

F3A RC WORLD AEROBATICS CHAMPIONSHIP

Don Szczur

Some updates from Italy. Club member Joseph Szczur participated in the 2019 F3A RC Aerobatics World Championships in Italy.

Picture 1. Joseph and Don Szczur in Italy - picture taken during the finals. Joseph finished 11th and flew the warmup flights for the judges.



Picture 2. The practice field. This field was about an hour away from the contest site in Calcinatello (between Milan and Venice, Italy) and we practiced at this site during the week prior to the competition. Notice the netting around the pits area. This kind of netting is common at many fields in Italy, for safety purposes.



Picture 3 Preparing to fly at site B during the preliminary rounds of the F3A World Championships. There were two sites (A and B) which competitors alternated flying each day. Site A was a paved runway and site B was a fairly narrow (carpeted) runway carved out of a cornfield. Weather was perfect most of the week and competitors got ideal flying conditions- little to no wind. There were several competitors that flew the same type of plane Joseph flew- CK Aero/ Extreme Composites model called Alchemy (as shown).



Picture 4 (attached). The finalists with their aircraft. Winner was Christophe Paysant Le Roux from France, 2nd was Tetsuo Onda from Japan, and third was Gernot Bruckmann from Austria. The U.S. pilots were Andrew Jesky (5th), Jason Shulman (8th) and Joseph (11th) and Brett Wickizer (12th). Joseph was not part of the US team but received an automatic invite back for the 2019 world championships since he was the 2017 reigning Junior World Champion. The new Junior World Champion is Kal Reifsnnyder from the USA. Kal finished as the highest placing Junior (under 18 years old).



Picture 5 (omitted, not enough room). Joseph with the new World Champion Christophe Paysant Le Roux. We renewed old friendships and made many new ones. This event called F3A is the oldest RC world championships event, going back to 1960. The Italian RC Modelers Association (FIAM) published a 1-inch thick book documenting how RC was originally developed in the 1950s and the book contained loads of details on each world championships - and how they drove innovation in the hobby.