

Remote-controlled aircraft show fills UNI-Dome



70° F

Sponsored by:

Current Conditions

Story Discussion Image (7)

Font Size: - +

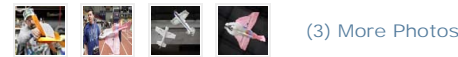
By JON ERICSON, jonathan.ericson@wfcourier.com | Posted: Sunday, February 20, 2011 9:00 am | (0) Comments

2 retweet Recommend Confirm You recommend this. Admin Page Insights Error



Terry Floss of Evansdale makes a repair to one of his planes during a practice run at the Black Hawk RC Pilots E/xpo indoor electric fly-in at the UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls, Iowa Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011. (RICK CHASE / Courier Staff Photographer)

Buy this photo



(3) More Photos

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa --- Some of the moves seemed so delicate it could have been ballet.

But Kevin Walker managed hover, flip and roll moves all with the use of only his thumbs.

At a remote-control aircraft show style points matter, and Walker had all the skills to impress.

Walker was one of dozens of pilots to launch light battery-powered aircraft inside the UNI-Dome Saturday.

Most of the aircraft were made of foam, affectionately called "foamies" by their owners. The planes are powered by electric batteries, giving pilots about five minutes of hard flying before they need to be recharged.

Black Hawk RC Pilots, the local remote-control flight club, sponsors the annual Expo event and brings in enthusiasts from across Iowa and many neighboring states.

Nathan Jones, 15, came to the show with his family, who hail from Lewisburg, Kan. He flew a hand-crafted foam plane that looked similar to Superman, from the briefs and extended arms to the cape flowing behind. Jones calls his creation Phlatman.

"It's fun to mess around on sketch-up, but it's hard to finish it off and make it fly," Jones said.

He got Phlatman into the air and coaxed it into performing graceful barrel rolls. It encouraged the other creators of more offbeat planes to take off as well. Phlatman was joined in the air by a pterodactyl, a circle the owner referred to as a nut roll, and a flying pig.

Along the way there were also motorized kites made of nylon, balloon helicopters powered by air and a cargo plane from which a little plastic man parachuted to the ground.

Walker said it's pretty easy, and inexpensive, to get the hang of flying the remote-control planes. The Ankeny man mostly flies giant scale aircraft outdoors and even owns a company that builds such craft. But once a year, he joins his dad, Mike Walker, to come back and fly the smaller craft.

"It's a lot of fun to come to the UNI-Dome. It's about the only place in the country where there is this much space to fly," said the younger Walker.

His father had gotten him into remote-control flight back when Kevin was only 3 or 4 years old. Now the elder Walker doesn't fly much anymore, either, but still looks forward to the UNI-Dome event. One of his favorite parts is the end of the event, when flyers take planes they don't much care for and have aerial

Featured Businesses



d'vine Medical Spa



TnK Health Food Store

As the Cedar Valley's oldest "Total natural Kar..."

Find:

Home contractors, pizza, beauty salons

Near:

City & State, or Zip Code

Browse the full business directory

Most Popular

Most Read Most Commented Facebook

- Sara's Web: Dying Cedar Falls woman inspired thousands with her blog
- Rural West Union family chosen for new home from 'Extreme Makeover: Home Edition'
- Cedar Falls police looking for man who dripped paint on downtown sidewalks
- NEW DETAILS: Waverly police officer among those hurt in head-on crash
- UPDATE: Waterloo police find missing woman deceased
- Cedar Falls man arrested for drunken driving in Waterloo crash
- Sara A. Frankl (1973-2011)
- Woman arrested for allegedly stealing from lawyer's office

Marketplace

Jobs Homes

E-mail Alerts



Newsletters

Daily Headlines

UNI Sports

combat.

"I like a good midair (collision) once in a while," Mike Walker said.

The Expo continues today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Spectators will be admitted for \$5, and pilots can register at the site.

Copyright 2011 wfcourier.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Posted in Local on Sunday, February 20, 2011 9:00 am Updated: 8:51 pm. | Tags: Kevin Walker, Uni-dome, Black Hawk Rc Pilots, Nathan Jones, Lewisburg, Mike Walker

Print Email ShareThis

Other Stories

- Decorah readies for royal couple from Norway to visit
- Charles City to hold BrewFest
- NE Iowa group seeking input on mental health services
- Deere to add two construction equipment factories in Brazil
- Anamosa police officer dies on duty
- Cedar Falls tourism group sets grants
- Rural West Union family chosen for new home from 'Extreme Makeover: Home Edition'
- WEATHER VIDEO: Good morning -- sunny and warm today

Sponsored Links

Today's Deal
Circulation Promotions
Ticket Giveaways
Entertainment
Headlines

Email:

Twitter/Facebook

Follow @wfcourier · 2,083 followers

Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier on Facebook

You like this. · / Page · Insights
You like this. · / Page · Insights

2,829 people like **Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier**. 2,828 people like **Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier**.

Facebook social plugin

Connect with Us

RSS E-Edition
Twitter Facebook
Mobile Text Alerts
Mobile Apps Email Alerts

Sections

- Homepage
- News
- Opinion
- Sports
- Pulse
- Obituaries
- Classified
- Jobs
- Cars
- Homes

Services

- Find Waterloo Area Businesses
- Find Waterloo Jobs
- Advertise on Our Site
- Contact Us
- About Us
- E-edition
- Subscriber services
- Events Calendar
- RSS

Other Websites

- Panther Mania
- ISU Sports
- Cedar Valley Pulse
- Cedar Valley Preps
- Cedar Valley Business Monthly
- Cedar Valley Home and Garden
- Parade of Homes
- Weddings

Search



- A Lee Enterprises subsidiary
- Other Lee Websites

