

To: NSRCA

From: Jon Carter NSRCA President

Date: November 4, 2016

Subject: 2017 Pattern nationals

Members: I wanted to communicate the current status of our efforts to have the 2017 Pattern Nats at a location other than Muncie IN. I think most of you have looked at the NSRCA BoD minutes for our special meeting in September where we discussed this and voted to move forward. Many questions were brought up at the meeting and answered; some are still being worked on. I would like to give you all an update on two or three important items.

- 1) **AMA approval.** I have been in communication with many members of the AMA Executive council regarding this idea. The bottom line is, they like it. They have said that they would like other SIGs to follow our lead and rotate their Nats as well to other parts of the country. The Executive Council will meet on November 5th to formally consider the idea and I have been told that it should be approved. We will generate a "memorandum of understanding" with the AMA to clearly define a few points. I have asked that the AMA plan to reserve our usual spot at Muncie for our Nats. In even years, years we have the Team Trials, our plan is to utilize the Muncie facilities. In odd years, if we have an NSRCA approved (by the BoD) proposal to have the Nats elsewhere in place by the AMA Nats planning session, usually late October/early Nov, we will relinquish our slot in Muncie. This way, if no one puts forth a proposal, we will always have the AMA site available. I sincerely hope that other groups of modelers will follow Mike Harrison's example and put forward proposals to have the Nats in their areas in odd years. For 2017 since we still have a few areas that we are working on, I have asked the AMA to simply hold our usual time slot at Muncie as an emergency backup.
- 2) **FAA approval,** the city of Blytheville, along with the Aeroplex, is currently seeking FAA approval. While the FAA involvement and partnership is important, our job to get any approval that is needed (if any) is far easier as the airspace is uncontrolled airspace (meaning the airport is Unicom and not manned by ATC). Other national events have been held at airports similar to Blytheville without any involvement of the FAA aside from filing NOTAMs to satisfy any requirements. We will continue to work and insure that all necessary items are in place. The city of Blytheville has taken the lead on this and will continue to update us if any issues arise.
- 3) **Budget,** the board thinks that this idea is worth committing some money to. That being said, we are working with Mike Harrison to get as accurate a budget estimate as possible and also exploring fund raising efforts specific to the pattern nationals. Polo shirts, T-shirts, hats, etc. As always, we will do everything in our power to carefully allocate our dollars to better pattern. The more pilots attend the less our shortfall will be so please try and attend!

I have attached the letter I have sent to the AMA Executive council regarding this issue so you are all informed of our communication with the AMA.

I am also attaching a possible site usage diagram. Keep in mind, this is not final but it does show the size and at least a potential layout of the site showing three complete pattern flying sites.



In summary, I think this is an exciting time for pattern. We have the opportunity to try something different and, hopefully, spark a renewed interest in our sports nationals. Remember, there is always risk in life and this endeavor is no different! Your NSRCA board has carefully examined the issues and unanimously agrees that we should push forward! As details are nailed down, the BoD will share them with the membership.

Jonathan L. Carter

NSRCA President

Attachment

Letter to AMA Executive Council:

September 29, 2016

President Bob Brown and Council,

We, the NSRCA, have had the pleasure of flying the National Precision Aerobatic Championships at the AMA National Headquarters and Flying Site since the site was opened. It has been a great place to hold the events and we look forward to many more in the future. The purpose of this letter is to seek your approval to move the Pattern Nats (National Precision Aerobatic Championships) to a different location in the year 2017.

There are several reasons behind our decision. One is that our event has seen a significant decline in participation over the last few years. We feel there are a number of reasons for this. There are many that would come if the expense and travel were not so great. Many have come several times but have tired of the expense and travel. Others do not come simply because they feel it is out of their reach. Others have the "been there done that" attitude. Another reason that has been mentioned by some is that they think the Nats has lost that "special" "National Championship" feeling. They think it feels more like a regional or local contest. We would like to work with the AMA to reclaim that "special Nats feeling" for all of our Nats wherever they are held.

Moving the Nats will hopefully create a new venue and a new rewarding experience for attendee's. The Blytheville, AR. location offers many positive points. First of all, the city of Blytheville is excited to have us. They have award winning motels, nice restaurants, close proximity to the flying site, a huge SAC base and other good things. They are a day's drive to 50% of the nation's population. In addition to the city providing the site usage at no fee, they have awarded us a grant to assist in running the event. They are truly embracing the event!

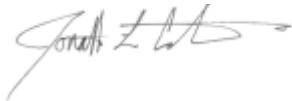
Our longer term plans for the pattern NATs are to continue to use the Muncie venue for the Team Selection years. Currently the Team Selections are held in even years (2016, 2018 etc....) If a proposal is put forth for the odd year as has happened for the 2017 Nats that, in the eyes of the NSRCA BoD, meets the requirements for hosting a first class event, we would like to be able to accept it. We think that this has the capability of having the "odd" year pattern Nats move around the country. (West, South, East etc....) If no viable proposal is presented for an "odd" year, we will of course default to the Muncie

location. We think that this gives us the potential for moving the pattern Nats to different geographic areas of the country and stimulating new interest and excitement.

I believe we can be great ambassadors for the AMA. We can give the community an exposure that will have a positive impact for them and for us. We will be able to reach out to other modelers that don't get to see events of this magnitude. All in all we believe it to be a win-win for all.

We seek your blessing for this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan L. Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan L. Carter

President NSRCA