



EVERYTHING YOU WANTED
TO KNOW ABOUT TEAM
USA, BUT WERE AFRAID TO
ASK

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Manager 2018



THE USA HAS A SPACEMODELING TEAM?

One of 25 countries that fly in international competitions.

Fly in contests sanctioned by the FAI.

Mostly held in Eastern European countries, with notable exceptions.

Team selection is done by competitive flyoffs at NARAM.

Competitions include world cup events held here in the States, too.



FEDERATION AERONAUTIQUE INTERNATIONALE



Sounds foreign. It IS! That's why we call it the FAI.

International governing body for all aerospace sports and records:

- Full size aircraft races
- Altitude and speed records
- Model aircraft and rockets

Based in Switzerland.

Several committees including the Spacemodelling Sub Committee.

Bureaucratic, can take time and effort to change rules.





BUT IT'S MODEL ROCKETRY, RIGHT?

Yes. For the most part the competitions are like what we have flown in NAR competition, with some minor, but important details-

- Most events are flown at A impulse
- Most events have minimum dimension requirements

Since the dimensions are set, more emphasis is on building lighter.

- Fiberglass and epoxy composites
- Vellum and vacuum formed plastics

Flying is done in rounds (more on that later)





MAKING THE TEAM

World Championships are held every 2 years. On the off cycle a competitive flyoff is held in conjunction with NARAM.

The top 3 finalists in an event are chosen for the team.

Recovery of the models is not required.

For craftsmanship events, a previously built scale model may be entered.

For Seniors, you may be on a maximum of 2 event teams.

For Juniors, depending on the number of team members, you may have more than 2.



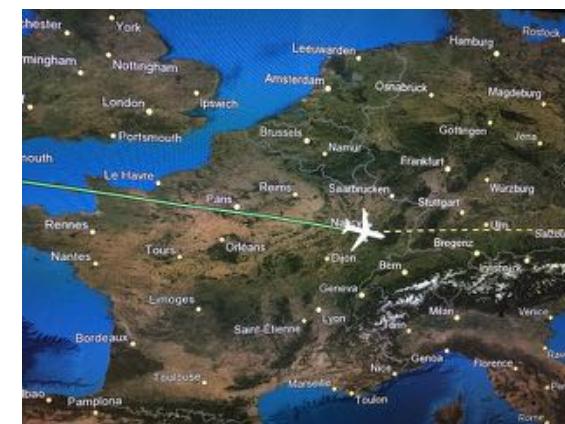
YOU CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE

Travel is self funded.

Sometimes there are no direct flights into Bulgaria.

Plan on at least one layover, in western Europe. Try to leave a day for luggage to catch up to you.

Extra baggage fees and extra weight fees are brutal. Model boxes should be light and sturdy.





WE'LL LEAVE THE LIGHT ON FOR YOU, MAYBE

Hotels vary in number and quality at any given WSMC.

US Team usually stays at the best available accommodations.

The Ramada Scale applies.

I have never experienced a hotel I wouldn't stay at normally.

Center city hotels, vacation resorts, thermal spas have all hosted competitors.





LONG DAYS

Most competition days start before dawn and end after dusk.

Travel to the field by bus.

Everyone is busy- even when it's not your event day.

Flying in rounds, 3 teammates must get their flights off in each round.

Must return at least 1 of 3 flights.

Award ceremony by headlights at the field.

Late dinners.

Do it again the next day.





IS IT FUN?

So fun it should be illegal.

Benefits of meeting new people and experiencing new places far outweigh the downsides.

You are representing your country and you have the chance to bring home a medal.





TELL ME MORE

One stop shop for information: <http://www.nar.org/contest-flying/fai-spacemodeling/>

Articles in Sport Rocketry.

Ask a team member, they don't bite. Much.

PHOTOS





DON'T TRUST ME?

Name	Residence	E-Mail	Events
Bob Always	Otsego, MI	robertalway@charter.net	S1, S6
Trip Barber	Springfield, VA	ahbarber@alum.mit.edu	S1, S2P, S3, S4, S6, S9
Matthew Berk	Washington, DC	matthew@msberk.net	S2P, S4, S8
James Duffy	Georgetown, TX	jduffy@mac.com	S3, S5, S7
Jim Filler	Glen Burnie, MD	zog139@yahoo.com	S3, S5
Chris Flanigan	San Diego, CA	ccflanigan@alum.mit.edu	S1, S2P, S3, S4, S7, S9
Steve Foster	Leechburg, PA	steve72814@yahoo.com	S4
George Gassaway	Medina, MN	gcgassaway@yahoo.com	S3, S4, S6, S7, S8, S9
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