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Local Model Aviator Earns Place On United States Scale Modeling Team

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By Staff Reports

Peter Fynn, a member of Dare County Radio Control Flyers, recently competed in a national scale modeling event hosted by the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) in Muncie, Indiana with his entry of a quarter-scale 1930 Southern Martlet biplane. His efforts at this competition resulted in a third-place finish in the F4H scale aeromodeling category—winning him a coveted spot on the United States scale modeling team that will compete at the International Scale Modeling Championships in Buckminster, United Kingdom (UK) in July 2026.

Peter's work for this recent event began back in 2019 with him traveling to England to view the actual full-size aircraft he used to pattern his model. There, he took hundreds of photographs and measurements that ultimately allowed him to draw the plans necessary to construct his model.

Over the next five years he carefully fabricated parts for the aircraft's frame, primarily from balsa wood, then meticulously assembled them, before finally covering the entire air-frame with fabric and dope that was typically used on aircraft of that period. Other parts were replicated using various metals, with the engine cylinders and exhaust stacks being 3D-printed to ensure accuracy, down to the number of vanes on each cylinder! When completed, the model, with its 6.25-foot wingspan was powered by an electric motor and controlled in flight using a radio control transmitter to operate the aircraft's control surfaces.

The recent competition involved a detailed static evaluation of his aircraft by a panel of judges, followed by flying the aircraft through a series of nine prescribed maneuvers.

According to Dare County Radio Control Flyers president, Jim Davis, “All of our members our very proud of Peter's selection to the team that will represent our country on an international level in the UK, and we commend him for his modeling efforts and skill as a pilot.” Davis added that the club's members frequently fly at their field in Manns Harbor and welcomes anyone with an interest in learning to fly model aircraft to contact him for further details.

As a self-supporting, nonprofit organization, Dare County Radio Control Flyers is always looking for new members to share in their family-friendly model aviation activities. The club was chartered in 1989 by the AMA and promotes aeromodeling as a recreational activity to residents of the Outer Banks and surrounding areas. The club's current membership includes those from a variety of educational and life-experience backgrounds, ranging from 12 to 96 years of age.

Membership is open to anyone, regardless of experience level, and to encourage families to enjoy the

hobby together, family memberships at a discounted rate are available.

Further information is available on the club's website at dcrfcf.club, their Facebook page, or by contacting them by phone or text-message at 252-656-2FLY (2359).



Peter Fynn and his quarter-scale Southern Martlett.
Photograph: Courtesy of Skip Wescott