique small models.



Master modeler Hal Norrish with his Twin Otter decked out in Canadian Forces Search and Rescue colors.



Luke Middleton's Air Camper—another beautiful model from this talented builder.



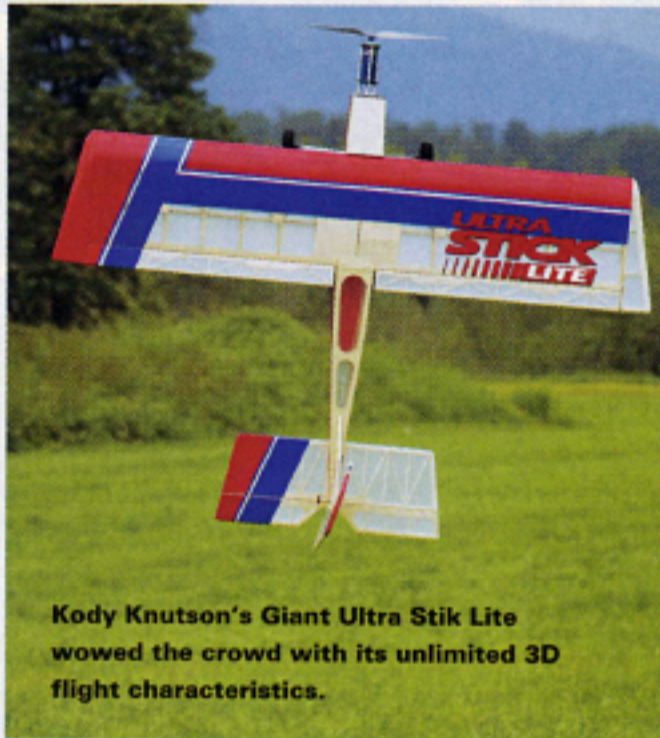
After being trimmed, Luke's Solent flies its first show pass.

came when Luke Middleton took his Short Solent up on its very first flight. Built from plans drawn by Ivan Pettigrew, this 82-inch beast powered by four GWS "F" series Speed 400 motors took Luke more than 18 months to build. It's his first large-scale building project, and he led many modelers along on his 18-month journey in his popular *RC Groups* thread titled "Short Solent Built from Plans by Mostly Novice Guy." Having completed the Solent only a couple of weeks before Chilliwack, Luke discovered during some taxiing tests that it could not take off from his small home pond. Its first flight had to wait. After his first failed takeoff attempt in Chilliwack, Luke changed props. With the second attempt, everyone on the beach waited anxiously. Then the Solent accelerated briskly and effortlessly lifted off the water and clinched the award for Best Seaplane. What a collective sigh of relief! The camaraderie and assistance Ivan and other onlookers provided was typical and is one of the main reasons that the Chilliwack Fly-In has become so popular.

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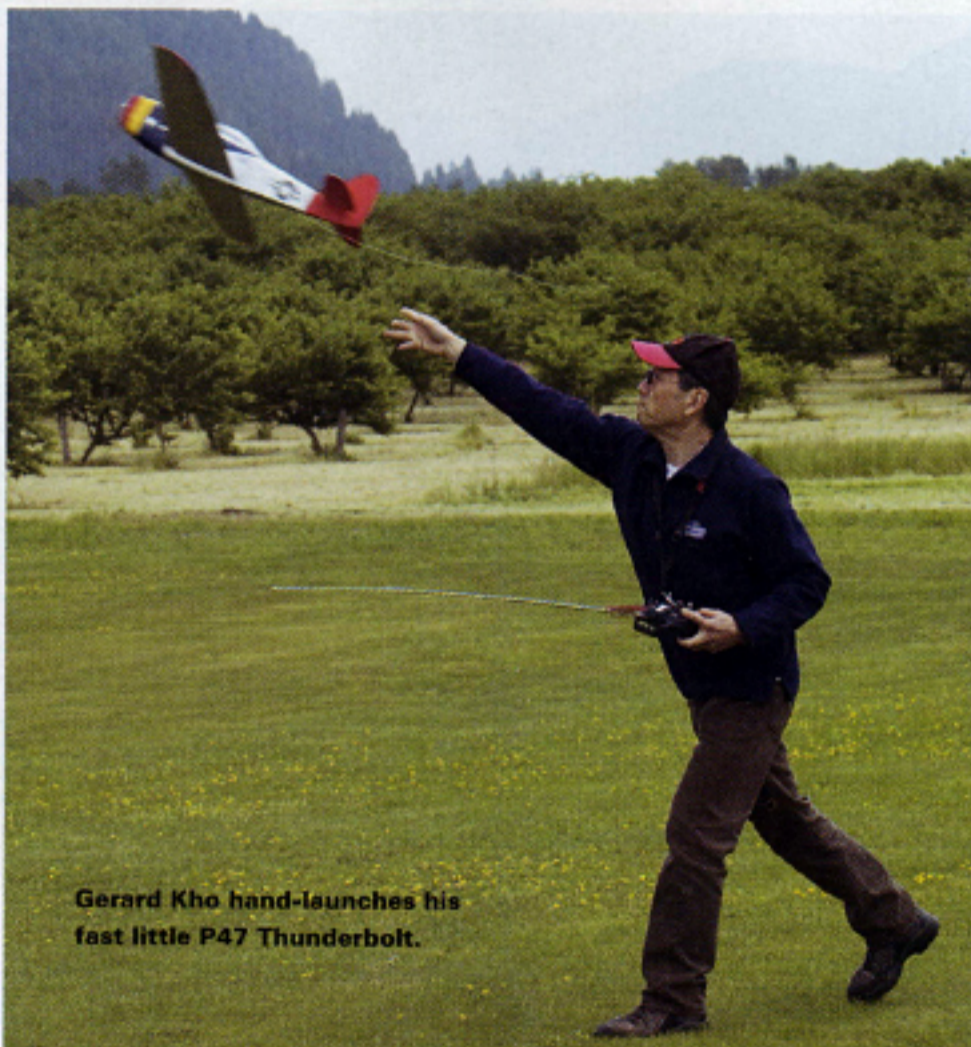
Ken Stuhr's Alpha Models Focke-Wulf Ta-183 Hucklebein from Hobby Lobby is one of his many German fighters.



Kody Knutson's Giant Ultra Stik Lite wowed the crowd with its unlimited 3D flight characteristics.



Frank Jaerschky's beta build of the DH2 Aircos from Pat Tittle's design.



Gerard Kho hand-launches his fast little P47 Thunderbolt.



Ken Stuhr used Pat Tittle's design to build his DH2 Aircos—complete with a rotary motor! Ken and Frank put on quite a show flying their Aircos in tandem.



This large Bristol Freighter with many scale details was designed and built by Ivan Pettigrew and is now owned and flown by Tim Horsfall.

NEXT YEAR

The Chilliwack Spring Fly-In continues to be a success, and it grows every year. All the pilots appreciate the dedication of the field's owner, Ron Dodd, and the Fraser Valley RC Flyers. You can visit Team Tracon at its website for more information, and be sure to mark your calendars for May 23 through 26, 2008. This event is not to be missed. ☺

Links

Ivan Pettigrew Plans, www.geocities.com/ivansplans/index.htm

RC Groups, www.rcgroups.com

RC Smoke, a division of Regin HVAC Products Inc., www.regin.com/rcsmoke.html (203) 881-2600

Team Tracon, www.teamtracon.com

For more information, please see our source guide on page 185.



After a failed takeoff attempt, Sam Jay attempts to shut down the "RC Smoke" smoke system on his 66-inch Axi-powered Vector Flight 300S Extra.