

MODEL AVIATION ON DVD



Did you know that there are hundreds, perhaps more than a thousand, model aviation tapes and DVDs available? Not many new model pilots do. But there they are anyway. Many manufacturers offer educational videos detailing every subject from basic construction through the fine points of turbine engine tuning. "Bloopers" tapes showing spectacular, but sometimes painful to watch, piloting missteps and accidents (read crunch crashes) are also available.

There are many videos covering most of model aviation's largest events. Events such as the Scale Masters, the Tournament of Champions, Joe Nall and the Jet Rally are fun to watch and educational. One of the largest, and best known, model aviation video manufacturers is SKS Video Productions in Abbottstown, PA. One of their many new videos is a DVD of the 2004 Joe Nall Fly-in.



Photo 1

Held at Triple Tree Aerodrome in Woodruff, SC, The Joe Nall Fly-in is one of model aviation's largest events. The 2004 Fly-in hosted over 500 model pilots flying more than 600 aircraft on five flight lines. Pilots came from all over the world as well as from America. German pilots, Spanish pilots, pilots from Argentina and Australia, Canadian pilots and flyers from several other countries all spent a happy few days drilling holes in the warm Carolina skies. There were even three major full-size aerobatic shows this year.

The Joe Nall Fly-in is designed for larger aircraft and is not a competitive event. Pilots are there to have some fun flying their models, to see old friends and to make many new ones. There are also many manufacturers featuring new products. If you ever have the chance to attend, go there. But if you can't, then let SKS Video Productions bring it to life for you.



Photo 2

SKS videos have the knack to make you feel you are attending the event. The video work is very high quality, the subject is always handled in detail and all the major facets of the event are fully covered. In fact, you sometimes see more in their videos than you do attending yourself. The photos shown in this brief review are *actually monitor photos*. If monitor photos are this good, you know the actual DVD photography is excellent.



Photo 3



Photo 4

Put the DVD in the player and let's drive through the Triple Tree Aerodrome gate (photo 2) for this visit to the 2004 Joe Nall Fly-in. First, find a place to setup shop somewhere in the crowd (photo 3). Then put your airplane together and get out to the flightline (photo 4).



Photo 5



Photo 6

Walk down the flightline and meet Karlheinz Ruf from Germany. His new Revolution has a 136 in. wingspan and is 46% the size of its full-size counterpart. Actually, that should be the other way around. The full-size aircraft is 218% the size of the model. Why, because the model was built and flown first to pave the way for the full-size aircraft.



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10

There are many interviews with pilots, each shown with their aircraft in detail. Every aircraft then is shown in flight for several minutes. One interesting point is that every flight is followed by a landing. That may appear strange, but videos that feature aircraft in flight without showing their landing seem to be somehow lacking something. That is never a problem in this video.



Photo 11



Photo 12



Photo 13



Photo 14

The flight photos are varied and extensive. There were lots of scale aerobatic maneuvers and plenty of fast flybys, especially by the turbine powered F-15. Probably few full-size B-29s could perform an inverted pass like the giant one in photo 16. But then how many B-29s had dropped a rocket powered Bell X-1 just before the low pass?



Photo 15



Photo 16



Photo 17

Speaking of aerobatics, some of model aviation communities "Greats" are also featured. Former US Precision Aerobatic Champion Jason Schulman put on some great 3-D aerobatic demonstrations with his Electric Powered Funtana (Photo 18). Former Tournament of Champions winner and Precision Aerobatic US Champion Quique Somenzini flew his Yak 54 so close that he could have climbed into the cockpit (Photo 19). I wonder if he flies that close so he can read the instrument panel?



Photo 18



Photo 19

By now, you are getting the idea that Joe Nall 2004 was quite a modeling event. There was even a 50-acre lake for model seaplanes (photo 20). You would be right and this video covers it all. But there were more than models flying at Joe Nall. Mark Chapman was there with his new Cap 580

(photo 22). Mike Mancuso flew his Extra 300L (photo 21) while Fred Johnson and Mark Hanley put on quite a show with their AT-6 Texans (photo 23). And this video did a good job taking us right into the full-size action.



Photo 20



Photo 21



Photo 22



Photo 23

SKS Video was able to insert real-time cockpit shots as the full size-aircraft went through their maneuvers (photo 22). This feature enhanced the video experience. That was something you could not see even if you attended the event.



Photo 24



Photo 25

The video even visits Manufacturer's Row, where airplane and accessory manufacturers exhibited their newest products (photo 24). Then you can join the 1,200 attendees at the daily barbeque (photo 25).

For less than \$20, this video is a great introduction to "Big Time" model aviation, a 110 minute "you are there" experience and a great sample of all the model aviation videos that are available.

For more information about this video and all the others that are available, go to:

www.sksvideo.com