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Early evening on Friday I attended the indoor segment of SMALL located in the North Little Rock High School gym. The school has been very supportive of SMALL and provides its gym free of charge for the event. Of course the indoor models have just as much variety as the outdoor models. Ken Spencer brought a beautiful *Antoinette*, a gorgeous model powered by a GWS C drive and two 1200 lithium polymer cells. Ken's model, built from a Sig kit, has an amazingly detailed scale dummy engine. Ken ROG'ed it in the gym and it flew with a lot of grace. Ken later insisted that I have a flight on his *Pinky* biplane built from *RC Microflight* plans (Feb. 2004). The model flew so well, and was so gentle, that I found it impossible to make a mistake. I might have to build one of these.

Indoor 3D flier, Gary Jones brought a *Mix*

**Voted best scale** model at SMALL, Chris Sweeney's 1911 Avro, built from plans, impressed everyone with its excellent craftsmanship and stable flight performance. Chris used a Magnum .25 for power.

FLYING MODELS

Unusual in a more genteel way was Randy Randolph's old timer inspired Waco, an original design powered with a GWS S1 motor and a 9-volt Ni-Cd as it threaded its

was another perfect flying day. It was almost too perfect and some modelers were hoping for a bit more wind. Not me howev-





er, as I was flying one of Steve Adams' newest creations, his 27-inch 7-ounce *Swanson*. This model was designed to be powered by either a .010, .020, or a GWS S2 electric motor. It prefers light air and has classic old timer lines with all-sheet construction. Steve and I were so charmed with the spirit of SMALL that we decided, in the middle of our *Swanson* flight, to "share our joy" with one of the inspirations of the design, Joe Wagner. Joe was reluctant at first but we insisted and while this seemed like a great idea, we did overlook one minor but critical point. We neglected to point out the correct model among the five that were flying at the moment and watched in horror as our model spiraled into the ground while Joe skillfully flew another model soaring in the clouds. Not all things turn golden at SMALL.

Mr. Wagner and I later had a great rambling conversation that ranged from theatrical set design to how people divide by zero all the time. Go figure. Of course, I did all the listening. You can never tell what you

men or modeling and it pays to listen well.

A later moment that brought the field to a pause was the dramatic debut of Chris Sweeney's 1911 Avro biplane. Chris is a local from Little Rock. His Avro, a scale masterpiece, was powered by a Magnum .25 and looked spectacular flying down the flight line. Chris took home the trophy for best powered scale for his efforts.

Last but not least, were two diesel powered models that I enjoyed seeing at the event. The first was built by Dwain Ferguson from Ed Carr plans. A little hot rod, it was a joy to watch scoot across the sky and was powered by a throttled PAW .03. It certainly flew with plenty of authority. I hear that there are a whole host of these models down Texas way where Dwain comes from.

The second model clearly showed that the spirit of whimsy was alive and well at SMALL. Eric Clutton's creation, *Old Lagg*, is a rather odd duck. Powered by a PAW .03, it looks like it came right out the movie, *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*. He could be seen flying this and not less than a few other odd creations while having a mer-

diesel.

In the end, the weather held up perfectly for both days at SMALL and as measure of just how blessed these modelers were, the clouds dumped two inches of water on the field the Saturday night marking the end of the meet. When I came out to fly the next day, as some diehards do, one quarter of the field was under water. Of course we all surmised that it was perfect conditions for float planes or modelers in shorts and bare feet. Sunny skies warmed our spirits.

Covering the SMALL meet with 100 modelers and upward of 500 models spanning two days is, at best, a chancy proposition. The meet is wonderfully overwhelming in that one is inundated with an endless variety of models, enthusiastic modelers, and no way to be in 12 places at once. The idea of spending two days with a bunch of crazy modelers, watching them enjoy themselves so thoroughly, has become something that I have grown quite fond of. Naturally, I'm coming back next year. Of course, people like Joe Wagner, Randy Randolph, and a number of other Smallsters, figured this all out a long time ago.