

Dear Competitor
Dear R/C Helicopter Enthusiast
Dear Visitor

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 3rd Radio Control Helicopter World Championships.

For the newcomer to our sport I would like to provide a little background information.

Our section of the aeromodelling fraternity is relatively new. The first successful radio controlled helicopter was flown in 1970 by Dieter Schlueter of the Federal Republic of Germany. Additional pioneering efforts followed and during the formative years many modelers (some with fixed wing experience) tried this activity only to find out that R/C helicopters required much greater attention to details. Many modelers considered helicopters as too complicated, time consuming, expensive and difficult to fly.

Early competitions were centered around the unique hovering ability of a helicopter. As pilots became more proficient, aerobatic maneuvers like loops and rolls were introduced. In the early 1980's international competitions were organized in Belgium and these led to the first World Championship competition class (F3C) approved by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI) in 1983. Since that time many improvements were made to the FAI maneuver schedule and in 1988 a new program was approved by the FAI Committee for International Aero Modeling (CIAM). Today, very sophisticated helicopter kits, radio control systems and engines are being produced throughout the world. Today's FAI schedule consists of four hovering and five aerobatic maneuvers as shown in the accompanying figure. At this level of competition the pilots must endure a very rigorous training program. The maneuver schedule is also very demanding of the model because it must be tuned to perform both types of maneuvers which represent a set of conflicting requirements. The entire maneuver schedule must be completed in ten minutes.

The five approved international judges are trained to look for perfection in each maneuver. Each maneuver is awarded a score between zero and ten points with half point resolution. For each maneuver the high and low scores are dropped and this results in a maximum score per round of 270 points. The World Champion will be determined by the best three rounds.

Each model helicopter must meet stringent requirements. The models must be certified by the participant's national aeroclub and must not exceed a weight of 6 kilograms. The maximum engine displacement is 10 cubic centimeters (.61 cubic inch). Each participating country has selected up to three of its best pilots to compete in this event. A minimum of four days are allocated to this prestigious competition with one round flown per day.

I would like to thank all of the members of the organizing committee without whose help this competition could not take place. A special thanks goes to the "Tidewater Whirlybirds" club for their efforts in preparing the contest site.

It is my sincere wish that you enjoy your stay in the Chesapeake area and that you will take home many happy memories and new friendships. The organizing committee and I will do everything we can to assure a fair and friendly competition.

The best of luck to all'.
Horace G. Hagen' - Event Director'