



Raleigh-Durham Radio Control

Volume 18, Issue 8

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

September 2009



PRESIDENT'S PROP-WASH

Un.....be.....lievable!

That's the first word that comes to my mind when I think about FFT 2009. Despite the economy, jobs being lost, and most all of us feeling the pinch it puts on all of us, WE pulled together along with all of our friends and made it happen. Not only did we reach our goal of \$25,000, but as in years past, exceeded it. On the Friday before the event you would have had a tough time convincing me we would even reach \$15,000 or \$20,000. Not that our hearts were not in it, or we were willing to put forth the effort. The weather forecast was less than desirable, and many of us worried if the public and long distance modelers would make the trip. Well, make it they did! Not only the modelers, but spectators. Again, it was unbelievable. We had spectators in the thousands both Saturday

AND Sunday! Thanks in large part to the Raleigh News and Observer. They ran an article in the Sunday morning paper that generated a lot interest with the public that morning. Several spectators informed us they had read about our event in the paper that morning and decided to come see what it was all about. Unlike years past, we filled both parking lots on Sunday as well. This friend is what put us over the top so far as reaching our goal. Last year we were very fortunate to have three very large contributors to our event totaling close to \$6000 among the three of them. As it should be, they chose to support different charitable organizations this year. Again, this was the right thing to do. Knowing this ahead of time many of us wondered how we could make up for this. Well, pack those parking lots full two days in a row, sell a whole lot of raffle tickets, and move a couple of thousand burgers and hot dogs across the counter and there ya go!

Jacqui reported to me she bought more food this year than last, yet they nearly ran out on Saturday afternoon. I made my way by the food tent only once during the weekend, and was blown away how fast that crew was moving. The lines never got too long, and the food was awesome. Thanks to all of the crew that served, cooked, and collected money. By the way, Matt Houghton vowed to make the grill pit "His baby" in years to come. That boy can take a 25 cent hamburger patty and make it taste like prime rib! I really appreciate you taking that part of the event on Matt. This is yet another example of how we keep pulling this event off so well. Folks taking on one segment of the event, and offering to head it up. It's the only way we can do it folks. There's just no way a single, or even a few members can do all of the work required at this event. Take Bob Richards for example. Last year Bob and Martha came up with a great idea for disposing of trash. "Let's get a big dumpster out there" he says. Well, Friday morning comes and in drives this big truck. It didn't have a BIG dumpster. It had a HUGE dumpster. Holy Cow!!!! What was Bob thinking? Well now we know. When the truck picked up that huge dumpster Monday morning, it was FULL. Bob didn't stop at the good idea though. He also volunteered to empty all of the barrels throughout the event. This friend is NOT the best job at FFT. But still he did it. Bob took on that responsibility again this year and I can't thank him enough.

There are so many I need to thank for so much. Like Josh "Hot Dog" Bunn and Wes Ryman for handling all of the registration duties. Being the CD of the event, it's actually my job to do this. I'm supposed to check every AMA card, see that everyone signs their name, and collect money. No way could I pull that off at FFT. Three years ago while all heck was breaking loose, Josh told me to get out from under the tent and let him handle it. I was trying to answer questions, collect money, etc, and run up and down the flight line in between. Anyway, Josh took that job on, and remains there to this day. When it's all over, Josh hands me all of the paper work, filled out and in proper order. I simply fill

Visit the club website at www.rd-rc.org

out a couple of CD forms and mail it in to AMA. Thanks Hot Dog. I still owe ya buddy.

So many more to thank such as,,, Radio Impound=Marshal and Clyde. Raffle Sales= Big Jim, Ken Wade, Blair Price. These guys are regulars every year. Parking duties from John Knoy and Mark Lofgren. Grass mowing by Randy Long and Dave Hockaday.. The FFT web-site being produced and maintained by Chris Hockaday. I know Chris would love to get a dollar for every time I called him saying, *“Hey Dude.....I need you to make one more change on the site”*

I also want to thank Dave Langridge for his efforts in getting the media involved this year. This has been a long going battle in past years that rendered few positive results. Well, through the help of AMA, Dave L., and quite a few e-mails, we finally got our event in the sights of the media. Not only did we get in the News and Observer and Rolesville Buzz, but we even had a small segment of WRAL TV! Which leads me to another big thank you. Mr. Jason Jarvis as many of you will remember, organized what turned out to be RDRC’s greatest static display ever! He has developed a great relationship with the folks at North Hills Mall, and they want us back again! This mall show is what led to our coverage on WRAL TV. Thanks Jason.

And of course I can’t go without thanking my great friend and flying buddy Robert. Everyone knows what Robert has done to help move this event forward. He has brought a new level of professionalism to this event, and continually adds more color to it yearly. FFT has become THEE event to attend in NC, and now it is gaining national recognition it so much deserves. Robert Vess has had a big hand in that effort, and I just can’t tell you all how much it means to have a friend like him. Ya know...a long time back when Robert and I jumped in my wife’s little Bronco truck and headed to a fly-in in Sanford NC, I had no idea where that trip or our friendship would lead to. That was 20 years ago this summer. It sure has been fun my friend.....I’m looking forward to the next 20!

And the list thank you’s goes on..... Again, I appreciate all of the help so many of you have offered up in this year’s event and years past. It does my heart good to know I spend a great portion of my life with people as kind and giving as you. I’m very proud to be part of such a great group.

Now...What about next year. Well.....it’s going to be BIGGER folks! Just in case you didn’t know, AMA will be doing a nice feature article in Model Aviation. Jay Smith of MA was also in attendance this year, and he liked what he saw! He interviewed several people, took a ton of pictures, and plans to publish all of that in the near future, Lets see.....that’s about 166,000 folks across the country that’ll be reading about FFT. I’d say that’s a pretty good start to growing this event for its 20th year. I can’t wait. ;)

See you all at the field,















Raleigh-Durham Radio Control

Volume 18, Issue 8

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

September 2009

c/o Dave Langridge BEM
1019 Askham Dr
Cary, NC 27511

TO:

